What is a PA?

PAs are medical providers who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient’s principal healthcare professional. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

### AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PA profession established in</th>
<th>PAs have more than 400 MILLION patient interactions per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>NCCPA, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131,000+ PAs in the U.S.</td>
<td>2018 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

- **238** PA Programs in the U.S.
  - The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), 2019
- **2,000** hours of clinical rotations
- Programs are **27 months or 3 academic years** (bachelor’s degree is required for acceptance)
- **Educated at MASTER’S DEGREE level**

### CERTIFICATION & LICENSING

To obtain a license, PAs must:
- Graduate from an accredited PA program
- Pass a certification exam

To maintain their certification, PAs must complete:
- **100 hours** of continuing medical education (CME every two years)
- A recertification exam every 10 years
PAs practice in every work setting

- 35.8% - Hospital
- 5.5% - Urgent Care Center
- 4.0% - Other*
- 54.7% - Outpatient Office or Clinic

2018 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

*Other refers to a variety of work settings including but not limited to schools/universities, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and correctional facilities.

PAs practice medicine in all specialties

- 23.9% - Primary Care
- 11.9% - Internal Medicine Subspecialties
- 9.1% - Emergency Medicine
- 1.1% - Pediatric Subspecialties
- 27.8% - Other*
- 26.3% - Surgical Subspecialties

2018 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

*Other refers to a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, obstetrics and gynecology, addiction medicine, pain management, public health and dermatology.

What Patients Say About PAs

- 93% - PAs are trusted healthcare providers
- 92% - Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments
- 91% - PAs improve the quality of healthcare

2014 Harris Poll*

PA Profession in the News

- #3 Best 100 Jobs List
  US News & World Report 2019
- #1 Best Healthcare Jobs List
  US News & World Report 2019
- #7 Highest Paying Jobs In America
  Forbes 2018
- #5 Fastest Growing Jobs In America
  Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018

**“Attitudes Toward PAs: A 2014 Survey by the American Academy of PAs.” The Harris online survey was conducted September 15–22, 2014 among 1,544 adults age 18 and older living in the US, including an oversample of 680 adults who have seen a PA and/or have accompanied a loved one to see a PA in the past 12 months. For full methodology visit aapa.org/media.

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