



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

PA profession
established in

1967 



123,000

PAs in the U.S.

NCCPA, 2017

PAs have more than

400
MILLION



patient interactions
per year

2017 AAPA Salary Survey

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS



255+ PA Programs in the U.S.

Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), 2018



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

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)

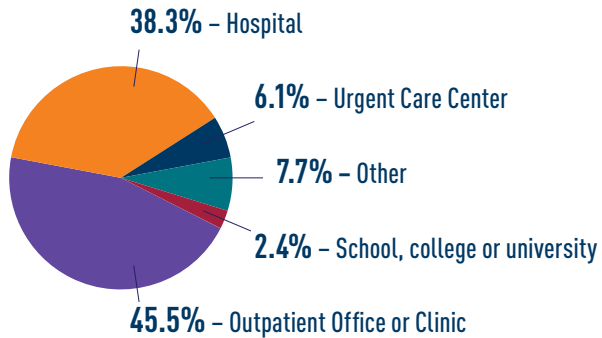


A **recertification exam**
every 10 years

CERTIFICATION & LICENSING



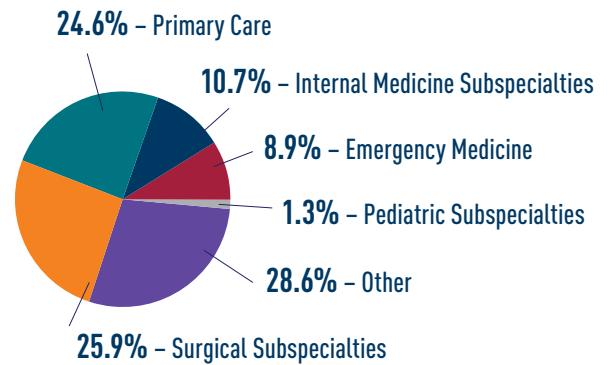
PAs practice in every work setting



2017 AAPA Salary Survey



PAs practice medicine in all specialties



2017 AAPA Salary Survey

What Patients Say About PAs

2014 Harris Poll*



93%

PAs are trusted healthcare providers

92%

Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments

91%

PAs improve the quality of healthcare

PA Profession in the News

#3

Best 100 Jobs List
US News & World Report
2018

#2

Best Healthcare Jobs List
US News & World Report
2018

#7

25 Highest Paying Jobs
In America
Forbes
2018

#5

Fastest Growing Jobs
in America
Bureau of Labor Statistics
2018



AAPA

| aapa.org

**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.