



What is a PA?

Physician associates (PAs) are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in every specialty and setting. Trusted, rigorously educated and trained healthcare professionals, PAs are dedicated to expanding access to care and transforming health and wellness through patient-centered, team-based medical practice.

AT A GLANCE

PA profession established in

1967



Approximately
190,000

PAs in the U.S.

NCCPA, 2025

PAs have more than

590
MILLION



patient interactions
per year

NCCPA, 2025. All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS



315+ PA Programs in the U.S.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), 2025



Programs are 27 months or 3 academic years (bachelor's degree is required for acceptance)



2,000 hours of clinical rotations



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)

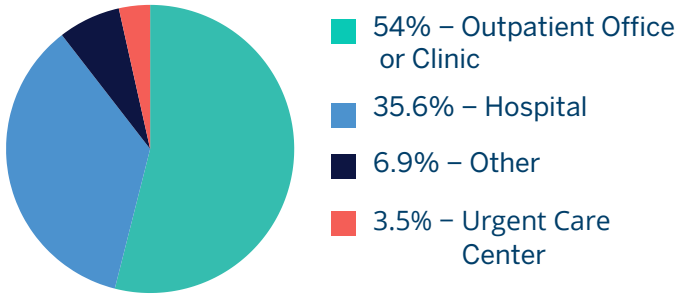


A recertification exam every 10 years

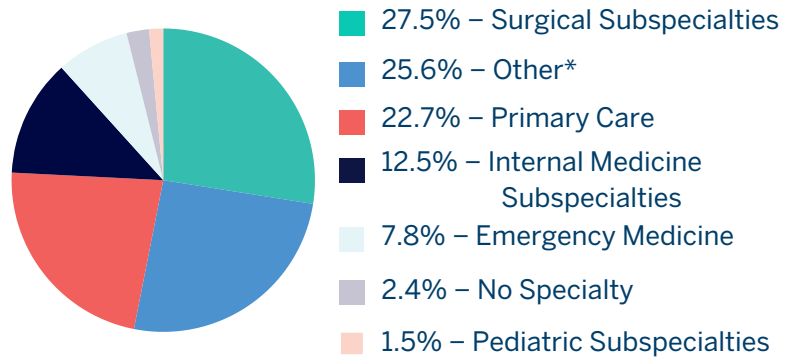
CERTIFICATION & LICENSING



PAs practice in every work setting



PAs practice medicine in all specialties



2025 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.

2025 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.

PA Profession in the News



Best 100 Jobs List

U.S. News & World Report 2025



Best Healthcare Jobs List

U.S. News & World Report 2025



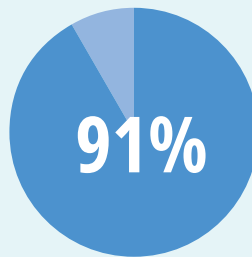
Best STEM Jobs List

U.S. News & World Report 2025

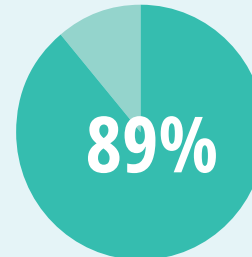
What Patients Say About PAs



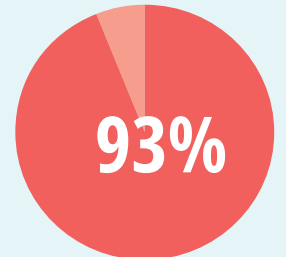
* 2023 AAPA Harris Poll



Agree PAs are part of the solution to healthcare workforce shortages



Improve health outcomes for patients



PAs add value to healthcare teams



American Academy of Physician Associates

aapa.org

*The research was conducted online in the U.S. by The Harris Poll on behalf of AAPA among 2,519 adults age 18+. The survey was conducted from February 23 – March 9, 2023. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.