



Physicians Assistant

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A Physicians Assistant, commonly known as PA, is a relatively new and growing field in the world of medicine. A PA is a highly trained medical profession that performs a lot of the same procedures that are done by the physicians. One difference between a physician and a PA are that they are always required to be under the supervision of a physician. It can be related to a tech of some kind working under the nurse in that specialty.



In 1965 the PA profession started at Duke University. The program only consisted of four military corpsman within the PA ranks. It is has now grown to over 130 PA programs nationwide and with over 42,000 practicing physician assistants.

The schooling in becoming a PA is considerably shorter than that of a physician. In general, most PA programs are a two year program, past the undergraduate degree. The schooling also includes classes consisting of lectures and also hands on experience within diverse specialties within the healthcare field. The pre-requisites for this program include biology, PD biology, and microbiology, English, humanities, general chemistry, organic chemistry, some classes of college math, and psychology.

Many PA programs offer a way to take night classes for those that are trying to change their choice of careers. Comparative to that of a medical student, PA students go through schooling and then clinical experience after. The schooling of a PA is compared to the first and third years of a medical student. PA programs consist of nine to twelve months of classroom education, and then twelve to fifteen months of clinical experience after that.

A PA's base pay starts off at \$71,000 annually. Many PA's are allowed the opportunity to choose their hours. The outlook for a PA is really good. For every graduating PA there are 7.5 jobs for them. It is also projected to be increasing by 53%. Choosing the career of a physicians assistant is another alternative for those looking to be part of the medical field, but do not want to complete the years of medical school.

Information provided by: Health Provisions Advisement Center in Provo, Utah
Web Site: [//healthpro.byu.edu](http://healthpro.byu.edu)

Picture from web site: American Academy of Physicians Assistants