

Physician Assistant Description

Physician Assistants (PAs) are health professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. Within the physician/PA relationship, PAs exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. Physician Assistants are trained in such tasks as screening patients, taking histories, performing physical exams, performing developmental screening exams for children, managing emergencies, etc. A physician willing to accept responsibility may assign more complicated therapeutic procedures to the PA who has demonstrated ability. (Click [here](#) to view a few examples of Clark alumni physician assistants.)

[American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants \(AASPA\)](#)

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[Becoming a Physician Assistant](#)

[Becoming a Physician Assistant Advice](#)

[Campbell University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences](#)

[Ransdell Family Health Professions Readiness and Enrichment](#)

[Program \(HPREP\)](#)

[Des Moines University Health Professions Advanced Summer Scholars](#)

[Program \(HealthPASS\)](#)

[Financing Your PA Education](#)

[Flexibility, Training Help Physician Assistants Forge a Medical Path](#)

[Idaho State University Physician Assistant Admissions Chat Session](#)

[Schedule](#) (click on "Chat Times")

[Massachusetts Association of Physician Assistants \(MAPA\);](#)

[Massachusetts PA Programs](#)

[Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences \(MCPHS\) 24-](#)

[Month Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program for Qualified](#)

[Clark Students](#)

[National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants \(NCCPA\)](#)

[Navy Physician Assistant Careers](#)

[PA Application Tips](#)

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[PA Focus](#)

[PA Foundation Student Scholarships](#)

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[PA Program Interview Information](#)

[PA School Interview Questions](#)

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[PA vs. MD: Understanding the Differences Infographic](#)
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[Physician Assistant Career Requirements](#)
[Physician Assistant Forum; Shadowing Opportunities](#)
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[Physician Assistant Programs and Careers](#)
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[Postbaccalaureate Pre-PA Certificate Program, Keck Graduate Institute](#)
[Postbaccalaureate Pre-PA Program, Temple University College of Science and Technology](#)
[Shadow a Physician Assistant](#)
[Shadowing a Physician Assistant](#)
[Shadowing a Physician Assistant Guide](#)
[Shadowing for Physician Assistant School](#)
[Shadowing Opportunities at Brigham and Women's Hospital](#)
[Wayne State U. Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Information Meetings on Physician Assistant Program \(first Tuesday of each month\)](#)

Degree	P.A.
Program Length	2-3 years
Professional Schools' Organization	AAPA (American Academy of Physician Assistants) PAEA (Physician Assistant Education Association) PAEA PA Program Directory Physician Assistant Graduate School Programs
Application Service	CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants); CASPA Facebook CASPA Participating Programs Fee Assistance Program

Academic Admission Requirements	Varies with school but may include two semesters each: Biology, Chemistry (some Organic/Biochemistry), Microbiology, Anatomy, and Physiology; one semester Math. Also Psychology. Prerequisites Prerequisite Coursework
Admission Exam	GRE (most), MCAT , or PA-CAT
Personal Attributes & Experiences	Most PA programs require health care experience of applicants (e.g., EMT , volunteering in a hospital, orderly, nurse's aide, nurse, etc.). Obtaining phlebotomy training can be a good way to begin acquiring the necessary health care experience. Most programs expect life experience as well as medical experience.
Recommendation Letters	No standard form.