



WHAT IS A “PA” ?

Physician Associates (PAs) are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in every specialty and setting, diagnosing illnesses, develop and manage treatment plans and may serve as a patient’s primary or specialty care provider

Why PAs Were Created

PAs were created in the 1960s to address physician shortages—especially in underserved communities. Modeled after the fast-tracking of physician education during WWII

Every PA Is Primary Care

All PA programs emphasize a strong foundation in primary care medicine.

Quality & Safety

Multiple studies show PAs provide high-quality, safe, and cost-effective care with outcomes comparable to physicians, while improving access and reducing wait times.



Education & Certification

Undergrad Preparation

Completion of pre-medical undergrad program in anatomy and physiology, chemistry, biology, etc.

Graduate Level Programs

Rigorous master’s level medical education, modeled after medical school curricula, typically completed over three academic years

2000+ Clinical Hours

Rotations in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, ob-gyn, emergency medicine and more

Board Certification

All PAs must pass the PA National Certifying Exam (PANCE). PAs maintain certification through continuing medical education and must either sit for recertification board exams or complete a longitudinal assessment pathway.



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