

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS



Founded in 1968, the American Academy of Physician Assistants is the leading association working to advance the PA profession. Representing more than 74,000 PAs clinically practicing across all medical and surgical specialties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the majority of the U.S. territories, and within the armed forces and federal services, AAPA advocates and educates on behalf of the profession and the patients PAs serve.

With more than 43,000 members worldwide, AAPA works to ensure the professional growth, personal excellence and widespread recognition of physician assistants. It also works to enhance their ability to improve the quality, accessibility and cost effectiveness of patient-centered health care.



What is a PA?

A physician assistant (PA) is authorized to practice medicine as part of a team with a physician. PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery and write prescriptions.

PAS AT A GLANCE

PAs represent the second fastest-growing profession in the United States.*

- Average age: 41 years
- 64 percent are women
- Average annual salary: \$89,000
- Almost 10 years of clinical practice
- 43 percent hold master's level PA degrees
- 40 percent hold bachelor's PA degrees
- 38 percent work in hospitals
- 33 percent work in physician group practices
- 10 percent work in solo-practice offices

* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

AAPA LEADERSHIP

- Volunteer PA leaders (elected and appointed) facilitate AAPA's work. The governing body is AAPA's board of directors, consisting of 13 leaders elected by AAPA members. Its house of delegates—253 elected members representing constituent organizations and its student academy—serves in a policy-making advisory role. Many of AAPA's functions are handled by its standing committees and councils. AAPA also has professional liaisons with many national medical and health care organizations.
- More than 80 paid staff members work at AAPA headquarters in Alexandria, Va.



CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

- There are more than 55 chartered chapters representing the interests of PAs in 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories and the federal services.
- AAPA helps support the missions of 24 PA medical specialty organizations (such as the Association of PAs in Cardiology), numerous caucuses (such as the PAs AIDS Network) and special interest groups (such as medical writing PAs).
- Constituent organizations have access to organizational benefits, support from AAPA leaders and staff, and association management support.

Member Services

- **Education** – AAPA is the premiere resource for Continuing Medical Education and provides PAs with a vast amount of cutting-edge CME resources.
- **Advocacy and Government Affairs** – AAPA’s advocacy staff lobbies policymakers and third-party payers at both the national and state levels so that PAs can deliver quality health care with minimal barriers.
- **Reimbursement Information** – AAPA reimbursement staff work diligently on behalf of PAs to ensure that insurance companies and other third-party payers cover PA-provided medical and surgical services.
- **Professional Practice** – The professional affairs staff works with PAs on issues such as credentialing, privileging, Joint Commission, liability insurance, contracts, compensation and benefits to secure professional standing and free PAs to focus on patient care.
- **Public Awareness Building** – AAPA actively promotes the value of PAs to patients, doctors and the general public through comprehensive marketing and communications campaigns.
- **Research** – In partnership with PA-focused organizations, AAPA collects data annually on the profession and analyzes and publishes its findings.
- **Publications** – All members of AAPA receive its two flagship publications:
 - *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants*, a peer-reviewed clinical publication
 - *PA Professional*, a monthly magazine for members about the PA profession

Special Events

- **AAPA’s Annual Physician Assistant Conference** – PAs connect with thousands of their colleagues, PA leaders and student PAs at AAPA’s preeminent educational and networking event.
- **National PA Week** – Celebrated every year from October 6–12, National PA Week promotes public awareness of the PA profession and salutes the PA workforce.
- **PAragon Awards** – Each year, AAPA recognizes five outstanding members who have demonstrated exemplary service to their patients.

MEMBERSHIP AT A GLANCE

- More than 33,000 Fellow members
- More than 9,300 members of Student Academy
- More than 650 Distinguished Fellows
- Plus honorary and charter members

