

# Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

November 2022

## Physician Assistant



Physician Assistants (PA's) work on a team with physicians or surgeons and other healthcare workers. They review medical histories, examine, diagnose, and treat patients with supervision from a physician. Physician assistants may work in primary care, family medicine, emergency medicine, and psychiatry. The work of a PA depends on their specialty or type of medical practice where they work. In some areas like medically underserved communities PA'S may be the primary care provider at clinics where a physician is present only 1 or 2 days a week. These PA's collaborate with the physician as needed.

Average Annual Pay: \$121,530

*"It is so worth it. I love my job and career."*

## How Do I Become a Physician Assistant?

**Projected Job  
Market Growth:  
28% by 2031**

Obtain a master's degree from an accredited educational program. Applicants to these programs typically have a bachelor's degree and experience caring directly for patients. Physician assistant education programs usually take at least two years of postbaccalaureate study. A list of accredited physician assistant programs is available from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA). All states require physician assistants to be licensed.

## What Does a Physician Assistant Do?

- Examine patients
- Order and/or interpret diagnostic tests, x-rays blood tests, ect.
- Diagnose injury & illness
- Provide treatment-set broken bones, stitch wounds, provide immunizations

- Educate and counsel patients and family
- Prescribe medication
- Assess and record a patient's progress
- Research treatment options



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