What is a PA?

A physician assistant (PA) is a graduate of an accredited PA educational program, authorized by the state to practice medicine with the supervision of a licensed physician.

What do PAs do?

* Take a patient history
* Conduct physical exams
* Diagnose and treat illnesses
* Order and interpret tests
* Counsel on preventive health care
* Assist in surgery
* Write prescriptions
* Make rounds in nursing homes and hospitals

Top 3 PA Practice Specialties:
* Family/General Medicine
* Surgical Subspecialties
* Internal Medicine Subspecialties

Top 3 PA Work Environments:
* Hospital
* Single-specialty physician group
* Multi-specialty physician group

How do you become a PA?

* Graduate from an accredited PA program
* Pass the national certifying exam administered by the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)
* Obtain state authorization – a license, registration or certification
* Work with the supervision of a licensed physician
* Earn and log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and take a recertification exam every six years

A Growing Profession:

Forbes puts the physician assistant masters degree at the top of the list! Health care reform, an aging population and shortage of medical doctors are just a few contributions to a higher demand for health care services. PA employment opportunities are expected to grow 30% by 2020. Read the article here.