PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
WHAT IS A PA?

- Nationally certified and state licensed to practice medicine
- Educated at the graduate level
- Practice in every medical and surgical specialty and setting
PAs Are Able to Provide Patients the Full Spectrum of Care From Diagnosis to Treatment. PAs Can:

- Order and interpret tests
- Perform medical procedures
- Write prescriptions
- Assist in surgery
- Counsel on preventive healthcare, health, and wellness
OVER 140,000 CERTIFIED PAs IN ALL 50 STATES
PAs practice in every work setting

- 36.5% - Hospital
- 5.9% - Urgent Care Center
- 4.3% - Other*
- 53.3% - Outpatient Office or Clinic

2019 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.
*Other refers to a variety of work settings including but not limited to schools/universities, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and correctional facilities.

PAs practice medicine in all specialties

- 20.8% - Primary Care
- 12.2% - Internal Medicine Subspecialties
- 9.4% - Emergency Medicine
- 1.4% - Pediatric Subspecialties
- 28.8% - Other*
- 27.4% - Surgical Subspecialties

2019 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.
*Other refers to a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, obstetrics and gynecology, addiction medicine, pain management, public health and dermatology.

What Patients Say About PAs

- 93% PAs are trusted healthcare providers
- 92% Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments
- 91% PAs improve the quality of healthcare

2014 Harris Poll

AAPA
PAs Deliver the Healthcare Patients Need, When and Where They Need It

PAs Are Changing the Way We View and Receive Healthcare Today. Some of the Benefits PAs Bring to the Healthcare System Are:

- Increasing access to care, especially for patients in rural or underserved areas
- Lowering healthcare costs for consumers and health systems
- Increasing the quality and comprehensiveness of team-based healthcare
The PA Profession in News

PA Profession in the News

#3 Best 100 Jobs List
US News & World Report 2020

#2 Best Healthcare Jobs List
US News & World Report 2020

#7 Highest Paying Jobs In America
Forbes 2019

#5 Fastest Growing Jobs In America
Bureau of Labor Statistics 2019
What is it like...to be a PA?

PAs can practice with autonomy seeing their own patients

Medicine, in general, is moving toward consolidation and we’re recognizing the value of team-based care and PA are leaders in team-based care
*The data reflect clinically practicing PAs who worked 32 hours or more per week in 2015.
Source: 2016 AAPA Salary Report
How do I become a PA?

**EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS**

- **250 PA Programs in the U.S.**
- **2,000 hours of clinical rotations**
- Programs are 27 months or 3 academic years (bachelor's degree is required for acceptance)
- Educated at **MASTER'S DEGREE** level

**To obtain a license, PAs must:**

- Graduate from an accredited PA program
- Pass a certification exam

**To maintain their certification, PAs must complete:**

- 100 hours of continuing medical education (CME after every two years)
- A recertification exam every 10 years

**CERTIFICATION & LICENSING**
PA profession established in 1967

More than a nurse...

At Duke University Medical Center, four ex-Navy medical corpsmen train for a new career that promises better care to the sick.

There is a shortage of doctors, and it's getting worse. With the demand for medical care swelling and treatment itself growing more complex, it's not surprising that people are seeking new methods of entering the medical profession. They're looking at the training of the P.A.'s (Physician's Assistant's) from a project started by Victor Woodwell at Duke. The training, for the first time in the United States, is being given to civilians.

At Duke University Medical Center, four ex-Navy medical corpsmen train for a new career that promises better care to the sick.


Nursing instructor Kathleen Andeselli interprets electrocardiograph tracings recorded by the four physician's assistants (from left to right) Don Gaffney, Vic Gorman, Dick Scholes and Ken Farrell.

PAs are medical professionals who prescribe medication,
With thousands of PAs practicing,
MY PATH TO PA SCHOOL
PAs DO THAT!

Questions?
Tips for Success

- Do your research early
- Attend informational sessions - Network
- Seek out resources and mentors - Shadow
- Increase your activity and experience – Volunteer
- Prepare for required courses or tests
- Get your parents on board
- Familiarize yourself with the profession

RELAX & HAVE FUN
For more information on the profession
VISIT AAPA.ORG