

Physician Assistants

Occupational Profile



DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?

Work Interests involve descriptive categories (compatible with Holland's Model) attributed to success in this career:

- **Investigative** – Involves working with ideas requiring an extensive amount of research, fact finding, problem solving, and thought analysis.
- **Social** – Involves working with, communicating with, and teaching people; providing service.
- **Realistic** – Involves work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions; often dealing with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.

Work Styles depict worker characteristics conducive for this career:

- **Integrity**
- **Attention to Detail**
- **Concern for Others**
- **Dependability**
- **Cooperation**

Work Values are associated with aspects of work that provide satisfaction in this career:

- **Achievement**—Sense of accomplishment; results oriented.
- **Working Conditions**—Job security; good working conditions.
- **Relationships** – Provide service to others in non-competitive environment.

Aptitudes reflect an ability to acquire skills and knowledge for success in this career:

- **Deductive Reasoning**
- **Inductive Reasoning**
- **Oral Comprehension**
- **Oral Expression**
- **Problem Sensitivity**

OVERVIEW

Provide healthcare services typically performed by a physician, under the supervision of a physician. Conduct complete physicals, provide treatment, and counsel patients. May, in some cases, prescribe medication. Must graduate from an accredited educational program for physician assistants. Belongs to the Health Science career cluster and Therapeutic Services career pathway.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Service Orientation
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking

Technology Skills:

- Medical Software
- Office Suite Software
- Spreadsheet Software
- Storage Media Loading Software
- Word Processing Software

Knowledge:

- Medicine and Dentistry
- Biology
- Psychology
- English Language
- Therapy and Counseling

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

| Occupational Title | 2014 Estimated Employment | 2024 Projected Employment | 2014-24 Employment Change | Annual Growth Rate (%) | Total Annual Openings |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total, All Occupations | 1,795,100 | 1,949,240 | 154,140 | 0.9 | 58,145 |
| Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations | 86,030 | 98,955 | 12,925 | 1.5 | 3,190 |
| Physician Assistants | 760 | 945 | 185 | 2.4 | 35 |

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>

2017 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

| Occupational Title | Mean Wage | Mean Salary | Entry Wage | Entry Salary | Exp Wage | Exp Salary |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Total All Occupations | 20.93 | 43,539 | 10.09 | 20,991 | 26.35 | 54,813 |
| Total Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations | 34.33 | 71,400 | 17.33 | 36,038 | 42.83 | 89,081 |
| Physician Assistants | 49.32 | 102,593 | 34.81 | 72,409 | 56.58 | 117,686 |

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-employment-and-wages>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

| Education | Work Experience | Job Training |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Master's Degree | None | None |

A master's degree is required for physician assistants that may include commensurate internship experience.

Licenses, certificates, and/or commissions required. Sources: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>, https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_education_training_system.htm, and <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/iowa-licensed-occupations>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

| Skill | Median Skill Level | Minimum Skill Level | Maximum Skill Level |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Applied Mathematics | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Locating Information | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Reading for Information | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Applied Technology | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Business Writing | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Workplace Observation | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Listening for Understanding | 5 | 5 | 5 |

An ACT assessment-based credential issued in determining essential work skills needed for employment success across industries and occupations. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6 & higher). Source: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workkeys-for-employers/assessments.html>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Physician Assistants Employed?)

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
Ambulatory Health Care Services
Hospitals

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>