

## OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Healthcare &gt;

## Physician Assistants








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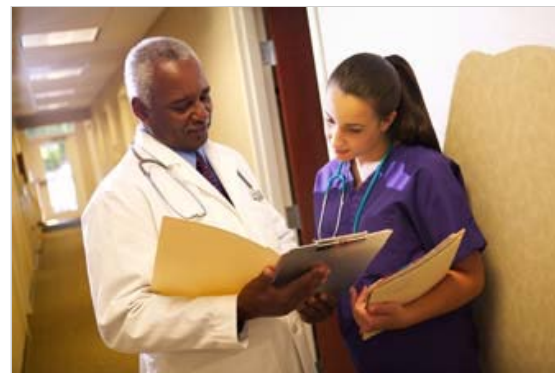
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Summary | What They Do | Work Environment | How to Become One | Pay | Job Outlook | Similar Occupations | More Info

## Summary

## Quick Facts: Physician Assistants

2012 Median Pay 	\$90,930 per year \$43.72 per hour
Entry-Level Education 	Master's degree
Work Experience in a Related Occupation 	None
On-the-job Training 	None
Number of Jobs, 2012 	86,700
Job Outlook, 2012-22 	38% (Much faster than average)
Employment Change, 2012-22 	33,300



Physician assistants practice medicine under the supervision of physicians and surgeons.

**What Physician Assistants Do**

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine on a team under the supervision of physicians and surgeons. They are formally educated to examine patients, diagnose injuries and illnesses, and provide treatment.

**Work Environment**

Physician assistants work in physicians' offices, hospitals, and other healthcare settings. Most work full time.

**How to Become a Physician Assistant**

Physician assistants must complete an accredited educational program. These programs usually lead to a master's degree. All states require physician assistants to be licensed.

**Pay**

The median annual wage for physician assistants was \$90,930 in May 2012.

**Job Outlook**

Employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 38 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. Increased demand for healthcare services from the growing and aging population and widespread chronic disease, combined with a shortage of physicians, will result in increased demand for healthcare providers, such as physician assistants.

**Similar Occupations**

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of physician assistants with similar occupations.

**More Information, Including Links to O\*NET**

Learn more about physician assistants by visiting additional resources, including O\*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

What They Do -&gt;

**SUGGESTED CITATION:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Physician Assistants, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physician-assistants.htm> (visited April 15, 2014).

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