

# Pre-Physician Assistant

Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine under the supervision of physicians and surgeons. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive health care services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of the health care team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x rays, and make diagnoses. They also treat minor injuries, by suturing, splinting, and casting. PAs receive progress notes, instruct and counsel patients, and order or carry out therapy in 48 States and the District of Columbia,

## Educational Requirements

*f* Most applicants to PA educational programs already have a bachelor's degree.  
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