

# Physician Assistant Studies

Physician assistants are formally trained to work under the supervision of physicians. Responsibilities include taking medical histories, performing physical exams, ordering and interpreting laboratory tests and x-rays, making preliminary diagnoses, treating minor injuries, and in some states, prescribing medication. Opportunities exist in areas such as surgery, emergency medicine, intensive care medicine, psychiatry, geriatrics, neurology, obstetrics/gynecology, inpatient medicine, and pediatrics.

The supervising physician may delegate to the physician assistant those medical procedures and other tasks that are performed within the normal scope of the physician's practice. The physician assistant is subject to the limitations set forth by the supervising physician in addition to the laws, rules, and regulations determined by the state. Registration or licensure of physician assistants varies from state to state. Qualifications set by the state licensing authority must be met.

## Types of Employers

### Private and Non-Profit Organizations

Academic medical centers	Private practices
Extended care facilities	Public health clinics
Health maintenance organizations	Rehabilitation centers
Hospitals	Research organizations
Industrial clinics	Resorts
Internal medicine offices	Satellite clinics
Medical groups	Student health services
Nursing homes	Urban community centers

### Government Agencies

Armed Forces	Public Health Service
Federal Bureau of Prisons	Veterans Administration
Peace Corps	