

# Physician Assistant

## GAcollege411 Career Highlight



Have you ever heard of [Physician Assistants or PAs](#)? Physician assistants are highly respected medical professionals and the [seventh fastest growing](#) career in Georgia. While both physician assistants and medical assistants

work alongside a medical doctor, they should not be confused. In Georgia, physician assistant programs are all on the [Masters Degree](#) level.

### Physician assistants are trained to perform preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic healthcare services as assigned by a doctor.

Most PAs work in the areas of internal medicine, family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology. Some PAs may also work in surgical areas and even anesthesiology. The physician assistant is part of the medical team, may be required to examine and treat patients, take medical histories, order lab results, and in some states can prescribe medications.



In many cases, the physician assistant will work along with the medical doctor, but in some communities across the state, they may work independently of the doctor and make medical decisions in consultation with the medical doctor.

When the physician assistant works independently of the doctor, they are still required to consult with the medical doctor and other supervising staff for additional instructions as required by law.

Because a physician assistant is highly trained, they can choose many career paths. Many choose to work in private medical offices so that they can work directly with one or more doctors; others choose to work in larger hospitals or health maintenance organizations (HMOs).

### It helps to be...

...a science whiz who likes school, science and speaking with people. You will have to go through an [approved program](#), and science is one area that you will need all through your path in becoming a [physician assistant](#). You can start by using the [high school planner](#) on your GAcollege411 account to keep track of all of your high school classes.

### Did you know that...

- Physician assistants are the [seventh fastest growing career](#) in Georgia
- You can begin your Pre-Physician Assistant program at several two-year [Georgia Colleges](#).
- The entry-level salary for a physician assistant in Georgia is \$43,500 and the average salary for an experienced PA is \$76,700

### Do not wait another moment...

- [Apply](#) for admission to one of the Pre-Physician Assistant programs in Georgia
- Complete your [FAFSA](#)
- Apply for many other [scholarships, grants and loans](#) offered by Georgia Student Finance Commission.

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