

Association of Physician Assistant Programs  
2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 210  
Washington, D.C. 20037

Nonprofit Org.

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# The P.A. Profession

## What You Should Know

The physician assistant concept holds the promise of substantially alleviating the crisis the United States experiences today in the provision of primary health care. Dr. Eugene Stead at Duke University fathered the concept believing that much of the service provided by primary care physicians could be rendered by persons less trained in bio-medical science and pathophysiology of disease.

In 1966 the first program was established at Duke University. Within five years, 14 programs were offering training for the assistant to the primary care physician. Parallel with this effort, the University of Washington and Dartmouth University began training senior military corpsmen in a manner that would permit them to adapt their skills to a civilian population. Although the approach was necessarily different, the end product, the Medex, was not dissimilar to the physician assistant graduate of the more traditional two year program.

### Physician Assistant—A Definition

The term physician assistant is necessarily generic and is used in reference to such new health professionals as physician assistant, child health associate, Medex-physician associate, family nurse practitioner, and others.

The American Medical Association officially defines a physician assistant as "a skilled person qualified by academic experience and practical on-the-job training to provide patient service under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician who is responsible for the performance of that assistant."

### Professional Role

The physician assistant is trained to effectively assist primary care physicians in their medical activities. While functioning within the parameters of the law under the supervision of a licensed physician, the physician assistant is expected to improve the physician's services by performing time-consuming medical or surgical tasks. Such procedures would include patient histories, physical examinations, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, follow-up care, and patient teaching and counseling.

### Legal Aspects

As of June, 1975, 37 states have enacted legislation permitting physicians to utilize physician assistants (PAs) in their practice of medicine. State legislation generally falls into the statute categories of general delegatory or regulatory. The general delegatory statute simply amends state medical practice acts permitting PAs to work under the supervision of physicians. The regulatory authority statute authorizes an organization (usually the state board of medical examiners) to establish rules and regulations regarding the requisite educational and employment qualifications for practicing PAs.

### Certification and Continuing Education

The National Certification Examination for Assistants to the Primary Care Physician is offered annually to qualified candidates. Developed under the direction of the National Commission on Certification of Physicians Assistants, the certification examination is administered by the National Board of Medical Examiners as an assurance to the public of a maintenance of the profession's high standards of competence and professionalism.

Upon successful completion of the examination, physician assistants must accumulate 100 hours of continuing medical education credits every two years to qualify for re-registration as a Physician Assistant-Certified. Recertification is granted every 6 years to those PA's successfully passing the recertification examination and accumulating the appropriate number of continuing medical education hours.

### Employment Opportunities

The potential job market for the graduate physician assistant is a bright one. Graduate and student PAs who are members of the American Academy of Physicians Assistants (the professional organization representing graduates and current students of recognized PA programs) may take advantage of the National Employment Listing Service it offers.

As a professional member of the health care team, the newly graduated physician assistant may expect to earn an economically attractive salary of \$12-14,000 per year.

### Admission Requirements

Specific admission requirements vary among new health practitioner programs across the country. Generally, the requirements for admission are a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED), a minimum of two years college course work and/or health related training received in a civilian or military setting, scores from the ACT or SAT examinations, and three character references.

### Association of Physician Assistant Programs

The Association of Physician Assistant Programs is the organization which brings together new health practitioner programs of varying types. These programs vary in length from one to four years and in sponsorship from medical schools and junior colleges to schools of public health and universities with colleges of allied health. The training settings for these new health professionals range from predominantly academic to predominantly clinical.

The Association is the only such organization of programs and is a natural forum for an exchange of ideas, research, curriculum development, and evaluation. Organized in 1972, the Association is a nonprofit organization operated exclusively for charitable and scientific purposes. Recognized nationally as the leader of the physician extender movement, the Association has grown to encompass virtually all programs accredited by the American Medical Association.

Application materials and specific information about individual admission procedures may be obtained by writing to any of the following members of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs.

## Member Programs

### Alabama

Physician Assistant Program  
University of Alabama Medical Center  
University Station  
Birmingham, AL 35294

Surgeon's Assistant Program  
Dept. of Surgery, School of Medicine  
University of Alabama in Birmingham  
University Station  
Birmingham, AL 35294

### California

Family Nurse Practitioner Program  
Dept. of Family Practice  
Sacramento Medical Center  
2221 Stockton Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95817

MEDEX Physician's Assistant Program  
Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School  
1621 East 120 Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90059

### Colorado

Child Health Associate Program  
Container 2862  
University of Colorado Medical Center  
4200 East 9th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80220

### Connecticut

Physician's Associate Programs  
Yale University School of Medicine  
382 Congress Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06510

### District of Columbia

PA/MEDEX Program  
Howard University, College of Allied Health  
6th and Bryant Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20059

Physician's Assistant Program  
George Washington University  
School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
2300 Eye Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

### Florida

Physician's Assistant Program  
Santa Fe Community College  
P. O. Box 1530, South Campus  
Gainesville, FL 32602

### Georgia

Physician Associate Program  
Division of Allied Health Professions  
Emory University School of Medicine  
P. O. Box 20295  
Atlanta, GA 30322

Physician's Assistant Program  
Medical College of Georgia  
1459 Dinwiddie Street  
Augusta, GA 30902

### Hawaii

MEDEX/Pacific Program  
University of Hawaii  
School of Medicine  
1860 East-West Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822

### Indiana

Physician's Assistant Program  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
2101 Coliseum Blvd., E.  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46805

### Iowa

Physician's Assistant Program  
University of Iowa College of Medicine  
Iowa City, IA 52240

### Kansas

Physician's Assistant Program  
Wichita State University  
5500 East Kellogg  
Wichita, KS 67218

### Maryland

Health Associate Program  
The Johns Hopkins University  
School of Health Services  
624 N. Broadway  
Baltimore, MD 21205

Physician's Assistant Program  
Essex Community College  
Division of Allied Health  
7701 Rossville Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD 21237

### Massachusetts

Physician Assistant Program  
Northeastern University  
Robinson 202  
Boston, MA 02115

### Michigan

Physician's Assistant Program  
Mercy College of Detroit  
8200 West Outer Drive  
Detroit, MI 48219

Physicians' Assistant Program  
Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

### Missouri

Physician Assistant Training Program  
Medical Center for Federal Prisoners  
Springfield, MO 65802

St. Louis Inter-Institutional Physician's Assistant Program  
St. Louis University  
1504 South Grand Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63104

### Nebraska

Physician's Assistant Program  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
42nd Street and Dewey Avenue  
Omaha, NB 68105

### New Mexico

Community Health Medc Program  
Drawer L  
Gallup, NM 87301

### New York

Albany-Hudson Valley Physician's Associate Program  
Albany Medical College of Union University  
47 New Scotland Avenue  
Albany, NY 12208

Hudson Valley Community College  
80 Vandenberg Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180

Physician Associate Program  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Bldg 106 F-South Campus  
School of Allied Health Professions\*\*  
Stony Brook, NY 11794

Physician's Associate Program  
Touro College  
20 West 44th Street  
New York, NY 10035

### North Carolina

Physician Assistant Training Program  
The Bowman Gray School of Medicine  
1990 Beach Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Physician's Associate Program  
Duke University Medical Center  
P. O. Box CHS 2914  
Durham, NC 27710

### Ohio

Physician's Assistant Program  
Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus  
Dept. of Allied Health  
11000 Pleasant Valley Road  
Parma, OH 44130

Physician's Assistant Program  
Kettering College of Medical Arts  
3737 Southern Blvd.  
Kettering, OH 45429

205-934-4407

RE

Hudson Valley  
Stony Brook, NY  
Wichita, KS  
Touro College

## OHIO (continued)

Primary Care Physician Assistant  
and Surgical Assistant Program  
Cincinnati Technical College  
3520 Central Pkwy  
Cincinnati, OH 45223

Urologic Physician's Assistant Program  
University of Cincinnati Medical Center  
Division of Urology, Room 2511  
231 Bethesda Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45267

## Oklahoma

Physician's Associate Program  
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center  
P.O. Box 26901  
Oklahoma City, OK 73190

## Pennsylvania

Physician's Assistant Program  
Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital  
Room 6306 New College Building  
230 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Primary Care Physician's Assistant Program  
Milton S. HERSHEY Medical Center  
Dept. of Family & Community Medicine  
Hershey, PA 17033

## South Carolina

MEDEX Physician's Assistant Program  
Medical University of South Carolina  
80 Broad Street  
Charleston, SC 29401

## Texas

Physician's Assistant Program  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Texas Medical Center  
Room 127-E  
Houston, TX 77025

Physician's Assistant Program  
University of Texas Health Sciences Center  
School of Allied Health  
5523 Harry Hines Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75235

Physician's Assistant Program  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
School of Allied Health Sciences  
Dept. of Health Care Sciences  
Galveston, TX 77550

USAF/USN Physician Assistant Program  
School of Health Care Sciences, USAF  
Dept. of Medicine  
Course Supervisor  
Sheppard AFB, TX 76311

U.S. Army Physicians' Assistant Program  
Medicine and Surgery Division  
Academy of Health Sciences  
Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234

## Utah

Utah MEDEX Project  
University of Utah Medical Center  
50 North Medical Drive, Building 100  
Salt Lake City, UT 84132

## Washington

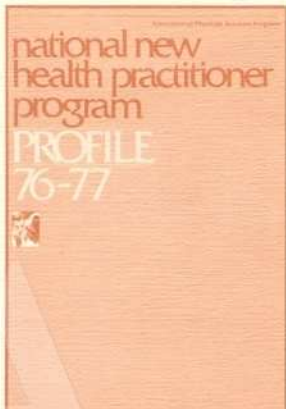
MEDEX Northwest Program  
Department of Health Services  
349 "U" District Building  
1107 N.E. 45th Street  
Seattle, WA 98105

## West Virginia

Physician's Assistant Program  
Alderson-Broodius College  
Philippl, WV 26416

## Wisconsin

Physician's Assistant Program  
Marshfield Clinic Foundation  
510 North St. Joseph Avenue  
Marshfield, WI 54449



Second edition — \$3.00 — Softbound

*Profile 1976-77* is offered as a national guide to physician assistant programs for students, counselors, librarians, educators, schools, hospitals, and physicians. The *Profile* gives insight into the following areas:

- Planning for the physician assistant profession
- Admission procedures
- Financial information
- The nature of a physician assistant education
- National certification of physician assistants
- Legal aspects
- Educational programs and accreditation
- Program information
- Additional sources of information in the health care field
- Selected bibliography

~~\$6.00 per copy~~ (prepared both multi-copy) or \$4.00 per copy (first class). Remittance must accompany order.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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