

## Career Exploration

### Where to start?

Each major may have a professional organization(s) that lists potential careers. Students can search these sites and explore a focused list of careers.

However, some majors can identify potential careers more easily than other majors.

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## Career Exploration

### Where to start?

If the student is either very open to possibilities, or just has no idea about careers,

they can do a career inventory.

We have three kinds: Type Focus, Strong Interest, and an inventory on Compass.

The one on Compass is untested, but the other two have been used for many years. The access codes can be obtained from Career Services. In addition, one of their staff can help in the interpretation of the Type Focus or Strong Interest reports. They are hard to interpret without help.

ONET (explained later) has a short inventory (shorter than the others). Short means less accurate, but quicker than the others.

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## Career Exploration

### Where to start?

**Career inventories ask about interests, hobbies, and attitudes about careers. From the answers they provide a list of potential careers.**

**This can be a great way to focus the career search and help inspire the student.**

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## Career Exploration

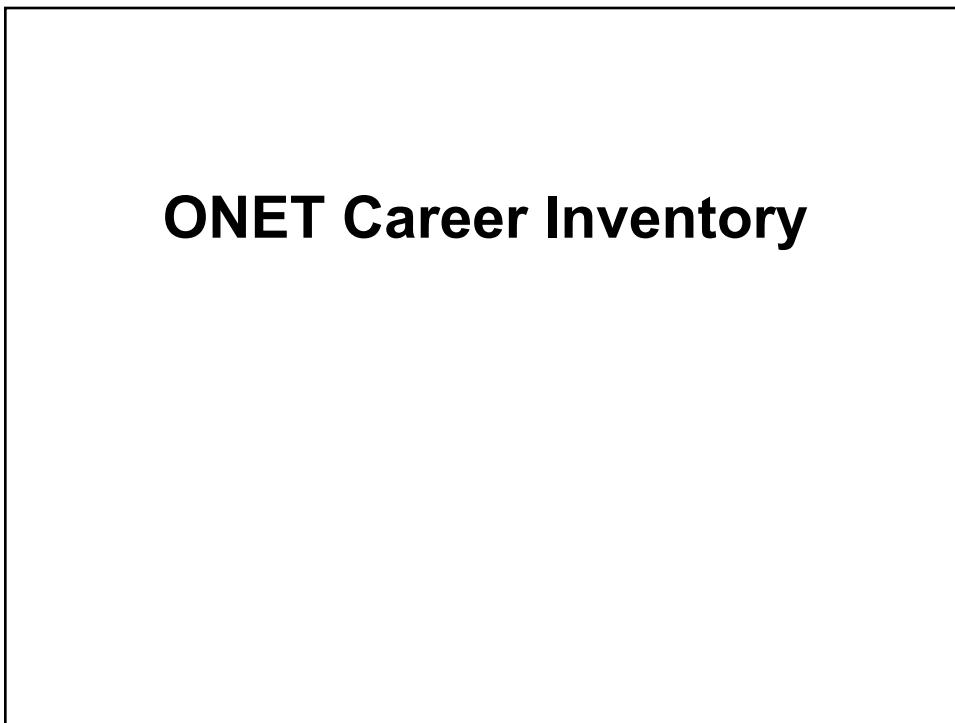
**ONET is maintained by the US Department of Labor and the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) is maintained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.**

**They are searchable databases for career searches, with many resources to help the job seeker.**

**They are complimentary, in that ONET is better for finding a list of related careers and OOH gives better descriptions of each career.**

**ONET has a database of almost 1000 jobs. OOH has a database of several thousand jobs.**

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**Google “ONET,” go to the home page**

The screenshot shows the O\*NET OnLine homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Help, Find Occupations, Advanced Search, and Crosswalks. To the right of the navigation bar is a search bar labeled "Occupation Quick Search:" with a magnifying glass icon. Below the navigation bar, there is a large banner with a construction crane silhouette against a sunset background. The banner text reads "Build your future with O\*NET OnLine." Below the banner, there are several search and browse options: "Occupation Search" (with a key icon), "Find Occupations" (with a magnifying glass icon), "Advanced Search" (with a magnifying glass and wrench icon), and "Crosswalks" (with a person icon). To the right of these options are two boxes: "What's New?" (listing updates to the O\*NET Database and websites) and "I want to be a..." (listing career paths). Further down the page are sections for "ATTN: VETERANS" (providing information for transitioning military personnel) and "Hot Technologies" (listing technologies frequently included in employer job postings).

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**Click on “I want to be ...”**

The screenshot shows the O\*NET OnLine homepage. At the top, there is a search bar labeled "Occupation Quick Search:" with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, there are links for "Help", "Find Occupations", "Advanced Search", and "Crosswalks". To the right of these links are "Share" and "O\*NET Sites" buttons. In the center, there is a large banner with the text "Build your future with O\*NET OnLine." and a subtext about detailed descriptions of work for job seekers, workforce development, and HR professionals. Below the banner, there are several search and browse options: "Occupation Search", "Find Occupations", "Advanced Search", and "Crosswalks". On the right side, there is a "What's New?" section with a red box around the "I want to be a..." button. This button has a purple background and white text. Below it, there is a subtext: "Start the career you've dreamed about, or find one you never imagined." and a "Find It Now" button with a "at My Next Move" link. Other sections visible include "ATTN: VETERANS" and "Hot Technologies".

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**The career inventory is the last box. The other boxes are helpful too.**

The screenshot shows the MY NEXT MOVE homepage. At the top, there is a logo with the text "MY NEXT MOVE" and a subtext "in-it". Below the logo, there is a navigation bar with links for "HOME", "SEARCH", "INDUSTRIES", and "INTERESTS". The main heading is "What do you want to do for a living?". Below the heading, there are three sections: "I want to be a...", "I'll know it when I see it.", and "I'm not really sure.". The "I'm not really sure." section contains a red box around the "Tell us what you like to do." button. This button has a purple background and white text. Below it, there is a subtext: "Answer questions about the type of work you might enjoy. We'll suggest careers that match your interests and training." and a "Start" button with a "Next" link. At the bottom of the page, there are links for "Still not sure?", "Are you a veteran looking for work?", and "¿Habla español?".

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# Career Exploration on ONET

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You can type in any career and get a list of related careers

Step 1: ONET home page, type in occupation

The screenshot shows the O\*NET OnLine homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Help, Find Occupations, Advanced Search, and Crosswalks. To the right is an "Occupation Quick Search" bar with a magnifying glass icon. Below the navigation is a large banner featuring a construction crane at sunset with the text "Build your future with O\*NET OnLine." A search bar below the banner contains the text "physician's assistant". This search bar is highlighted with a red rectangular box. To the left of the search bar is a "Occupation Search" button with a key icon. To the right are buttons for "Advanced Search" (with a magnifying glass icon) and "Crosswalks" (with a person walking icon). On the far left, there's a "Find Occupations" button with a magnifying glass icon. Below these are sections for "Browse by O\*NET Data" and "Apprenticeship". To the right of the search bar, there's a "What's New?" section with a "Learn More" button, a "I want to be a..." section with a "Find It Now" button, and a "ATTN: VETERANS" section with a "Get Started" button. At the bottom right, there's a "Hot Technologies" section with a "Learn More" button.

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**Step 2: click on the arrow to the right of what you typed**

The screenshot shows the O\*NET OnLine website. At the top, there's a logo and a search bar labeled "Occupation Quick Search:" with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are links for "Help", "Find Occupations", "Advanced Search", and "Crosswalks". To the right are "Share" and "O\*NET Sites" buttons. The main banner features a crane silhouette at sunset with the text "Build your future with O\*NET OnLine." Below the banner are four search tools: "Occupation Search" (with a key icon), "Find Occupations" (with a magnifying glass icon), "Advanced Search" (with a wrench icon), and "Crosswalks" (with a person icon). A red box highlights the "Advanced Search" button. To the right, there's a "What's New?" section with a "Learn More" button and an "I want to be a..." section with a "Find It Now" button. A blue box highlights the "Find It Now" button. Further down are sections for "ATTN: VETERANS" and "Hot Technologies", each with a "Learn More" button. A red box highlights the "Hot Technologies" button.

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**This is the page you get after clicking on the arrow. It includes the career you typed in AND related careers**

**Quick Search for:**

physician's assistant

Showing top 20 occupations for physician's assistant. Closest matches are shown first.

| How do they match? | Code  | Occupation     |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 29-1071.00         | Physician Assistants                            | Bright Outlook |
| 31-9092.00         | Medical Assistants                              |                |
| 29-9091.00         | Athletic Trainers                               |                |
| 29-1065.00         | Pediatricians, General                          |                |
| 29-1069.11         | Sports Medicine Physicians                      |                |
| 29-1069.08         | Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physicians |                |
| 31-1014.00         | Nursing Assistants                              |                |
| 29-1069.05         | Nuclear Medicine Physicians                     |                |
| 29-1069.09         | Preventive Medicine Physicians                  |                |
| 31-2021.00         | Physical Therapist Assistants                   |                |
| 29-2099.07         | Surgical Assistants                             |                |
| 19-1042.00         | Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists      |                |
| 31-2022.00         | Physical Therapist Aides                        |                |
| 29-1067.00         | Surgeons  |                |
| 29-1066.00         | Psychiatrists                                   |                |
| 29-1069.00         | Physicians and Surgeons, All Other              |                |
| 25-9041.00         | Teacher Assistants                              |                |
| 25-1191.00         | Graduate Teaching Assistants                    |                |
| 29-1061.00         | Anesthesiologists                               |                |
| 29-1062.00         | Family and General Practitioners                |                |

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You can click on each career option and get information on that career. The next three slides shows what you get when you click on “physician assistant.”

The screenshot shows the O\*NET OnLine website with the following details:

- Header:** O\*NET OnLine logo, Occupation Quick Search bar, Share and O\*NET Sites links.
- Title:** Summary Report for: 29-1071.00 - Physician Assistants
- Description:** Provide healthcare services typically performed by a physician, under the supervision of a physician. Conduct complete physicals, provide treatment, and counsel patients. May, in some cases, prescribe medication. Must graduate from an accredited educational program for physician assistants.
- Sample of reported job titles:** Certified Physician Assistant (PA-C), Clinical Physician Assistant, Family Practice Physician Assistant, General Surgery Physician Assistant, Midlevel Provider, Orthopaedic Physician Assistant, Physician Assistant Certified (PAC), Physician Extender, Physician's Assistant, Surgical Physician Assistant
- Also see:** Anesthesiologist Assistants
- View report:** Summary, Details, Custom
- Links:** Tasks, Technology Skills, Tools Used, Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, Work Activities, Detailed Work Activities, Work Context, Job Zone, Education, Credentials, Interests, Work Styles, Work Values, Related Occupations, Wages & Employment, Job Openings, Additional Information
- Tasks:** 5 of 12 displayed
  - Examine patients to obtain information about their physical condition.
  - Make tentative diagnoses and decisions about management and treatment of patients.
  - Prescribe therapy or medication with physician approval.
  - Administer or order diagnostic tests, such as x-ray, electrocardiogram, and laboratory tests.
  - Interpret diagnostic test results for deviations from normal.
- Technology Skills:** 5 of 7 displayed, Show 82 tools used
  - Medical software — ChartWare EMR; Healthcare common procedure coding system HCPCS; Medical procedure coding software; Teleradiology systems
  - Office suite software — Microsoft Office
  - Spreadsheet software — Microsoft Excel
  - Storage media loading software — Patient records software for personal digital assistants PDAs

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The screenshot shows the O\*NET OnLine website with the following details:

- Section:** Work Activities
- Tools:** 5 of 26 displayed
  - Getting Information — Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.
  - Assisting and Caring for Others — Providing personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, or other personal care to others such as coworkers, customers, or patients.
  - Documenting/Recording Information — Entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic/magnetic form.
  - Making Decisions and Solving Problems — Analyzing information and evaluating results to choose the best solution and solve problems.
  - Updating and Using Relevant Knowledge — Keeping up-to-date technically and applying new knowledge to your job.
- Detailed Work Activities:** 5 of 15 displayed
  - Diagnose medical conditions.
  - Examine patients to assess general physical condition.
  - Prescribe treatments or therapies.
  - Prescribe medications.
  - Record patient medical histories.
- Work Context:** 5 of 28 displayed
  - Face-to-Face Discussions — 100% responded "Every day."
  - Contact With Others — 90% responded "Constant contact with others."
  - Indoors, Environmentally Controlled — 95% responded "Every day."
  - Exposed to Disease or Infections — 85% responded "Every day."
  - Frequency of Decision Making — 80% responded "Every day."

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**The values listed below are similar to the values shown on the Type Focus reports, so you can correlate what is on your report to the values correlated with the career**

**Work Values**

All 3 displayed

- Relationships — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment. Corresponding needs are Co-workers, Moral Values and Social Service.
- Working Conditions — Occupations that satisfy this work value offer job security and good working conditions. Corresponding needs are Activity, Compensation, Independence, Security, Variety and Working Conditions.
- Achievement — Occupations that satisfy this work value are results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment. Corresponding needs are Ability Utilization and Achievement.

[back to top](#)

**Related Occupations**

5 of 6 displayed

|            |   |                  |
|------------|---|------------------|
| 25-1071.00 | <a href="#">Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary</a>      | ★                |
| 25-1072.00 | <a href="#">Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary</a> | ★                |
| 29-1141.04 | <a href="#">Clinical Nurse Specialists</a>                      | ★                |
| 29-1161.00 | <a href="#">Nurse Midwives</a>                                  | ★ Bright Outlook |
| 29-1171.00 | <a href="#">Nurse Practitioners</a>                             | ★                |

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**Wages & Employment Trends**

Median wages (2015) \$47.20 hourly, \$98,180 annual

State wages Local Salary Info

Employment (2014) 94,000 employees

Projected growth (2014-2024) ■■■■ Much faster than average (14% or higher)

Projected job openings (2014-2024) 50,000

State trends Employment Trends

Top industries (2014) [Health Care and Social Assistance](#)

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**Salary and employment trends are part of the database**

**Work Values**

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| 29-1141.04 | <a href="#">Clinical Nurse Specialists</a>                      | ★                |
| 29-1161.00 | <a href="#">Nurse Midwives</a>                                  | ★ Bright Outlook |
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[back to top](#)

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# Career Exploration on the Occupational Outlook Handbook

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**Google “occupation,” choose “occupational outlook handbook,” go to the home page**

OOH HOME | OCCUPATION FINDER | OOH FAQ | OOH GLOSSARY | A-Z INDEX | OOH SITE MAP

**OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK**

Occupational Outlook Handbook >  
Home  
It's new!

Get the CareerInfo app for the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), available for [iOS](#) and for [Android](#) devices.

**OCCUPATION GROUPS**

- Architecture and Engineering
- Arts and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training, and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance, and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math
- Media and Communication
- Military
- Office and Administrative Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production
- Protective Service
- Sales

**SELECT OCCUPATIONS BY**

2018 Median Pay    Entry-Level Education    On-the-job Training  
Number of New Jobs (Projected)    Growth Rate (Projected)    Go

**FEATURED OCCUPATION**

**Insurance Sales Agents**

Insurance sales agents contact potential customers and sell one or more types of insurance.

[view profile »](#)

**A-Z INDEX**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y Z

**BROWSE OCCUPATIONS**

Highest Paying    Fastest Growing (Projected)    Most New Jobs (Projected)

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You can type in the name of a career here as well.

OOH HOME | OCCUPATION FINDER | OOH FAQ | OOH GLOSSARY | A-Z INDEX | OOH SITE MAP

# OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Occupational Outlook Handbook > Home

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- Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance, and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math
- Media and Communication
- Military
- Office and Administrative Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production
- Protective Service
- Sales

**SELECT OCCUPATIONS BY**

2018 Median Pay  Entry-Level Education  On-the-job Training   
Number of New Jobs (Projected)  Growth Rate (Projected)  GO

**FEATURED OCCUPATION**

**Insurance Sales Agents**

Insurance sales agents contact potential customers and sell one or more types of insurance.

[view profile >](#)

**A-Z INDEX**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

**BROWSE OCCUPATIONS**

Highest Paying      Fastest Growing (Projected)      Most New Jobs (Projected)

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OOH HOME | OCCUPATION FINDER | OOH FAQ | OOH GLOSSARY | A-Z INDEX | OOH SITE MAP

# OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Occupational Outlook Handbook > Home

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**OCCUPATION GROUPS**

- Architecture and Engineering
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[view profile >](#)

**A-Z INDEX**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

**BROWSE OCCUPATIONS**

Highest Paying      Fastest Growing (Projected)      Most New Jobs (Projected)

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**You will get a list of related occupations that includes the one you searched.**

**Click on one of them.**

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**This is the summary page for physician assistants.**

**Each blue heading is a hyperlink to another page with more information.**

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If you click on “What Physician Assistants Do” you get this page.

**It is rich with concrete detail, much more than ONET.**

**What Physician Assistants Do**

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine on teams with physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare workers. They examine, diagnose, and treat patients.

**Duties**

Physician assistants typically do the following:

- Take or review patients' medical histories
- Examine patients
- Order and interpret diagnostic tests, such as x rays or blood tests
- Diagnose a patient's injury or illness
- Give treatment, such as setting broken bones and immunizing patients
- Educate and counsel patients and their families—for example, answering questions about how to care for a child with asthma
- Prescribe medicine
- Assess and record a patient's progress
- Research the latest treatments to ensure the quality of patient care
- Conduct or participate in outreach programs, talking to groups about managing diseases and promoting wellness

Physician assistants work on teams with [physicians or surgeons](#) and other healthcare workers. Their specific duties and the extent to which they must be supervised by physician or surgeon differ from state to state.

Physician assistants work in all areas of medicine, including primary care and family medicine, emergency medicine, surgery, and psychiatry. The work of physician assistants depends in large part on their specialty or the type of medical practice where they work. For example, a physician assistant working in surgery may close incisions and provide care before, during, and after the operation. A physician assistant working in pediatrics may examine a child and give routine vaccinations.

In some areas, especially rural and medically underserved communities, physician assistants may be the primary care providers at clinics where a physician is present only 1 or 2 days per week. In these locations, physician assistants collaborate with the physician as needed and as required by law.

Some physician assistants make house calls or visit nursing homes to treat patients.

Physician assistants are different from [medical assistants](#). Medical assistants do routine clinical and clerical tasks and do not practice medicine.

[Summary](#) [Work Environment](#)



Physician assistants work in all areas of medicine, including primary care and family medicine, emergency medicine, surgery, and psychiatry.

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If you click on “How to Become a Physician Assistant” you get this page.

**It has education, licensing and certification information.**

**The hyperlinks to professional certifying organizations can be very helpful.**

**How to Become a Physician Assistant**

Physician assistants typically need a master's degree from an accredited educational program. Earning that degree usually takes at least 2 years of full-time postgraduate study. All states require physician assistants to be licensed. Physician assistant graduate school applicants typically have experience caring for patients.

**Education**

Most applicants to physician assistant education programs already have a bachelors' degree and some patient care work experience. Although admissions requirements vary by program to program, most programs require 2 to 4 years of undergraduate coursework with a focus in science. Many applicants already have experience as [registered nurses](#) or as [EMTs or paramedics](#) before they apply to a physician assistant program.

Physician assistant education programs usually take at least 2 years of full-time study. More than 200 education programs were accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) in 2017. Almost all of these accredited programs offer a master's degree.

Physician assistant education includes classroom and laboratory instruction in subjects such as pathology, human anatomy, physiology, clinical medicine, pharmacology, physical diagnosis, and medical ethics. The programs also include supervised clinical training in several areas, including family medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine, and pediatric medicine.

Sometimes students serve in one or more clinical rotations in these areas under the supervision of a physician who is looking to hire a physician assistant. In this way, clinical rotations may lead to permanent employment.

**Work Experience in a Related Occupation**

Applicants to physician assistant graduate programs typically need patient care experience for admission or to be competitive in entering the programs. Work as an [EMT](#) or [paramedic](#), [registered nurse](#), [nursing assistant](#), or [similar care position](#) typically fulfills patient care experience requirements for admission to academic programs. Some applicants gain healthcare experience through volunteer opportunities at hospitals or clinics, or working with special-needs or at-risk groups, such as orphaned youth or homeless populations. For specific requirements, contact the program in which you are interested.

**Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations**

All states and the District of Columbia require physician assistants to be licensed. To become licensed, candidates must pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). A physician assistant who passes the exam may use the credential "Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C)." To keep their certification, physician assistants must complete 100 hours of continuing education every 2 years. The recertification exam is required every 10 years.

In addition, state licensure laws require physician assistants to hold an agreement with a supervising physician. Although the physician does not need to be onsite at all times, collaboration between physician and physician assistant is required for practice.

**Important Qualities**

**Communication skills.** Physician assistants must explain complex medical issues in a way that patients can understand. They must also effectively communicate with doctors and other healthcare workers to ensure that they provide the best possible patient care.

**Compassion.** Physician assistants deal with patients who are sick or injured and may face extreme pain or distress. They must treat patients and their families with compassion and understanding.

**Detail oriented.** Physician assistants should be observant and have a strong ability to focus when evaluating and treating patients.

**Emotional stability.** Physician assistants, particularly those working in surgery or emergency medicine, should work well under pressure. They must remain calm in stressful situations in order to provide quality care.

**Problem-solving skills.** Physician assistants need to evaluate patients' symptoms and administer the appropriate treatments. They must be diligent when investigating complicated medical issues so they can determine the best course of treatment for each patient.

**Advancement**

Some physician assistants pursue additional education in a specialty. Postgraduate educational programs are available in areas such as emergency medicine and psychiatry. To enter one of these programs, a physician assistant must be a graduate of an accredited program and be certified by the NCCPA.

As they gain greater clinical knowledge and experience, physician assistants can earn new responsibilities and higher wages. For example, experienced physician assistants may supervise other staff and physician assistant students, or they may become an executive leader of a healthcare organization.

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If you click on “Similar Occupations” you get this page.

There are fewer options than ONET and the career categories are more general.

| OCCUPATION  | JOB DUTIES   | ENTRY-LEVEL EDUCATION           | 2018 MEDIAN PAY   |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">EMTs and Paramedics</a>   | Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities. | Postsecondary nondegree award   | \$34,320  |
| <a href="#">Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners</a> | Nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners coordinate patient care and may provide primary and specialty healthcare.                        | Master's degree                 | \$113,930   |
| <a href="#">Occupational Therapists</a>                                     | Occupational therapists treat patients who have injuries, illnesses, or disabilities through the therapeutic use of everyday activities.                     | Master's degree                 | \$84,270  |
| <a href="#">Physical Therapists</a>   | Physical therapists help injured or ill people improve their movement and manage their pain.   | Doctoral or professional degree | \$87,930  |
| <a href="#">Physicians and Surgeons</a>                                     | Physicians and surgeons diagnose and treat injuries or illnesses.  | Doctoral or professional degree | This wage is equal to or greater than \$208,000 per year. |
| <a href="#">Registered Nurses</a>   | Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions.                                | Bachelor's degree               | \$71,730  |
| <a href="#">Speech-Language Pathologists</a>                                | Speech-language pathologists assess, diagnose, treat, and help to prevent communication and swallowing disorders in children and adults.                     | Master's degree                 | \$77,510  |

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