

PA: Physician Assistant

- *Trained to diagnose diseases, perform physical exam, help with wounds etc..
- *There is a physician relationship with one doctor they are working with.
- *They provide more customized care, and really focus on limited number of patients as opposed to doctor
- *Transitional state: unlike medical school, before applying to PA school, one must do "patient paid hours" such as working as a scribing, work as EMT, etc.: you get paid in a clinical setting
- *PA programs: 12 months (lecture based 8-5), and 15 months which are dedicated to doing rotations
- *For PA testing: exams approved after every rotations. At the end, one must take the PA board exams: PANACE(physician assistant national certified exam)

Questions:

- *Any exams to get into PA School?
 - Most PA schools require a GRE and some require higher than a 300. Some even accept the MCAT !
- *When to apply?
 - Applications open every spring, a common app to apply to all PA schools you are interested in.. then schools also have supplemental applications
- *After PA school you start working right away, only a few schools might want person to take a year of fellowship. Mostly, love to just train you right away right on site.
 - *What happens if you fail the board exam?
 - You can retake up to 3 times, but programs should really prepare you for success!
- *when to apply?
 - You need a bachelors. Process of application is very similar: about a year wait just like medical school applications.
- *Most difficult experience?
 - Trauma: healthy guy, motorcycle accident, paralyzed :(
- *What are some places for volunteering?
 - This is great for medical, nursing, or PA school:
 - 1)VOLUNTEER AT A HOSPITAL
 - 2) Also, another great program would be EMT program here at UCLA.
 - 3)Medical volunteer hours
 - 4)Make sure not to spread yourself too thin or else your GPA will suffer !
- *Can PA just freely move within specialties if moving to another hospital/place?
 - Yes for the most part, doctors will train you on the spot.
- *Nurse practitioner= nursing for two years and then become a NP, whereas PA doesn't have to go through that. You just become a PA, work right away after school, and have power and capabilities.
- *What are the doctor can do that PA can't do?
 - In surgery for example, doctor will make incision himself, PA will help keep incision open, have everything ready for doctors, close all wounds at the end. Another thing, doctors have to sign off

on 5% of PA charts per month. PA allowed to prescribe medication, however they are not called prescription but drug order, but pretty much same as prescriptions!

*How are the hours like?

-Very similar to a doctor's. Depending on speciality for example not same for a department like family medicine vs. Emergency ! PA also must be on call sometimes.

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