



CAREER PATH

Health

CAREER CLUSTER
Health Sciences

CAREER PATHWAY
Therapeutic Services



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

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.

Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a physician assistant are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)

Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Physician Assistants	0%	0%	100.0%
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	1.3%	11.4%	87.4%
Healthcare practitioner/technical	9.9%	31.0%	59.1%

PA educational Level (required in Missouri): Master's degree in a health or medical sciences field
Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing.

National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2007		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$31.56	\$37.72	\$44.86
	Yearly	\$65,600	\$78,500	\$93,300
Missouri	Hourly	\$16.15	\$30.13	\$38.05
	Yearly	\$33,600	\$62,700	\$79,100

Based on (*) lower 25% and (**) upper 25% percentile of wages

National and State Employment Trends

Physician Assistant	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2006	2016		
United States	65,600	83,400	+ 27%	2,680
Missouri	970	1,340	+ 39%	50

*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

Educational Opportunities

Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit www.dhe.mo.gov

A T Still University of Health Sciences

Kirkville, MO
(660) 626-2121
www.atsu.edu

Missouri State University

Springfield, MO
(417) 836-5000
www.missouristate.edu

Saint Louis University - Main Campus

Saint Louis, MO
(314) 977-2222
www.imagine.slu.edu



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