

Professional and Political Organizations for Physician Assistants

Group 7

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Organizations

- AAPA (American Academy of Physician Assistants)
- SAAAPA (Student Association of the American Academy of Physician Assistants)
- NYSSPA (New York State Society of Physician Assistants)
- ARC-PA (Accreditation Review Commission on Education For the PA)
- NCCPA (National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants)
- PAEA (Physician Assistant Education Program)
- DOE (Department of Education)

AAPA

- **Mission**-to promote quality, cost-effective, accessible health care, and to promote the professional and personal development of physician assistants
- **Vision**- Physician assistants will be worldwide leaders vital to providing and improving the medical care of all people. The requirements for membership are varied from what type of member you are.
- **Membership**-graduate of a PA program accredited by ARC-PA or a predecessor agency, or NCCPA-certified. The memberships vary from a fellow member to an affiliate member. The fees range from \$75-\$215 respectively. The associate membership fee is \$200.

SAAAPA

- **Purpose**- to provide current information on being a PA student and current information on the PA profession
- **Student Societies**- A group of at least five PA students who regularly meet to discuss issues of common interest, such as healthcare, the PA profession, and other social issues facing students and PAs. These officers must be student members of AAPA.
 - AOR, Assembly of Representatives, SAAAPA's political organization that meets once a year; each registered student society is eligible to send a representative to the Student Board of Directors
 - HOD, House of Delegates, establishes policies put into practice by the Board of Directors of the AAPA

NYSSPA

- **Mission**-to provide outstanding care to our patients, to improve the quality of health care, to promote, address and represent the interests and development of the Physician Assistant profession in New York State.
- **Vision**-“The positive name recognition and acceptance of Physician Assistants”
- **Membership**-Fellow Member Application
 - Sustaining Member Application
 - Student Member Application
 - Physician Member Application
 - Associate Member Application
 - Affiliate Member Application
 - Dues: \$25- \$125

ARC-PA

- **Mission**- “...protects the interests of the public and PA profession, and the welfare of students by defining the standards for PA education and evaluating PA educational programs within the territorial United States to ensure their compliance with those standards.”
- **Vision**- is high quality education for all physician assistants best serves the interests of both the public and the PA profession, continual self-study is the foundation for improving quality in the content and processes of education.

ARC-PA (cont.)

- **Goals-**to foster excellence in PA education through the development of uniform national standards for assessing educational effectiveness, foster excellence in PA programs by requiring continuous self-study and review, assure the general public, as well as professional, educational, and licensing agencies and organizations, that accredited programs have met defined educational standards for preparing PAs for practice and provide information and guidance to individuals, groups, and organizations regarding PA program accreditation.

ARC-PA (cont.)

- **Accreditation Requirements-**
 1. Administration
 2. Curriculum
 3. Evaluation
 4. Student Services
 5. Provisional Accreditation
 6. Accreditation Maintenance

NCCPA

- **Mission-** is to assure that certified Physician Assistants meet professional standards of knowledge and skills
- **Purpose-** is the only credentialing organization for PAs in the US (credential search on website to verify a PA-C), a not-for-profit organization
- **Certification-**
 - 1. graduates from physician assistant programs accredited by the ARC-PA
 - 2. completion of the PANCE (Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam)

PAEA

- **Mission-** "...to pursue excellence, foster faculty development, advance the body of knowledge that defines quality education and patient-centered care, and promote diversity in all aspects of physician assistant education"
- **Vision-**vision includes improvising the quality of health care for all people by fostering excellence in physician assistant education
- **Membership-**
 - 1. Program Member
 - 2. Institutional Colleague
 - 3. Individual Colleague
 - 4. International Colleague



DOE

- **Mission-** protect the public by fostering high standards of professional licensure, practice and discipline
- **Vision-** to regulate the system that promotes the highest quality of professional services for public protection
- **License requirements for PAs –**
 - be of good moral character
 - be at least 21 years old
 - meet education requirements
 - A. complete high school or equivalent
 - B. complete PA program accredited by ARC-PA
 - meet examination requirements
 - A. completion of the PANCE

Specialty Associations

- AASPA, American Association of Surgical PAs
- PAOS, Physician Assistants in Orthopaedic Surgery
- Society of Emergency Medicine PAs
- Society of Dermatology of PAs



Too Many or Too Few

- Some believe there are not enough organizations. Due to the fact that many organizations are dependant upon another organization, with out one of the organizations there many not be any organizations at all.
- Possible Organizations for the Future:
 - Pre-PASS or Pre-PA Student Society
 - PACTS, PAs Certified to Teach Students

Could We Be More Involved

- Community
 - Hospitals/Nursing Homes
 - 1. PAs should be required to sit on the board where PAs are employed
 - Schools
 - 1. PAs can educate about the profession and the opportunities in the field
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - 1. listed on the AAPA website



Political

- Local/Community Health Boards
 - PAs can serve on community boards which make decisions involving hospitals and local health care

Professional

American Heart Association

- the AHA does its best to educate the public about health, similar to a PA

National Institute of Health

- the NIH is involved in research and education to improve the life and health of the public

Reasons To Join

- to be aware of the ongoing changes in the profession
- to support the profession
 - go to meetings
 - donate money
- to give PAs a voice
 - lobbying efforts
- leadership opportunities
 - opportunity to make a difference in your field