

Category	Medical Assistant	Nurse (RN, BSN)	Nurse Practitioner	Physician Assistant	Physician (Family Practice)
<b>Prerequisite Education</b>	None	None	Bachelor Degree in Nursing & clinical hours	Bachelor Degree & clinical hours for most	Bachelor Degree
<b>Learning Model</b>	-	Medical-Nursing	Medical-Nursing	Medical-Physician	Medical-Physician
<b>Time in Classroom</b>	134 hrs	Varies greatly by program.	500 hrs	1000 hrs	2 years
<b>Time in Clinic</b>	160 hrs	Varies greatly by program.	500-700 hrs	2000 hrs	2 years
<b>Total Post High School Education</b>	1-2 years	2-4 years	6-8 years	6-7 years	8 years
<b>Residency</b>	None	None	None	Optional 1-2 years depends on specialty	3-8 years
<b>Degree or Certification Awarded</b>	Certificate or Associate Degree	Associate or Bachelor Degree	Master's Degree  Planned Transition to Doctorate	Physician Assistant Certified (PA-C)  Most also award Master's Degree. Some now pursuing PHD	Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)  Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.)
<b>Recertification</b>	60 education points or exam every 5 years	1000 hours practicing in area of certification specialty OR exam every 5 years	1000 professional practice hours AND ~15 CE credits/year OR exam every 5 years	100 education hours every 2 years  Exam every 10 years	MD: 50 education hours every year & ABMS certification recommended  DO: 120 education

					hours every 3 years & ABMS certification recommended
<b>Base Salary U.S. National Average 2010</b>	\$29,708	\$66,220	\$97,990	\$97,280	\$185,151

## Duties Performed

<b>Independent Practitioner</b>			18 states allow NPs to practice independently		<b>X</b>
<b>Complicated or High Risk Cases</b>			VARIES	<b>ASSIST</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Perform Surgery</b>			<b>ASSIST</b>	<b>ASSIST</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Deliver Babies</b>			<b>X</b>	VARIES BY STATE	<b>X</b>
<b>Write Prescriptions</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Prescribe controlled substances</b>			VARIES BY STATE	VARIES BY STATE II-V in MOST states	<b>X</b>
<b>Conduct Physical Exams</b>		<b>ASSIST</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Diagnose</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Treat Illness</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Order &amp; interpret tests</b>		<b>ASSIST</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Patient counseling</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>