What is a PA?

A physician assistant (PA) is a nationally certified and state-licensed medical professional with the ability to practice and prescribe in all 50 states.

Before they can practice, PA’s who graduate from an accredited program must pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and gain licensure by any states in which they intend to practice.

In order to maintain national certification PA’s must complete a recertification exam every 10 years and log 100 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every 2 years.

Most PA programs are approximately 26 months (3 academic years) including over 2,000 hours of clinical rotations and require the same prerequisite courses as medical schools.

Clinical Rotations
Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, General Surgery, Emergency Medicine, and Psychiatry

What PA’s Do:
- Take Medical Histories
- Perform Physical Exams
- Assist in Surgery
- Diagnose and Treat
- Round in Hospitals and Nursing Facilities
- Order and Interpret Tests
- Develop Treatment Plans
- Counsel on Preventative Care
- Write Prescriptions
- Maintain DEA License

South Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants
www.scapapartners.org