

## Comparison of Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Training and Roles

	<b>Nurse Practitioner (NP)</b>	<b>Physician Assistant (PA)</b>
Education/Degree	MSN or DNP	Masters Degree
Learning Model	Nursing Model understanding and using Medical Model when needed	Medical/Physician Model
Practice Hours	Typically choose a specialty area and need to complete 500 didactic hours and between 500 to 700 clinical hours or 1,000 for DNP. Keep in mind the NP has previously received a BSN degree and has performed clinical hours (500+) at that level as well as practice time as an RN	Trained as generalists and typically need to complete about 1,000 didactic hours and more than 2,000 clinical hours. Does not have a clinical bachelor degree or hours in patient care prior to attending PA school
Residency	Some states require- not Wisconsin	Optional 1-2 years in a specialty such as Ortho
Licensing	Currently have RN license and the prescribing license APNP (Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber) in Wisconsin. Currently working on legislation in our state to have distinct APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse) License specific for each APRN role (NP,CNS,CRNA, CNM)	Licensed by the State Medical Board
Certification	Required national certification in their specialty area such as Family, Pediatrics, Adult-Gerontology, or Psych/Mental Health; must be working in their area of certification. Most commonly certified through the ANCC (American Nurses Credentialing Center) or AANP (American Association of Nurse Practitioners)	Need to pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) available through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)
Independent Practitioner	YES- In Wisconsin the NP needs a collaborating physician to be able to consult if needed but this is NOT a supervisory role.	NO- needs physician supervision but may be delegated medical tasks in accordance with state regulations
Prescriptive Authority	YES- including controlled substances	YES -including controlled substances
Conduct Physical Exams	YES	YES
Diagnose	YES	YES
Order Tests	YES	YES
Third Party Reimbursement	YES- eligible for Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement	YES- eligible for Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement
Salary	Mean wage as of 2016- \$104,600 per year	Mean wage as of 2016- \$102, 090 per year

Sources of Information:

- <http://www.gapmedics.com/blog/2014/06/20/highest-paid-specialties-for-physician-assistants>
- <https://www.nccpa.net/continuingmedicaleducation>
- <http://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/recert/index>
- <http://www.discovernursing.com/explore-specialties#categories=advanced-practice>
- <http://directorypaeaonline.org/>
- <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>
- <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291171.htm>
- <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291071.htm>
- <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physician-assistants.htm>