

PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT (PA)

What do I do?

A Pathologists' Assistant provides anatomic pathology services under the direction and supervision of an anatomic pathologist. Performs a variety of tasks including gross examination and dissection of surgical pathology specimens and performance of postmortem examinations. Additional roles may include biobanking, pathology resident education and training, as well as administrative and supervisory responsibilities.

My typical day includes:

- » Submitting tissue samples for testing.
- » Examining **tissue** and **organs** removed during surgery.
- » Performing **postmortem examinations**.
- » **Photographing** the body and individual organs.
- » Performing **procedures** that will contribute to research studies.

Necessary Skill Sets



TECHNICAL

The evaluation of solid tissue specimens from biopsies and surgical procedures.



ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY & DISEASE MECHANISMS

Enjoy learning about the major organ systems, how they work and diseases that can occur.



ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Performs work with high degree of accuracy to ensure results meet parameters for test quality.



INDEPENDENT THINKING

Must be able to conduct tissue and organ dissection independently and discern when findings need to be escalated to the pathologist

Education Requirements

A Bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry, or related science and completion of two-year pathologists' assistant program from an accredited institution.

Note: For examination eligibility requirements, including alternate education/training routes, refer to the link provided under certification section.

Certification

[Earn certification as a Pathologists' Assistants \(PA\) from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification \(ASCP BOC\).](#)

Salary

Mean Annual Salary*: \$105,500 (Median: \$102,000)

* Salaries are based on a national average and will vary by location, years of service and other factors. ([ASCP Data](#))