

P.A. vs Healthcare Management: Which Career is Right for You?



1. Role

PAs work with physicians and other hospital staff to provide patient care and services. Healthcare managers oversee the day-to-day operations of a healthcare establishment and manage different facilities and their staffs.

The tasks of a PA include many hands-on, direct activities such as patient care, prescribing medicines, and lab tests. A health manager's activities are typically more business-oriented, and include quality assessments and control, decision making, and assuring compliance with the law.

2. Tasks



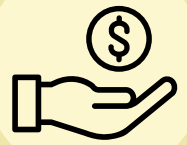
PA school typically lasts, on average, 2-3 years. It is also important to consider that pre-PA students take 1-2 gap years after undergrad before applying. It will typically take 2 years to complete a masters' degree of choice for healthcare management, thus the two are comparable in this sense!



3. Schooling

For healthcare management jobs, your salary will depend on what your job is, and what your position is within whatever company you work for. The average salary for healthcare managers was reported as \$110,680 per year. A PA salary may also depend on your specialty, and whether you practice privately or not. On average, PAs in CA earn \$127,520 per year.

4. Salary



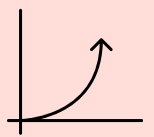
Patient interaction is extremely important in your decision: if you are interested in patient care and want to have a tangible impact on patient lives, you may want to look into being a PA. Health managers still help patients in a behind-the-scenes way through administrative duties. If you'd rather not get up close and personal but still wish to help, management may be a career to look at.



5. Patient Interaction

Luckily for you, both PAs and health managers have excellent job security. Employment of PAs is expected to grow by 28% between 2023 and 2033, and health management by 29%. Job security and growth-wise, you really can't go wrong with either career.

6. Job Security



PAs have the unique opportunity to specialize in any kind of medicine they wish! However, you would likely need to complete a fellowship or additional training. Health management careers don't have the same kind of specialization that PAs do, it's more about where you get a job and the duties that come with it.



7. Specialization

It is possible for both health managers and PAs to grow their careers. For a PA, this may look like specializing or participating in research, while for a health manager, this may look like networking or getting a certificate in healthcare or hospital administration. Remember, the steps you take to build your career should revolve around your specific goals and interests.

8. Growth Opportunities



70.5% of PAs in all specialties reported feeling satisfied with their career path. In a different survey, health managers rated their career a 3.0 out of 5. Though many were happy with the impact they were making, but reported high stress levels, and some found difficulty maintaining a good work/life balance.



9. Career Satisfaction

If you are interested in health management, here are my suggestions: I would explore UCLA's minor (or major! in Public Health so that you can gain useful skills to add to your degree and will be prepared for a graduate program. I would also look into joining campus organizations such as Bruins Public Health for further career information and opportunities. Pre-PAs are in the right place! I would use the pre-PA club website for further info.

10. How Can I Start?



Resources I Complied to Create this Infographic

(all are great sources of additional information!!)

eCareers, Health. "Advancing Your Career as a Physician Assistant: Discover Roles and Growth Tips." Healthcareers.com, www.healthcareers.com/career-resources/career-opportunities/advancing-your-career-as-a-physician-assistant-discover-roles-and-growth-tips.

"How Can I Advance in My Health Care Management Career?" Healthcare Management Degree Guide, www.healthcare-management-degree.net/faq/how-can-i-advance-in-my-health-care-management-career/.

"Is Healthcare Administration a Good Career Choice?: Pros & Cons." Pacific College, www.pacific-college.edu/blog/is-healthcare-administration-a-good-career-choice.

Mayo Clinic. "Physician Assistant." Mayo.edu, 2016, college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/physician-assistant/.

"Medical and Health Services Managers : Occupational Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics." Www.bls.gov, www.bls.gov/ooh/management/medical-and-health-services-managers.htm#tab-1.

"Physician Assistants." Www.bls.gov, www.bls.gov/oes/2019/may/oes291071.htm. Statistical Profile of Certified PAs by Specialty ANNUAL REPORT.