



# PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT

## What do I do?

I am a highly trained, certified allied healthcare professional that performs the examination and evaluation of all surgical pathology specimens as well as performs postmortem examinations. Under the direction and supervision of a pathologist, I provide diagnostic information on anything from cancer staging to cause of death. Pathologists' assistant's can also move up to supervisory roles in the laboratory and beyond.

### 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 research and **training pathology residents**, pathologists' assistant students, and other pathology lab personnel.

## 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 disease that can occur

## Salary

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

## Certification

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

## Education Requirements

- A minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college/university
- AND completion of a NAACLS accredited Pathologists' Assistant Program

\* Salaries are based on a national average and will vary by location and years of service and other factors.