



Physician Assistant Core Licensure Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to receive a license to practice as a physician assistant, all of the following apply to an applicant:

1. The applicant shall be at least eighteen years of age;
2. The applicant shall be of good moral character;
3. The applicant shall have the results of a criminal records check (FBI and Ohio BCI) submitted to the Board;
4. The applicant shall hold current Certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA); and
5. Meet one or more of the routes listed below:

Route 1 - The applicant shall hold a Master's or higher degree obtained from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant program (ARC-PA).

Route 2 *(see note below) – The applicant shall hold a current, valid license or other form of authority to practice as a physician assistant issued by another jurisdiction and have been in active practice in any jurisdiction throughout the three-year period immediately preceding the date of application.

Route 3 *(see note below) – The applicant shall hold a degree obtained from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) and meet either of the following experience requirements:

(a) Have experience practicing as a physician assistant for at least three consecutive years while on active duty, with evidence of service under honorable conditions, in any of the armed forces of the United States or the national guard of any state, including any experience attained while practicing as a physician assistant at a health care facility or clinic operated by the United States department of veterans affairs;

(b) Have experience practicing as a physician assistant for at least three consecutive years while on active duty in the United States public health service commissioned corps.

Route 4 – The applicant shall hold both of the following degrees:

(a) A degree other than a Master's or higher degree obtained from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA);

(b) A Master's or higher degree in a course of study with clinical relevance to the practice of physician assistants and obtained from a program accredited by a regional or specialized and professional accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Route 5* – The applicant shall hold a degree obtained as a result of being enrolled on January 1, 2008, in a program in this state that was accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) but did not grant a Master's or higher degree to individuals enrolled in the program on that date, and completing the program on or before December 31, 2009.

**Unless the applicant had prescriptive authority while practicing as a physician assistant in another jurisdiction, in the military, or in the public health service, the license issued to an applicant who qualifies under Route 2, Route 3 and/or Route 5 above does not authorize the holder to exercise physician-delegated prescriptive authority and the state medical board shall not issue a prescriber number.*