



**Headquarters Location:**

12000 Findley Road, Suite 100  
Johns Creek, GA 30097-1409

**Year Founded:** 1975

**Type of Organization:**

Not-for-profit organization

**Leadership:**

Kendra Thomsen, PA-C, MPAS—Chair of the Board of Directors  
Robin Hunter-Buskey, DHSc, PA-C —Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors  
Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C – President and CEO

**Web site:** [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)

**Vision Statement:**

Transform the delivery of quality healthcare by certifying qualified Physician Assistants (PAs) through programs that improve patient care while exemplifying a commitment to excellence unparalleled among certifying organizations.

**Mission Statement:**

To serve the public through exemplary programs that evaluate critical PA competencies and that require the pursuit of life-long learning and improvement.

**Physician Assistants Certified by NCCPA:** all U.S. states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories rely on NCCPA certification as one of the criteria for initial licensure or regulation of physician assistants. As of Dec. 31, 2019, there were more than 139,000 certified PAs.

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**Certification & Programs:**

Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination(PANCE) – initial certification exam.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) – required every two years during a ten-year certification maintenance cycle.

Physician Assistant National Recertifying Examination (PANRE) – exam required during the ninth or tenth year of the PA certification maintenance cycle.

Specialty Certificates of Added Qualifications (CAQs) – credentials to effectively document specialty experience and expertise. Available CAQs include:

- Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery CAQ
- Emergency Medicine CAQ
- Hospital Medicine
- Nephrology CAQ
- Orthopaedic Surgery CAQ
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry CAQ

Research - NCCPA has a robust repository of data on certified PA demographic and practice characteristics, and the organization is grateful to the certified PAs who take the time and effort to provide this data. A variety of reports, publications, tables, charts, and graphs reflecting data collected by NCCPA are provided here: [www.nccpa.net/research](http://www.nccpa.net/research).

In addition to the publication of those reports, NCCPA pursues a research agenda that focuses on its core activities and the ongoing evaluation and improvement of its exams and certification program. NCCPA is also committed to collaborating with external researchers to share data in appropriate and ethical ways to further advance the health and safety of the public or otherwise conduct useful research related to PAs. To facilitate research collaborations, NCCPA has developed Policies for the Review of Requests for Data and External Research Collaboration and guidelines that describe the process external researchers must follow for submitting requests for data and how those requests will be reviewed.