



Pathologists' Assistant

Pathologists' assistants provide services under the supervision of a licensed physician who practices anatomic pathology—the visual and microscopic examination of human organs and tissues. Examples of services:

- prepare large tissue sections so they can be analyzed for disease
- describe anatomic features and dissect surgical specimens
- submit tissues for bio-banking or analysis
- examine people who have died, including gathering and recording information for autopsy reports

Note: these licensed professionals do not provide medical diagnoses or opinions.

Education

Complete a bachelor's or higher degree in a [National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences](#) (NAACLS) accredited pathologists' assistant program.

Examination

Obtain a passing score on an examination acceptable to the Department, such as the pathologists' assistant certification exam of the American Society of Clinical Pathology Board of Certification

- ▶ Visit the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all options and requirements.

Video



Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$89,999
- Salary range: \$75,000 to \$100,000+
- Projected growth: faster than average

Where Could I Work?

- Hospitals and clinics
- Private pathology laboratory
- Forensic pathology labs and morgues
- Government
- Academia and research

Your Interests and Abilities

- Anatomy and physiology
- Laboratory science
- Handling and examining human bodies, organs and tissues

Professional Skills

- Analytical thinking
- Attention to detail
- Fine motor skills
- Leadership and teaching
- Communication

What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options! Explore a free career tool at mynextmove.org/explore/ip

Tip: try searching for mentoring programs—talk to a pathologists' assistant about what they do and how they got started!