

Chapter PA 2

LICENSE TO PRACTICE AS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

PA 2.01	Initial licensure.
PA 2.02	Education program approval.
PA 2.03	Oral interviews and personal appearances.
PA 2.04	License renewal and continuing medical education.

PA 2.05	Reinstatement.
PA 2.06	Reciprocal credentials for service members, former service members, and their spouses.
PA 2.07	Title protection.

PA 2.01 Initial licensure. Except as provided under sub. (3), the board shall grant an initial license to practice as a physician assistant to any applicant who has been found qualified by three-fourths of the members of the board and satisfies all of the following requirements, as determined by the board:

(1) The applicant shall submit all of the following:

(a) A completed application form.

Note: Application forms are available from the department of safety and professional services' website at <http://dps.wi.gov>.

(b) The fee determined by the department under s. 448.07 (2), Stats.

(c) Evidence of graduation from an educational program approved under s. PA 2.02.

(d) Evidence of having successfully passed the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) Certification Examination or an equivalent national examination approved by the board.

(e) A listing of all employers, practice settings, internships, residencies, fellowships, and other employment for the past 7 years.

(f) An attestation that the applicant is at least 18 years old.

(2) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, Stats., the applicant does not have an arrest or conviction record.

(3) Subsection (1) (c) does not apply to an applicant who provides evidence that the applicant is a licensed physician assistant or physician associate in another state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and the board determines that the requirements for obtaining the license in that state or territory are substantially equivalent to the requirements under sub. (1) (c).

(4) The board may require an applicant to complete a personal appearance for purposes of an interview, or review of credentials, or both.

(5) Notwithstanding sub. (1), an individual who, as of April 1, 2022, was licensed by the medical examining board as a physician assistant under subch. II of ch. 448, 2017 Stats., shall be considered to have been licensed as a physician assistant for the purposes of these rules, and, upon the license's expiration, shall renew in accordance with the provisions of s. PA 2.04.

(6) If any of the documents required under this chapter are in a language other than English, the applicant shall also submit a verified English translation, and the cost of that translation shall be borne by the applicant.

(7) An applicant who fails to receive a passing score on the examination required under sub. (1) (d) may reapply by payment of the fee specified in sub. (1) (b). An applicant may reapply twice at not less than 4-month intervals. If an applicant fails the examination 3 times, he or she may not apply for licensure unless the applicant submits proof of having completed further professional training or education as the board may prescribe.

History: EmR2206: cr., eff. 4-1-22; CR 22-064: cr. Register July 2023 No. 811, eff. 8-1-23; correction in (3) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 4., Stats., and corrections in (5) to (7) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2023 No. 811.

PA 2.02 Education program approval. The board shall only approve an education program for a physician assistant or physician associate that is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or its successor, or, prior to 2001, by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation or the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. If the applicant does not satisfy this requirement, the applicant may show that, prior to January 1, 1986, the applicant successfully passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

History: EmR2206: cr., eff. 4-1-22; CR 22-064: cr. Register July 2023 No. 811, eff. 8-1-23.

PA 2.03 Oral interviews and personal appearances.

(1) The board may require an applicant to complete an oral interview or personal appearance before the board, if any of the following circumstances apply:

(a) The applicant has a medical condition which in any way impairs or limits the applicant's ability to practice as a physician assistant with reasonable skill and safety.

(b) The applicant uses chemical substances that impair in any way the applicant's ability to practice as a physician assistant with reasonable skill and safety.

(c) The applicant has been disciplined or had certification denied by a licensing or regulatory authority in Wisconsin or another jurisdiction.

(d) The applicant has been convicted of a crime, the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of physician assistants.

(e) The applicant has not practiced as a physician assistant for a period of 3 years prior to application, unless the applicant has graduated from an approved educational program in the last 3 years under s. PA 2.02.

(f) The applicant has been found to have been negligent in the practice as a physician assistant or is currently a party in a lawsuit in which it was alleged that the applicant has been negligent in the practice of medicine.

(g) The applicant has been diagnosed with any condition that may create a risk of harm to a patient or the public.

(h) The applicant has within the last 2 years engaged in the illegal use of controlled substances.

(i) The applicant has been subject to adverse formal action during the course of physician assistant education, postgraduate training, hospital practice, or other physician assistant employment.

(2) An application filed under this chapter shall be reviewed by an application review panel, designated by the chairperson of the board, to determine whether an applicant is required to complete an oral interview or a personal appearance or both under sub. (1). If the application review panel is not able to reach unanimous agreement on whether an applicant is eligible for licensure without completing an oral interview or a personal appearance or both, the application shall be referred to the board for a final determination.

(3) The board shall notify an applicant requiring an oral interview or appearance of the time and place scheduled for that applicant's interview or appearance.

(4) Otherwise qualified applicants with disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, shall be provided with reasonable accommodations.

History: EmR2206: cr., eff. 4-1-22; CR 22-064: cr. Register July 2023 No. 811, eff. 8-1-23; correction in (1) (e) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2023 No. 811.

PA 2.04 License renewal and continuing medical education. (1) A licensee shall renew their license as specified by ss. 440.03 (9) (a) and 440.08 (2) (a), Stats.

(2) A licensee shall complete a renewal application approved by the board and return it with the required fee prior to the date specified by ss. 440.03 (9) (a) and 440.08 (2) (a), Stats.

Note: Instructions for renewal applications can be found on the department of safety and professional services' website at <http://dsps.wi.gov>.

(3) Except as provided under sub. (4) and specified by s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., a licensee shall attest to the completion of the following:

(a) At least 30 hours of continuing medical education classified as Category 1 as defined by the NCCPA or as approved by the Board.

(b) Of the required 30 hours of continuing medical education, at least 2 hours are on the topic of responsible controlled substances prescribing.

(4) Subsection (3) does not apply to the first renewal following the date a license is issued.

(5) Licensees shall retain certificates of continuing medical education attendance for a minimum of four years to be provided to the board upon request.

(6) Licensees may submit evidence of active certification from the NCCPA or a board approved successor organization and the board shall accept such certification as meeting the requirements under sub. (3) (a).

History: EmR2206: cr., eff. 4-1-22; CR 22-064: cr. Register July 2023 No. 811, eff. 8-1-23; correction in (3) to (6) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2023 No. 811.

PA 2.05 Reinstatement. (1) A licensee who fails for any reason to be licensed as required under this chapter may not exercise the rights or privileges conferred by any license granted by the board.

(2) Failure to renew a license as specified in s. PA 2.04 shall cause the license to lapse. A licensee who allows the license to lapse may apply for reinstatement of the license by the board, subject to s. 440.08 (4), Stats., as follows:

(a) If the licensee applies for renewal of the license less than 5 years after its expiration, the license shall be renewed upon payment of the renewal fee.

(b) If the licensee applies for renewal of the license more than 5 years after its expiration, the board shall make an inquiry to determine whether the applicant is competent to practice under the license in this state and shall impose any reasonable conditions on the renewal of the license. This paragraph does not apply to licensees who have unmet disciplinary requirements or whose licenses have been surrendered or revoked.

(3) A licensee who has unmet disciplinary requirements and failed to renew a license within 5 years of the renewal date or whose license has been surrendered or revoked may apply to have a license reinstated if the applicant provides all of the following:

(a) Evidence of completion of requirements under s. PA 2.05 (2) (b) if the licensee has not held an active Wisconsin license in the last 5 years.

(b) Evidence of completion of disciplinary requirements, if applicable.

(c) Evidence of rehabilitation or a change in circumstances, warranting reinstatement of the license.

History: EmR2206: cr., eff. 4-1-22; CR 22-064: cr. Register July 2023 No. 811, eff. 8-1-23; corrections in (2) (a), (b), (3) (intro.), (a) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2023 No. 811.

PA 2.06 Reciprocal credentials for service members, former service members, and their spouses. A reciprocal license shall be granted to a service member, former service member, or the spouse of a service member or former service member who the board determines meets all of the requirements under s. 440.09 (2), Stats., subject to s. 440.09 (2m), Stats. The board may request verification necessary to make a determination under this section.

History: EmR2206: cr., eff. 4-1-22; CR 22-064: cr. Register July 2023 No. 811, eff. 8-1-23; correction made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2023 No. 811.

PA 2.07 Title protection. No person may designate himself or herself as a "physician assistant" or "physician associate" or use or assume the title "physician assistant" or "physician associate" or append to the person's name the words or letters "physician assistant", "physician associate" or "P.A." or any other titles, letters, or designation which represents or may tend to represent that person as a physician assistant or physician associate unless that person is a physician assistant licensed by the board or a federally credentialed physician assistant or physician associate.

History: EmR2206: cr., eff. 4-1-22; CR 22-064: cr. Register July 2023 No. 811, eff. 8-1-23.