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

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