Differences Between Physician Assistants and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Texas

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PA Pre-Requisites

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- Education:
  - Bachelor's Degree
    - Bachelor's for most PA programs
    - Completion of certain science-based courses, a certain GPA or the GRE
- Licensure/Clinical Experience
  - No licensing requirements in most schools
  - Direct patient healthcare experience required for most PA program (1,000-4,000 hrs)

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APRN Prerequisites

- Education Required:
  - Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) **or**
  - Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN)
- Clinical Experience
  - CRNAs – require at minimum a bachelor's degree and one-year of clinical experience as a RN in critical care
    - This is required by the AANA – the national accrediting organization for CRNAs
  - Other APRN roles are not required to have certain clinical experience by their accrediting organizations
    - Individual schools may require varying amounts of clinical experience

PA School Education

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- Length:
  - Generally 2-3 years
  - Combined with undergrad, can be 6+ years of education
- Course Requirements:
  - Competencies
  - Learning Outcomes
  - Instructional Objectives
- Clinical Hours
  - About 2,000 hours of supervised clinical practice
- Format
  - Most are in person but some online
  - Clinical rotations in person
- Degrees
  - Master's
  - Doctoral degrees

APRN Education

- One (1) year long at a minimum (most programs are longer)
- Include a formal preceptorship
- Must include the following:
  - Course in Advanced health assessment
  - Course in Advanced pharmacology
  - Course in Advanced physiology and pathophysiology
  - Diagnosis and management of diseases and conditions across practice settings, including diseases representative of all systems appropriate to the role and population focus area
  - Preparation in the principles of decision making in the identified role:
    - Role preparation in one identified population focus area
    - Legal, ethical, and professional responsibilities of the APRN
- Minimum of 500 supervised clinical hours directly related to the role and population focus area including pharmacotherapeutic management of patients
- Can prepare for two population foci
- Additional requirements for clinical nurse specialists can be found under Rule 221.3(e)
- Classes may be online but clinical hours are in-person
- Degree earned is a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP)

PA Licensure and Renewal

- Initial Licensure Requirements
  - PA program accredited by the ARC-PA (270+ nationwide)
  - Pass PANCE (gain NCCPA certification)
  - Pass JP Exam
  - Active Practice
  - Any health care licenses held not subject to any type of disciplinary action
  - Good moral and professional character
  - Mentally and physically able to function safely as a PA
  - Fingerprints
  - Other requirements imposed by TPAB

Title search: Differences Between Physician Assistants and Advanced Registered Nurses in Texas

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