

Pathologist's Assistant

■ Job Description

Anatomic pathologists are physicians who examine tissue specimens from patients and perform autopsies to diagnose the disease processes involved. Pathologists' assistants function as assistants to anatomic pathologists by participating in the examination, dissection and processing of tissue samples removed at surgery, and by participating in gross autopsy dissection. Additional duties may include teaching, supervision of laboratory technicians/technologists and personnel in the anatomic pathology laboratory, and administrative and budgetary functions.

■ Job Settings

Pathologists' assistants are employed in a variety of settings, which include community and regional hospitals, university medical centers, private pathology laboratories, and medical examiner/coroner offices.

■ Salaries

Salaries vary with geographic location and type of employer. Entry-level salaries are between \$55,000 and \$75,000 per year.

■ Related Careers

Medical technologist, cytotechnologist, and histologic technician/technologist

■ Differences in Training

The minimum education requirement for pathologists' assistants is a bachelor's degree in the biological or health sciences. Six schools in the country offer National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) accredited training programs: Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Connecticut; Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan; Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina; University of Maryland in Baltimore; Ohio State University in Columbus; and Finch University of Health Sciences/Chicago Medical School in Chicago. Coursework includes anatomy, physiology, and medical terminology, as well as general, systemic, pediatric, and forensic pathology. Practical training includes autopsy pathology, surgical

pathology, forensic pathology, and medical photography.

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/> You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.

[Forensic Science](#)

[Pathology and Experimental Pathology](#)

■ Resources

American Association of Pathologists' Assistants
Rosewood Office Plaza, Suite 300N
1711 W. County Road B
Roseville, MN 55113
Phone: 800.532-2272
E-mail: oei@assocmgmt.org
<http://www.pathologistsassistants.org>
Click on "What is a pathologists' assistant?"