

WHAT IS A PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT?

A Pathologists' Assistant is an intensively trained allied health professional who provides anatomic pathology services under the direction and supervision of a pathologist.

In practice, Pathologists' Assistants are responsible for the processing of the Surgical Pathology specimen from receipt to dissection and description to submission of tissue to Histology. In Autopsy practice, the PA is involved in reviewing the medical record of the decedent, evisceration, dissection, and selection of tissue for submission to Histology as well as formulation of a Preliminary Anatomic Diagnosis and Autopsy Report under the direction of a Pathologist. Many PAs are involved in Laboratory Management, teaching at the University level, training of residents and medical students, forensic investigation, or research and tissue banking.



THE PROGRAM:

Within the *West Virginia University School of Medicine*, the Pathologists' Assistant Program is a full-time 24-month Master's of Health Science program that prepares graduates as Allied Health Professionals for careers as Pathologists' Assistants, (P.A.(ASCP)). This specialty focuses on Surgical and Autopsy Pathology with additional training in Laboratory Management, Clinical Pathology, Forensic and Biomedical Photography and more.

The first year is an intense didactic



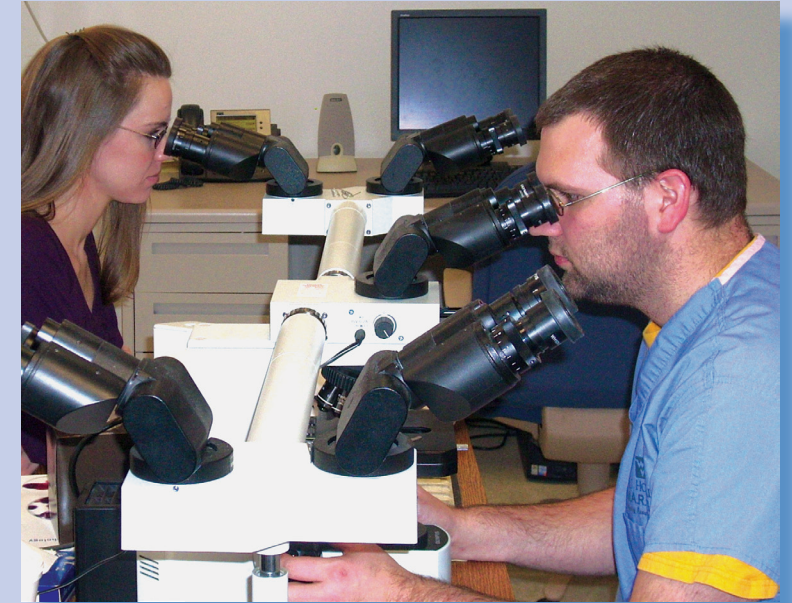
schedule, with some "hands on" experience in the Surgical Pathology Gross Room. The second year is clinical practice, with rotation in multiple hospital laboratories throughout West Virginia and Pennsylvania, including the Office of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner in Morgantown, WV. There will be multiple opportunities to attend various medical educational conferences. Students will have the ability to apply the didactic knowledge during the comprehensive clinical year by performing autopsy and surgical pathology procedures of many types at different kinds of institutions.

Upon graduation, students are prepared to take the national certifying exam given by the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

Since program inception, WVU Pathologists' Assistant Program has a 100% pass rate on the national certification exam.

WHO IS A PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT?

- A high energy individual who enjoys a fast-paced environment, where every day is different.



- A detail oriented person who can recognize subtle differences between normal and abnormal.
- Someone with an inquisitive personality who enjoys solving mysteries or puzzles.
- One who desires a challenging career in the medical field as an Allied Healthcare Provider, earning a comfortable income, with indirect patient contact and less time spent than in medical school/residency.
- Good interpersonal skills are necessary for the wide variety of people and situations dealt with every day.