

# Associations for Healthcare and Health Science Students

## Healthcare Associations

### American Medical Association (AMA)

**Mission:** Founded in 1847, the American Medical Association (AMA) is the largest and only national association that convenes 190+ state and specialty medical societies and other critical stakeholders. Throughout history, the AMA has always followed its mission: to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health. As the physicians' powerful ally in patient care, the AMA delivers on this mission by representing physicians with a unified voice in courts and legislative bodies across the nation, removing obstacles that interfere with patient care, leading the charge to prevent chronic disease and confront public health crises, and driving the future of medicine to tackle the biggest challenges in health care and training the leaders of tomorrow.

**Membership:** Available only for medical students

**Leadership:** National membership

**Website:** <https://www.ama-assn.org>

### American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM)

**Mission:** AAHAM was founded in 1968 as the American Guild of Patient Account Management. Initially formed to serve the interests of hospital patient account managers, AAHAM has evolved into a national membership association that represents a broad-based constituency of healthcare professionals. AAHAM actively represents the interests of healthcare administrative management professionals through a comprehensive program of legislative and regulatory monitoring and its participation in industry groups such as ANSI, DISA and NUBC. AAHAM is a major force in shaping the future of health care administrative management.

**Membership:** Free student membership (for full-time, 12 credit hour students)

**Leadership:** National and local membership

**Website:** <https://www.aaham.org/Home.aspx>

# Physician Assistant Associations

## American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)

**Mission:** Founded in 1968, the American Academy of Physician Associates is the national professional society for PAs (physician associates/physician assistants). It represents a profession of more than 150,000 PAs across all medical and surgical specialties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and the uniformed services. AAPA advocates and educates on behalf of the profession and the patients PAs serve. We work to ensure the professional growth, personal excellence and recognition of PAs. We also enhance their ability to improve the quality, accessibility and cost-effectiveness of patient-centered healthcare.

**Membership:** \$75 one-time payment

**Leadership:** National and Local membership

**Website:** <https://www.aapa.org>

## Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants (IAPA)

**Mission:** The Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants serves as the primary resource on and for the PA profession in the state of Illinois, committed to advocacy, education and the highest quality of patient care. The Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants will be the premier organization for all PAs in Illinois, promoting professional development, empowering PAs to achieve their full scope of practice and become recognized leaders in healthcare.

**Membership:** \$35 student membership (for two year membership)

**Leadership:** State membership

**Website:** <https://www.illinoispa.org>

## National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

**Mission:** NCCPA is the only certifying organization for PAs in the United States. Established as a not-for-profit organization in 1974, NCCPA provides certification programs that reflect standards for clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning and other medical skills and professional behaviors required upon entry into practice and throughout the careers of PAs. NCCPA is recognized as an innovative global leader in certification and recertification, promoting patient safety in the changing world of medicine. PAs, patients, and other stakeholders value certification. NCCPA is respected for its commitment to research and data-driven decision making.

**Membership:** \$550 certification

**Leadership:** National certification

**Website:** <https://www.nccpa.net/>

# Nutrition/Dietetics Associations

## National Association of Nutrition Professionals (NANP)

**Mission:** NANP is the only professional business league dedicated to advancing holistically trained nutrition professionals. Our mission is to advocate for and empower a flourishing community of professionals dedicated to the principles of holistic nutrition. Our vision is a future where people choose food as their medicine.

**Membership:** \$99 student membership

**Leadership:** National membership

**Website:** <https://nanp.org>

## Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

**Mission:** The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the world's largest organization of nutrition and dietetics practitioners founded in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1917, by a visionary group of women dedicated to helping the government conserve food and improve the public's health and nutrition during World War I. Today, the Academy represents more than 112,000 credentialed practitioners — registered dietitian nutritionists, nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered, and other food and nutrition professionals holding undergraduate and advanced degrees in nutrition and dietetics, and students — and is committed to improving health and advancing the profession of nutrition and dietetics through research, education and advocacy.

**Membership:** \$58 annual student membership

**Leadership:** National membership

**Website:** <https://www.eatright.org>

## American Council on Science and Health (ACSH)

**Mission:** The American Council on Science and Health is a pro-science, research and education organization. The Council was founded in 1978 by a group of scientists with a singular focus: to publicly support and utilize evidence-based science and medicine and to educate the public by debunking junk science and exaggerated health scares. ACSH was created to be the science alternative to "news" that is often little more than hype based on exaggerated findings. We help policymakers see past scaremongers and activist groups who have targeted GMOs, vaccines, conventional agriculture, nuclear power, natural gas, and "chemicals," while peddling health scares and fad diets. We fight back against activists who have attacked the credibility of the overwhelming consensus of academic and private sector scientists who dispute their claims, undermining the integrity of the scientific enterprise.

**Membership:** Free to subscribe

**Leadership:** Individual membership

**Website:** <https://www.acsh.org>

# Nursing Associations

## American Nurses Association (ANA)

**Mission:** The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's 4 million registered nurses. ANA is at the forefront of improving the quality of health care for all. Founded in 1896, and with members in all 50 states and U.S. territories, ANA is the strongest voice for the profession. ANA exists to advance the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting a safe and ethical work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that affect nurses.

**Membership:** \$174 year (Must be a registered nurse to join; student members can subscribe while in school)

**Leadership:** National and state membership

**Website:** <https://www.nursingworld.org/ana>

## American Nurses Association of Illinois (ANA-Illinois)

**Mission:** ANA-Illinois, together with our national partner, the American Nurses Association (ANA), will continue to build a community of nurses dedicated to advancing their profession and providing safe, affordable healthcare. We protect the practice of nursing by ensuring that nursing's priorities are incorporated into legal and regulatory decisions. We understand what's important – issues such as oversight of scope of practice, appropriate use of unlicensed personnel and the impact of managed care. We safeguard and promote licensure, credentialing and the right of the profession to define nursing practice.

**Membership:** \$174 year (Must be a registered nurse to join; student members can subscribe while in school). Can be combined with ANA membership

**Leadership:** State membership

**Website:** <https://www.ana-illinois.org>

## National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN)

**Mission:** Since 1975, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) has been the nation's leading professional society for Latino nurses. NAHN is devoted to promoting safe, quality health care delivery to Latino communities and individuals, and we recognize excellence among Latino nurses, provide formal and informal mentoring opportunities, and generally serve as a center of excellence for our members. Our goal is to create a cadre of highly-qualified Latino nurses by advancing educational, professional and leadership skills and opportunities for our membership. In addition, we work to recruit additional Latinos into the nursing profession because, while Latinos represent 18% of the US population, less than 7% of the nursing workforce is of Latino descent.

**Membership:** \$125 annual membership (includes chapter membership)

**Leadership:** National and chapter membership

**Website:** <https://www.nahnnet.org>

# Nursing Associations

## National Student Nurses Association (NSNA)

**Mission:** Founded in 1952, NSNA is a nonprofit organization for students enrolled in associate, baccalaureate, diploma, and generic graduate nursing programs. It is dedicated to fostering the professional development of nursing students. NSNA's mission is to mentor students preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses, and to convey the standards, ethics, and skills that students will need as responsible and accountable leaders and members of the profession.

**Membership:** \$27 per year (plus state dues)

**Leadership:** National and state membership

**Website:** <https://www.nсна.org>

## American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)

**Mission:** AANP empowers all NPs to advance accessible, person-centered, equitable, high-quality health care for diverse communities through practice, education, advocacy, research and leadership.

**Membership:** \$55 per year (Must be currently enrolled in an entry-level program that prepares students with no prior education)

**Leadership:** National and State membership

**Website:** <https://www.aanp.org>

# Fitness/Recreational Therapy Associations

## International Fitness Professionals Association (IFPA)

**Mission:** Join our team of over 300,000 certified personal trainers and fitness professionals worldwide, who are passionate about health and fitness and dedicated to improving and maintaining the quality of life in others. The International Fitness Professionals Association is devoted to offering the highest quality learning experiences to individuals aiming to improve their lifestyle, and those aiming to improve the lifestyles of others. Our educational opportunities provide only the most practical and scientifically based health and fitness information that can be directly applied to "real life" experiences.

**Membership:** Certifications available (by level)

**Leadership:** National certification

**Website:** <https://www.ifpa-fitness.com>

## American Society of Exercise Physiologists (ASEP)

**Mission:** As a national non-profit professional organization, the American Society of Exercise Physiologists (ASEP) is committed to the advancement of exercise physiologists as healthcare professionals. Founded in 1997 in the state of Minnesota, the Society provides a forum for leadership and exchange of information to stimulate discussion and collaboration among exercise physiologists active in all aspects of the profession. The Society works to set standards for exercise physiologists through ASEP-approved curricula in universities and colleges in the United States.

**Membership:** Exam/certification available

**Leadership:** National certification

**Website:** <https://www.asep.org>

## Illinois Recreational Therapy Association (ILRTA)

**Mission:** ILRTA is a state membership organization representing the interests and needs of recreational therapists. Recreational therapists use recreational therapy interventions for improved functioning of individuals with illness or disabling conditions. A qualified recreational therapist is someone who is nationally certified as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS), usually referred to as Recreational Therapists.

**Membership:** \$15 student membership fee

**Leadership:** State membership

**Website:** <http://ilrta.org/>

# Health Science Associations

## National Wellness Institute (NWI)

**Mission:** The National Wellness Institute (NWI) is the leader in providing professional development and engagement opportunities that support individuals from a variety of disciplines in promoting whole-person wellness. The Vision of NWI is to be the worldwide voice of the wellness community.

**Membership:** \$150 annual membership

**Leadership:** Individual membership

**Website:** <https://nationalwellness.org>

## American College Health Association (ACHA)

**Mission:** Since 1920, the American College Health Association (ACHA) has served as the voice for student health and wellness. Through advocacy, research and education, ACHA stands at the forefront of issues that impact the health and wellness of our college students. ACHA represents over 700 institutions of higher education and the collective health and wellness needs of 20 million college students. ACHA serves over 8,500 individual college health and wellness professionals and leaders of all disciplines united together to advance the health and wellness of college students. Membership in ACHA is your key to unlocking tremendous vision and knowledge that can enrich your campuses' health and wellness services, your professional development, and efforts toward creating a culture of wellness on your campus.

**Membership:** \$35 student membership

**Leadership:** National and institutional membership

**Website:** <https://www.acha.org>

## American Public Health Association (APHA)

**Mission:** The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We are the only organization that combines a 150-year perspective, a broad-based member community and the ability to influence policy to improve the public's health.

**Membership:** \$85 student membership (must be enrolled in a degree program)

**Leadership:** National membership

**Website:** <https://www.apha.org>



# Health & Wellness Associations

## American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)

**Mission:** The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is the leading voice and authority in health information, wherever it is found. Our people work at the intersection of healthcare, technology, and business. While our patients don't often see us, we see our patients in a way no other healthcare professional does. That is because AHIMA-certified professionals ensure that sensitive health stories remain accurate, accessible, protected and complete—at all times. As the global nonprofit association of health information professionals, our mission of empowering people to impact health is a prescient rallying cry during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Membership:** \$299 certification exam (multiple certifications available)

**Leadership:** National certification

**Website:** <https://www.ahima.org>

## The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

**Mission:** SHRM, the Society for Human Resource Management, creates better workplaces where employers and employees thrive together. As the voice of all things work, workers and the workplace, SHRM is the foremost expert, convener and thought leader on issues impacting today's evolving workplaces. With 300,000+ HR and business executive members in 165 countries, SHRM impacts the lives of more than 115 million workers and families globally.

**Membership:** \$49 annually

**Leadership:** Local university chapters, National membership

**Website:** <https://www.shrm.org/>

## American Mental Wellness Association (AMWA)

**Mission:** In 2012, The Mental Wellness Awareness Association, Inc. (MWAA) was founded in Pennsylvania by a group of individuals to promote prevention, early intervention, scientific research, and cures for mental health problems across the state. The four programs of the MWAA are Mental Wellness Presentations, Mental Health First Aid Trainings with National Certification, Mental Wellness Research Information, and Mental Health Advance Directives. AMWA's mission is to build healthier lives free of mental health conditions through educational outreach.

**Membership:** Free (AMWA is a resource and communication hub)

**Website:** <https://www.americanmentalwellness.org>