

Examples of **Direct Patient Care Experience** for Physician Assistant Program Admission

At least 750 hours of quality direct-patient contact experience are required to begin the PA program. A competitive applicant will have the required 750 hours of patient care experience at the time of application. The quality of the experience(s) and number of hours are weighed when considering an application. The more hands-on activities are considered higher quality and less hands-on activities are considered lower quality but are still important to include in your application. Patient contact hours may be paid or volunteer. **It is extremely important to provide a detailed description of your responsibilities on your CASPA application to ensure that you are given appropriate credit.** The following is a list of patient-care experiences with approximate quality values and is intended as a guide only and is not all-inclusive. Again, it is important to note that assigned values of patient experience are based on description of duties on the application.

High Quality

High-quality experiences require a high level of decision making and intensive hands-on responsibility for which **100 percent of the total hours will count toward the prerequisite hours.** Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ Athletic Trainer
- ▶ Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)
- ▶ Dental Assistant
- ▶ Dentist
- ▶ EMT
- ▶ Home Health Aide w. Health Care Responsibilities
- ▶ Licensed or Certified Health Care Professional
- ▶ Medical Assistant
- ▶ Medical Research w. Human Subjects
- ▶ Medical Scribe
- ▶ Mental Health Worker
- ▶ Military Medic/Corpsman
- ▶ Nurse
- ▶ Nurse's Aide
- ▶ Occupational Therapy Assistant
- ▶ Ophthalmic Technician
- ▶ Paramedic
- ▶ Participant on a mission trip with a health care related assignment or other cross-cultural health care experience
- ▶ Patient Care Technician
- ▶ Phlebotomist
- ▶ Physical Therapist
- ▶ Physical Therapy Assistant
- ▶ Public Health Response (COVID Screening, Testing, Education and Outreach)
- ▶ Radiology Technician
- ▶ Sonographer
- ▶ Substance Dependency Counselor
- ▶ Surgical/OR Tech

Moderate Quality

Moderate-quality experiences require a moderate level of decision making and moderate hands-on responsibility for which **25-50 percent of the total hours will count toward the prerequisite hours.** Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ Patient Care Advocate
- ▶ Physical Therapy Aide
- ▶ Occupational Therapy Aide
- ▶ Health care internship or hands-on training
- ▶ Patient Safety Observer/Sitter
- ▶ Medical Translator
- ▶ Bench research with data and/or lab animals with a human medical component
- ▶ Pharmacy Technician if patient counseling, preparation of medication, and communication with health care providers are entailed

Low Quality

Low-quality experiences require a low level of decision making and minimal hands-on responsibility for which **10 percent of the total hours will count toward the prerequisite hours.** These hours are still important as it provides one with experience in a health care setting. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ Shadowing Physician, PA, or Nurse Practitioner
- ▶ Personal caregiver for a relative or friend
- ▶ Medical Records Processor
- ▶ Patient transport
- ▶ Recreational aide for special needs populations
- ▶ Medical office receptionist
- ▶ Pharmacy Technician if duties only involve cashing out customers and administrative work
- ▶ Lifeguard

Related Humanitarian Experiences

Value for the hours accumulated in these experiences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ Shelters for the homeless, halfway houses, homes for battered women, etc.
- ▶ Volunteer experiences in soup kitchens, on crisis hotlines, for food pantries, etc.
- ▶ Red Cross, Peace Corps