

### **Direct Patient Care Experience Guidelines:**

There are many ways to gain direct patient care experience. If you are beginning the process of gaining direct patient care, you may want to consider a skill or certification that will enable you to work directly with patients. UNE PA requires a minimum of 500 patient care experience hours, though the average accepted student applies with 2,500 hours or more.

Patient Care Experience is direct and hands-on, and generally takes place in an allopathic or osteopathic medical setting. These hours can be paid or volunteer. PCE will entail either performing direct healthcare tasks as the majority of your duties, or significant involvement in the creation and/or implementation of treatment plans. Direct patient care should allow you to make independent decisions regarding patient care, display interpersonal patient skills, display interprofessional skills, directly evaluate patients, and play a role in decision making as part of a health care team.

Examples of direct healthcare tasks are considered to be: taking vitals, drawing blood, performing exams, wound care, suturing/stapling, emergency aid/CPR, and other similar actions. Providing therapeutic or emotional support, advocating for patients, transporting patients, assisting with feeding, ambulatory assistance, etc. are not considered direct Patient Care Experience.

### **Below is a non-comprehensive list of acceptable PCE positions:**

- Athletic Trainer
- Audiologist
- Behavioral Health Technician
- Cardiac Perfusionist
- Certified Nurse's Aide
- Chiropractor
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Doctor of Dental Medicine (DDM)
- Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)
- Doctor of Optometry (OD)
- Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM)
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) working in 911 emergency responses
- Emergency Room/Department Technician
- Exercise Physiologist in clinical setting
- Foreign medical graduate
- Home Health Aide
- Laboratory-based researcher working with human subjects
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or other Psychotherapists
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Scribe
- Military medic or Corpsman
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- Optometry/Ophthalmic Technician
- Paramedic
- Patient Care Assistant/Associate
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapist Assistant/Aide
- Radiology Technician

- Registered Dietitian in clinical setting
- Registered Nurse
- Ski Patrol
- Social Worker in clinical setting
- Surgical Technician
- Therapeutic Massage Therapist

### **PA Shadowing Guidelines:**

UNE PA requires a minimum of twenty hours of direct, unpaid shadowing of a PA. Close-proximity work and/or shadowing done as a part of a paid position (such as Medical Assistant or Surgical Technician) will not be considered PA shadowing. Virtual shadowing will not be accepted.

Verification or documentation of shadowing hours is not required. You will only need to record the information in your CASPA Experiences section. Please be sure to label PA shadowing as “Shadowing Experience.” All other forms of shadowing such as shadowing of an MD or other non-PA provider should be labelled as “Health Related Experience.”

If you have questions regarding your shadowing experience, please email [gradadmissions@une.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@une.edu).