

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 4,000 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, 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. Shadowing must be completed outside of the hours and duties of a paid position, and should be hands-off observation only. 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 record your PA shadowing hours as a unique Shadowing entry separate from shadowing hours completed with other healthcare professionals; *if it is not clear in your application that you have completed at least twenty shadowing hours specifically with a PA, your application will be found to have not met the minimum requirements.*

If you have questions regarding your shadowing experience, please email gradadmissions@une.edu.