



INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

2022-2023 CASPA Application Cycle

What is considered direct patient care experience?

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. Applicants are required to have a minimum of 500 hours of patient care at the time they submit their application. We will allow clinical hours or internship experience earned for academic credit to count as patient care. In general, the Admission Committee defines direct patient care as:

- Making independent decisions influencing patient's care.
- Displays interpersonal patient skills.
- Displays interprofessional skills.
- Hands on or "direct" impact of care (such as in caregiving, treatment or diagnostic testing)
- Plays a role in decision making as part of a health care team.
- Involves the direct evaluation of a patient.

Acceptable Patient Care Experience: physical therapist assistant/aide, phlebotomist, emergency room technician, optometry/ ophthalmic technician, certified nurse's aide, medical assistant, patient care assistant/associate, laboratory-based researcher working with human subjects, home health aide, licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, respiratory therapist, OD, athletic trainer, audiologist, behavioral health technician, exercise physiologist in clinical setting, surgical technician, dental assistant, pharmD/pharmacist, registered dietitian in clinical setting, social worker in clinical setting, radiology technician, therapeutic massage therapist, chiropractor, DPM, foreign medical graduate, medic or corpsman, nurse practitioner, physical therapist, occupational therapist, paramedic, EMT, ski patrol, DVM.

Unacceptable Patient Care Experience: Clerical (fundraising for medical causes, unit secretary, ward clerk), medical scribe, coaching (after-school programs, camp counselor, tutor), laboratory-based researcher, medical lab technician, medical technologist, pharmacy technician, research technician, veterinary technician, organ recovery, autopsy technician, anatomist, yoga instructor, personal trainer in a fitness center, babysitting, registration at blood donor clinics.

Can shadowing be considered direct patient care experience?

No, shadowing is not considered direct patient care experience. Shadowing is considered unpaid observation, outside of your normal work hours with a physician assistant only.

The University of New England's PA program typically requires a minimum of 10 hours of in-person PA shadowing. However, we understand that shadowing opportunities have been greatly reduced or eliminated since the pandemic began in early 2020. Accordingly, an exception will be made to this requirement for the 2022-2023 application cycle. Applicants who have not completed 10 hours of in-person PA shadowing at the time of application submission must instead provide a statement responding to the question, "How have you engaged with the PA profession during the pandemic?" This question is located within the CASPA application.