



UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

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. 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.

Highly Desirable and count as full credit: chiropractor, DPM, foreign medical graduate, licensed practical nurse, medic or corpsman, nurse practitioner, physical therapist, registered nurse, respiratory therapist, occupational therapist, OD, paramedic, EMT, physical therapist assistant/aide, athletic trainer, audiologist, behavioral health technician, exercise physiologist in a clinical setting, occupational therapist, phlebotomist, emergency room technician, radiology technician, surgical technician, ophthalmic technician, dental assistant, certified nurse's aide, certified nursing assistant, medical assistant, patient care assistant/associate, PharmD/pharmacist, registered dietitian in a clinical setting, social worker in a clinical setting.

No credit given: 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, optometry technician, pharmacy technician, research technician, DVM, veterinary technician, babysitting, blood donor clinics, home health aide.

Can shadowing be considered direct patient care experience?

No, shadowing is not considered direct patient care experience. However, we do require at least 20 hours of PA shadowing, which should be completed prior to submitting your CASPA application. Shadowing hours should be listed under "shadowing experience" section of the application.