

University of Bridgeport



Physician Assistant Institute

Direct Patient Care Experience FAQ

The University of Bridgeport Physician Assistant Program requires a minimum of **750 hours of Direct Patient Care Experience**. For experience to be considered “Direct Patient Care”, it must involve hands-on contact with patients and/or high-level decision making in a medical environment. These experiences may be paid or volunteer. The PA Program faculty/Admissions committee will review all duties listed, therefore please be as specific as possible when documenting your responsibilities. Hours documented in CASPA must be **completed** at the time of your CASPA application submission. Hours that you plan to obtain in the future *cannot* be counted toward your documented Patient Care Experience.

Please see the listed examples of Patient Care Experiences to determine whether the University of Bridgeport PA Program will accept them. These lists are intended as a guide and are not all-inclusive:

Examples of Experiences that ARE accepted as Direct Patient Care

For experience to be considered direct patient care”, it must involve hands-on contact with patients and/or high-level decision making in a medical environment. These experiences may be paid or volunteer.

RN	Dentist
LPN	Ophthalmic technician
EMT/Paramedic	Phlebotomist
Medical scribe	Military medic
Respiratory therapist	Athletic trainer
OR technician/surgical technician	Physical therapist
Emergency Dept technician	Occupational therapist
Radiology technician	Registered Dietitian- clinical practice
Lactation consultant	Certified Nursing Assistant (acute hospital setting)
Pharmacist	Patient care assistant (acute hospital setting)
Clinical researcher- if patient contact involved	Nurse’s aide (acute hospital setting)
Clinical psychologist	Clinical social worker
Licensed acupuncturist	Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Naturopathic Doctor	Psychiatric technician (acute hospital setting)
Chiropractor	Sleep technician

Examples of Experiences that MAY BE considered Direct Patient Care

These experiences are evaluated on a “case-by-case” basis, and will be determined by the PA Program Faculty/Admissions Committee, based on the description of duties noted on your application. Please provide a detailed and accurate account of your responsibilities for each experience documented.

Generally, duties involving direct contact with patients, (such as checking vital signs and blood glucose) are likely to be accepted, while duties that are administrative, clerical, or focused on activities of daily living, companionship, and transportation will likely not be accepted.

Certified Nursing Assistant (Extended Care Facility or home setting)	OT aide
Patient care assistant (Extended Care Facility or home setting)	PT aide
Nurse's aide (Extended Care Facility or home setting)	Dental assistant
Home health aide	Medical assistant (outpatient/office setting)
Pharmacy technician	Medical lab scientist/Lab technologist
Peace Corps volunteer- medical role	Personal caretaker

Examples of Experiences that **ARE NOT** considered Direct Patient Care

While valuable to the health care system, society, and to your life experience, these activities will not be accepted as direct patient care hours.

Medical mission volunteer	Medical secretary/Unit clerk
CPR or ACLS instructor	Medical Biller/coder
Candy striper	Medical translator
Hospital Volunteer	Shadowing
Patient transporter	Health educator
Pharmaceutical representative	Life coach
Medical device vendor	Lifeguard
Personal trainer/exercise instructor	Ski Patroller
Massage therapist	Esthetician
Recreational aide for special needs population	Camp counselor
Experience gained as part of training for a certification/degree (ex: internship)	