



2024-2025 CASPA Application Cycle Experience Hours

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 1000 patient care experience hours, though the average accepted student will exceed the minimum by a wide margin.

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 or hygiene, ambulatory assistance, etc. are not considered direct Patient Care Experience.

UNE PA has outlined two tier I 0.0065 (P 50) 13 (to 2) 0.4 (as 5) 11. Students with all or majority Preferred hours will be considered stronger applicants than students with all or majority Accepted hours; though of course, PCE is only a portion of the application and less preferable PCE can be offset by a variety of factors. Below is a non-comprehensive list of positions and their respective tiers and eligibility.

Tier One (Preferred) Patient Care Experience: audiologist, chiropractor, dental hygienist, doctor of dental medicine (DDM), doctor of dental surgery (DDS), doctor of optometry (OD), doctor of podiatric medicine (DPM), doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM), emergency medical technician (EMT) working in 911 emergency responses, foreign medical graduate, licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) or other psychotherapists, medic or corpsman, nurse practitioner, occupational therapist, paramedic, physical therapist, registered nurse, ski patrol.

Tier Two (Accepted) Patient Care Experience: athletic trainer, behavioral health technician,



technician, registered dietitian in clinical setting, respiratory therapist, social worker in clinical setting, surgical technician, therapeutic massage therapist.

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

If you have questions regarding your Patient Care Experience, please use [this form](#) to check eligibility or email gradadmissions@unc.edu.

PA Shadowing Guidelines:

UNC 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 labeled as "Health Related Experience."