

**HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE HOURS
5 YEAR BS/MS PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MAJOR**

In addition to the academic requirements, the King's College Department of Physician Assistant studies requires a minimum of 500 health care experience hours. These hours augment an applicant's knowledge as well as gives the student the opportunity to view what the future will hold as a Physician Assistant. The experience of taking care of patients, observing clinicians including PAs, and integrating themselves in health care is invaluable. **These hours are not arranged for the student or coordinated by King's College or the Physician Assistant program.** It is the student's responsibility to acquire these hours although at times, the program may disseminate information that can lead the student to certain experiences.

All students in the BS/MS Physician Assistant major must complete the 500 required hours prior to the last day of class of the spring semester of the junior year (year 3). Of these hours, a minimum of 300 must be direct patient care while the remainder can be indirect (see below). In order to gain an understanding of their role, a minimum of 8 hours **MUST** be spent with a Physician Assistant.

Seventy-five percent (375) of the hours must be completed and logged on the online logging site on or before December 1st of the junior year (year 3). The remainder must be completed and logged on the online logging site on or before the last day of classes of the spring semester of the junior year (year 3).

Examples of Direct Patient Care*

Emergency Medical Technician
Pharmacy Technician
Athletic Trainer
Medical Assistant
Certified Nursing Assistant
Home Health Aide
Physical Therapy Aide
Volunteering at camps with ill or mentally challenged clients (maximum of 10 hours per day)
Medical Scribe

***(Note: Only hours of actual patient contact can be claimed for these activities)**

Examples of Indirect Patient Care

Training Courses such as First Aid, CPR, Nurse's Aide, EMT
Observation of a Physician Assistant
Observation of a Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or other medical practitioners
Pharmacy Technician (routine activities)

This is not an all-inclusive list. Please consult your advisor for guidance and approval.

FAQ: HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE

Q: What is the difference between direct and indirect health care experience?

A: Direct health care experience is hands on experience where you are involved in the patient's care. Examples include taking vital signs, administering medications and injections, recording medical records, collecting specimens, ambulating and feeding patients. Indirect health care experience includes things such as observing, secretarial work in a medical site, or taking a training course to learn a medical skill. These experiences are not hands on so you are not involved in the care of a patient.

Q: Should the hours be paid or volunteer?

A: Either are acceptable. In general it is common for direct health care experiences to be paid positions.

Q: How recent do my health care experience hours need to be?

A: There is no required timeframe so hours obtained during high school can be claimed.

Q: Does caring for an ill family member count as hours?

A: No, we do not accept these as health care experience hours.

Q: Does lifeguarding count as hours?

A: No. However, hours for first aid and CPR training can be claimed as indirect health care experience hours if these are part of your training.

Q: Will I still get into the professional phase of the program if I do not have all of my required hours by the deadlines?

A: No. These experiences are required of every student in the professional phase and acceptance into this phase will only be granted to those who meet the requirement within the stated deadlines.

Q: How do I document my health care experience hours?

A: Students will be sent information regarding our online logging site early in the fall semester of the freshman year. Once received, students can access the site at any time to log hours.

Q: Does babysitting count as health care experience?

A: No.

Q: Do all the hours count as direct when I work a shift as an EMT?

A: No. Only those hours spent actually providing care for patients count as health care experience hours.

Q: Do hours completed while still in high school count?

A: Yes. There is no required timeframe as to when you can start your health care experience hours.

Q: Does working as a personal trainer count as health care experience?

A: No.

Q: Does volunteering at a nursing home or personal care home count as health care experience?

A: As most volunteer work in these types of settings involves participating in entertainment activities such as art and crafts, these do not count as health care experiences. If you are involved in the care of these patients, they may be claimed as direct or indirect based on level of involvement (see above).

Q: Does Medical Missionary work or Medical Research count as direct health care experience?

A: Depending upon your duties, these may count as direct or indirect. Please refer to the first question above for a description of direct and indirect health care experiences.