

Health Care Exposure Hours

The following information is provided to assist in the determination of acceptable health care exposure hours for the Physician Assistant major. The health care exposure hours will be reviewed by the Program Director. It is highly recommended that candidates participate in a variety of experiences. Only health care exposure hours attained in the past 5 years will be accepted. Students who have been accepted into the pre-PA major of the College have until **June 1** each year to log their health care exposure hours, via the electronic logging system, <https://secure.pct.edu/pattracking/>. A minimum of 300 hours of health care exposure (including a minimum of 16 hours with a practicing PA).

I. Direct Patient Care (unlimited):

The student provides direct health care to a patient.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Military corpsman
- Nurse, CNA
- PT, OT, OTA
- Respiratory therapist, Speech therapist
- Paramedic, EMT, First responder
- Surgical technician

Hours must be actual hours of providing patient care.

For example:

- "On Call" hours do not qualify.
- Surgical technicians should count hours as those hours assisting in the surgical case, not preparing the OR suite
- **Training/teaching does not qualify**

II. Partial Care of Patients (120 hour maximum):

The student provides limited direct health care to a patient.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Phlebotomist
- EKG technician
- Orderly
- Pharmacology technician
- Radiographer

III. Medical Experience without Patient Contact (60 hour maximum):

The student is actively involved in a medical field; however, no direct patient care responsibilities occur.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Medical research
- Pharmaceutical representative
- Laboratory technician
- Medical transcriptionist

IV. Observation:

The student observes/shadows members of the health care team providing care to a patient.

A. Acceptable health care occupations include (unlimited):

- Physician Assistant (minimum of 16 hours are required)
- Medical Doctor
- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
- Nurse Practitioner

B. Observation of other members of the health care team (120 hour maximum)