

Physician Assistant School Applicant Experience Tracker

Where Dreams Find Direction™

PA Applicant Experience Tracker

Keep Your Patient Care, Healthcare and Shadowing Experience Organized

Preparing for PA school can involve months or years of experiences that you'll eventually need to recall and describe accurately.

Use this tracker to keep important details in one place as you build your experience.

IMPORTANT PA programs establish their own admissions requirements and may evaluate experiences differently. Always review the requirements for each PA program you are considering.

Patient Care & Healthcare Experience Tracker

What's the difference?

PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE (PCE)	HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE (HCE)
Experience in which you are directly responsible for some aspect of a patient's care.	Experience in a health or health-related environment where you may interact with patients but are not directly responsible for their care.

Your actual responsibilities matter. The same job title may involve different duties in different healthcare settings.

KEEP YOUR RECORDS ORGANIZED

Use the following pages to record your roles, hours, responsibilities, patient interactions and takeaways. When a program's classification is unclear, mark it for follow-up rather than assuming how the hours will count.

Patient Care & Healthcare Experience #1

Record the details while they are fresh. Your responsibilities matter more than your job title.

EXPERIENCE DETAILS

Organization / Employer	**Position / Job Title**
Supervisor	**Supervisor Email / Phone**
Start Date	**End Date**
Average Hours Per Week	**Approximate Total Hours**

HOW WOULD YOU CATEGORIZE THIS EXPERIENCE?

☐ Patient Care Experience (PCE)

☐ Healthcare Experience (HCE)

☐ Unsure: I need to verify with the program

Primary responsibilities

Direct interaction with patients

What did I learn from this experience?

Patient Care & Healthcare Experience #2

Record the details while they are fresh. Your responsibilities matter more than your job title.

EXPERIENCE DETAILS

Organization / Employer _____	**Position / Job Title** _____
Supervisor _____	**Supervisor Email / Phone** _____
Start Date _____	**End Date** _____
Average Hours Per Week _____	**Approximate Total Hours** _____

HOW WOULD YOU CATEGORIZE THIS EXPERIENCE?

☐ Patient Care Experience (PCE)

☐ Healthcare Experience (HCE)

☐ Unsure: I need to verify with the program

Primary responsibilities

_____

_____

_____

Direct interaction with patients

_____

_____

_____

What did I learn from this experience?

_____

_____

MY EXPERIENCE TOTALS

Patient Care Experience	_____ hours
Healthcare Experience	_____ hours
Additional Experience I Need	_____ hours

Programs whose experience requirements I still need to verify

_____

_____

PA Shadowing Tracker

Shadowing can help you better understand what PAs do, how they interact with patients, and how they work within healthcare teams.

Record each experience while the details are still fresh.

PA Shadowing Experience #1

Keep a record of each experience while the details are still fresh.

SHADOWING DETAILS

PA Name _____	**Specialty** _____
Organization / Practice _____	**Date** _____
Hours Shadowed _____	**Contact Information** _____

What did I observe?

_____

_____

_____

What did I learn about the PA role?

_____

_____

_____

Something that surprised me

_____

_____

Questions I asked

_____

_____

PA Shadowing Experience #2

Keep a record of each experience while the details are still fresh.

SHADOWING DETAILS

PA Name	**Specialty**
Organization / Practice	**Date**
Hours Shadowed	**Contact Information**

What did I observe?

What did I learn about the PA role?

Something that surprised me

Questions I asked

PA SHADOWING TOTAL

Total Shadowing Hours	**Number of PAs Shadowed**

Specialties / Settings Observed

Questions I still have

After You Shadow: Take Five Minutes

Before you move on with your day, answer these questions.

What did this experience teach me about becoming a PA?

What part of the PA's work interests me most?

What challenged my assumptions about the profession?

Can I see myself doing this work? Why or why not?

What do I want to learn or experience next?

Before You Apply

A final review to help keep your experience records accurate and organized.

APPLICATION READINESS CHECKLIST

- ☐ Review each PA program's current experience requirements.
- ☐ Confirm how programs classify your healthcare experiences.
- ☐ Make sure your dates and hours are accurate.
- ☐ Keep supervisor/contact information current.
- ☐ Review your notes about your responsibilities.
- ☐ Review what you learned from each experience.
- ☐ Keep patient care, healthcare experience and shadowing records organized separately when appropriate.
- ☐ Never include confidential or identifying patient information in your notes.