Healthcare Experience/Direct Patient Care/Observation Hours

Activities that qualify for healthcare experience, direct patient care, or observation hours are those that allow for direct and/or hands-on patient care. The Milligan University Physician Assistant Program Admissions Committee requires a minimum of 300 hours of healthcare experience, direct patient care, and/or observation hours. Activities that allow for direct participation in patient care will enable the incoming physician assistant student to better understand the role of the physician assistant in the healthcare team and to be better prepared for both the didactic and clinical phase of the program. The following includes (but is not limited to) a list of jobs and activities that we will accept as meeting our requirement:

- Healthcare shadowing of a Physician Assistant, MD, DO, or NP
- Certified nursing assistant (CNA) or patient care technician (PCT)
- Medical assistant (MA)
- Paramedic
- Emergency medical technician (EMT)
- Nurse (RN, BSN, LPN)
- Respiratory therapist or respiratory therapy assistant
- Physical therapist or physical therapist assistant
- Occupational therapist or occupational therapist assistant
- Athletic trainer
- EKG technician
- Pharmacy technician
- Scribe
- Radiology technician
- Home health aid
- Chiropractor
- Dietician
- Nuclear medicine technician
- Exercise physiologist
- Operating room technician
- Phlebotomist
- Dental Hygienist

As a general rule, experience that does not allow for direct and/or hands-on patient care will not qualify as healthcare experience hours. **The following list includes (but is not limited to) examples of work that are not accepted by the Milligan University Physician Assistant Program Admissions Committee as qualifying for healthcare experience and/or direct patient care:**

- Transporter
- Food service
- Greeter or Cashier in a Medical Office or Pharmacy
- Veterinary technician
- Clinical research independent of direct patient care involvement
- Massage therapist
- Custodial work
- Medical coder/biller
- Administrative work
- Optometry assistant
- Dental assistant
- Laboratory technician

Please contact PA@milligan.edu with any specific questions regarding healthcare experience hours.