How to Gain Clinical Experiences
Monday, October 30th
6:10 p.m.
290 Hickey

Vince Nguyen
Pre-Physician Assistant & Pre-Nursing Peer Advisor
Overview

- Types of Clinical Experiences
- Why Gain Clinical Experiences?
- Certification Jobs
- Non-Certification Jobs
- Internship Experiences
  - Student-Run Clinics
  - Health-Related Internships
Types of Clinical Experiences (PA)

**Patient Care Experience**
- Hands-On Patient Interaction
- Playing a part in the direct treatment of a patient
- Paid/Volunteer

**Health Care Experience**
- Medically Related Experience
  - Not directly responsible for treatment of patients
- Clerical work, healthcare volunteering, UCDMC HRI, etc.
Why should I obtain clinical experiences?

- Pre-Requisites (Physician Assistant)
- Career Exploration
- Networking
- Career Confirmation
- Developing skills
Certification Jobs
Certification Jobs

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
  - Emergency Department Technician (ED Tech)
- Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)
- Medical Assistant (MA)
- Phlebotomist
- EKG Technician
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

- Respond to emergency/non-emergency calls in an ambulance
- Stabilize patients, take vitals, administer certain medications, take medical history/assessments, practice BLS interventions, assist paramedic with ALS treatments (IV, IO, Ventilators, Crics, EKG, etc.)
- **Course:** 4-16 weeks
  - UCDFD: EMT 110/111 over Fall/Winter/Summer Quarters
- **Cost:** $800-$2000
- **Test:** National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT)
- **Job Opportunities:** Many IFT/Standby jobs available, 911 jobs are very competitive
Emergency Dept. Technician (ED Tech)

- EMT in ED: Take vitals, splint/bandage wounds, EKG, assist MD/PA/RN with basic treatments, work traumas/codes
- Most EDs require either an EMT or CNA license
  - CA: Mostly require EMT Cert with 6 mo. - 1 year of ambulance experience
- Job Opportunities: Very few jobs available
Phlebotomist

- Perform blood draws, injections, and calms down patients
- Works in hospital or clinic setting
- **Course**: 2-8 Weeks
- **Cost**: $1500-$2000
- **Certification**: Phlebotomy Technician Certification (CPT)
EKG Technician

- Apply 12-Lead EKG, print and analyze EKG rhythms
- **Course:** 2-5 Weeks
- **Cost:** $1000-$2000
- **Exam:** ASPT-Electrocardiograph Technician
- **Job Opportunities:** Varies
Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)

- Feeding/Bathing patients, take vitals, distribute medications, assist RNs with basic procedures
- **Course:** 6 - 12 Weeks
- **Certification Test:** National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP)
- **Cost:** $800-$1500
- **Job Opportunities:** Many jobs available (hospitals and nursing homes)
Medical Assistant/Back-Office Assistant

- Work in Doctor’s offices or clinics
- Take vitals, get patient history, prep patients for procedures
  - Skin biopsies, injections, blood draws, peels, etc
- **Course:** 4-12 Months
  - Employers may hire without certifications
    - "Back-Office Assistant"
- **Job Opportunities:** Varies
Non-Certification Jobs
Non-Certification Jobs

- Physical Therapy Aide (PTA)
- Back-Office Assistant/Medical Assistant (MA)
- Medical Scribe
- Dialysis Patient Care Technician
- Behavioral Health Technician
Physical Therapy Aide (PTA)

- Help/Instruct patients on PT exercises, perform vitals, assist PT on other duties
- Set up & perform modalities
- On-The-Job Training
- **Job Availability:** Depends on Region
Dialysis Patient Care Technician

- Measuring metrics (height/weight/vitals), patient observations, set up machines, load prescriptions, phlebotomy tasks
- Companies (Davita Dialysis) will train on the job, and pay/sign off for your certification
- Job Opportunities: Depends on location (careers.davita.com)
Medical Scribe

- Companies offer on-the-job training
- Follow healthcare professionals (MD/DO/PA/NP/etc.) into patient room and document medical history, physicals, and other pertinent medical findings (EMR)
- **Job Opportunities:** Decent amount of jobs available (Scribe America, CEP America, etc.)
- **NOTE:** Most PA programs DO NOT accept scribe for PCE
- **NOTE P.2:** Most companies want a 1-2 year commitment
Behavioral Health Technician

- Assist MD/PA/RN with treatments for patients who have substance abuse, PTSD, and mental health issues.
- Mostly work in hospitals, clinics, and other inpatient facilities.
- Job Opportunities: Good amount in NorCal.
Student-Run Clinics
Student-Run Clinics

- Work with medical professionals (MD/DO/PA) and students to provide care to underserved communities
  - Vitals, history, assist with procedures, run labs, etc.
- 11 SRC under UCDMC
- Applications: Fall/Spring
- Competitive
- Prior experience not required
Health-Related Internships
Health-Related Internships (HRIs)

- Winter ’18: **November 12, 2017**
- Hospital Volunteer in different departments
  - Not much hands-on experience
  - Good for networking/Shadowing
- 4-8 Hrs/Week
- PA: Can split into PCE and HCE
Hospice Care
Hospice Care Volunteer

- Companionship and emotional support
- Caregiver Relief
- Run errands
- sachospice.org
- http://yolohospice.org/support-us/volunteer/
Shadowing
Shadowing Experiences

- Officially following and observing a PA/MD/NP/etc.
- Purely observational, no hands-on experience
- Contact family/friends or ask PCP
- Use HRI to develop relationships with ___
- Cold call/email private practices/clinics/urgent cares
- Ask to interview/coffee PAs for 15-20 minutes
  - Things to ask:
    - What made you choose the ___ profession?
    - What made you choose the ___ specialty?
    - Where do you/would you like to see the ___ field go?
  - At the end, ask them if they or anyone they know will take shadowing students
### Keep Track of Hours!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Care Experience</th>
<th>Patient Care Experience</th>
<th>Shadowing</th>
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<tr>
<td>St. Francis Medical Center</td>
<td>243.5</td>
<td>3/31 - 9am-3pm</td>
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<td>Americare Ambulance</td>
<td>2785 Kimberly P. (Derm)</td>
<td>7/4-8/8</td>
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<td>VN CARES</td>
<td>Care Ambulance Service</td>
<td>Zofia K. - zkorecka John V. (CT Surg)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Troy H. - TroyH@c Jerry N. (ER)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2016</td>
<td>20 Falck Northern California</td>
<td>350 Anthony G. (Ortho Surg)</td>
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<td>Winter 2017</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>Chris L. - <a href="mailto:chrisl@ucdavis.edu">chrisl@ucdavis.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>40 St. Francis Medical Center</td>
<td>832</td>
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Which experience should I choose?

- What patient demographic do you want to work with?
- Do you want to spend more time outside/inside?
- Level of interprofessional interaction with other healthcare professions?
- How does the experience work with your timeline?
QUESTIONS?

Vince Nguyen
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Fall Office Hours:
• Monday (10-12pm)
• Wednesday (10-12pm, 5-6pm)