Outline

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Types of Clinical Experiences
Types of Clinical Experiences (PA)

Patient Care Experience
- Hands-On Patient Interaction
- Playing a *direct* part in the treatment of a patient
- Usually paid, can be volunteer
- Many school require min. 1000 hours

Health Care Experience
- Any other health-related experience
  - Not directly responsible for the treatment of patients
  - Clerical work, healthcare volunteering, HRIs, etc
- Usually no min. hour requirement
Hour Conversions

- 1 year working full time = ~2000 hours
- 1 year working part time = ~1000 hours
- 2 years working full time = ~4000 hours
- The more hours, the more competitive
Why Should I Obtain Clinical Experiences?
Benefits of Clinical Experiences

- Part of Physician Assistant School Prerequisites
- Career Exploration
- Networking
- Career Confirmation
- Developing useful skills
Keep track of your hours!
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)

- Provide out of hospital emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients
- Stabilize patients, take vitals, administer certain medications, take medical history/assessments, practice BLS interventions, assist paramedic with treatments (IV, Ventilators, EKG, etc)

**Course:** 4-16 weeks
  - UCDFD: EMT 110/111 over Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer

**Cost:** $800 - $2000

**Test:** National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT)
Emergency Department Technician (ED Tech)

- EMT in Emergency Department: Taking vitals, splint/bandage wounds, run/read EKGs, assist MD/PA/RN with basic treatments, work traumas/codes
- Most ED jobs require either an EMT or CNA license (phlebotomy is a plus)
Phlebotomist

- Perform blood draws, injections, and calms down patients
- Works in a hospital (inpatient/outpatient) or clinic setting
- Can work for companies such as Vitalant
- **Course:** 2-8 weeks
- **Cost:** $1500 - $3000
- **Certification:** Phlebotomy Technician Certification
Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)

- Feed/bathe patients, take vitals, distribute medications, assist RNs with basic procedures
- Can work in a hospital/clinic/nursing home/senior care center
- **Course:** 6-12 weeks
- **Cost:** $800 - $1500
- **Certification Test:** National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP)
EKG Technician***

- Apply 12-Lead EKG, print and analyze EKG rhythms
- No national certification
- Usually people are EKG Technicians in addition to being a CNA/MA/EMT/etc
- Places to get certified:
  - [https://cci-online.org/](https://cci-online.org/)
  - [https://www.nhanow.com/certifications/ekg-technician](https://www.nhanow.com/certifications/ekg-technician)
Medical Assistant

- Take vitals, get patient history, prep patients for procedures
  - May perform blood draws, injections, skin biopsies
- Complete administrative and clinical tasks in the offices of physicians, hospitals, and other healthcare facilities
- Course: 4-12 months
  - Employers may hire without certification
- Cost: varies
Other Examples of Certification Jobs

- Dental assistants
- Hemodialysis technician
- Ophthalmic technician
- Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Respiratory Therapist
Non-Certification Jobs
Non-Certification Jobs

- Medical Assistant***
- EKG Technician***
- Physical Therapy Aide (PTA)
- Hospice Volunteer
- Medical Scribe
- Dialysis Patient Care Technician
- Behavioral Health Technician
- Home health/personal care aide
Shadowing
Shadowing Experience

- Officially following and observing a PA/MD/NP/etc.
- Purely observational, no hands-on experience
- Contact family/friends or ask PCP
- Cold call/email private practices/clinics/urgent cares
- Call & set up a time to chat about the ____ profession
  - 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
On-Campus Experiences
Student-Run Clinics

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

- Hospital Volunteer in different departments
  - Good for networking/Shadowing/seeing how a hospital is run
- 4-8 Hrs/Week for 1-2 quarters
- Mostly HCE
Gaining Experiences During COVID-19
COVID-19 Experiences

- Some hospitals may allow volunteering
- Tutoring students online
- Homeless shelters
- Food banks - www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank
- Volunteer Match - www.volunteermatch.org/
  - Virtual & in-person volunteering opportunities
- Translators without borders - translatorswithoutborders.org/volunteer/
Which experience should I pick?

- 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?
- Money/cost of certification (if applicable)
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