

Guidance on Acceptable Patient Care Experiences

Our program requires a **minimum of 500 quality clinical experience hours (direct patient contact)** to be considered for review. A competitive applicant will have 1,000+ hours. Preference will also be given to those with more hands-on roles in patient care and those with a diverse range of clinical experiences. The quality of the experience(s) and number of hours are weighed when considering an application. In general, our Admission Committee defines direct patient care as:

- Making independent decisions influencing patient's care.
- Displays interpersonal patient skills.
- Displays interprofessional skills.
- Hands on or "direct" impact of care (Such as in caregiving, treatment, or diagnostic testing)
- Plays a role in decision making as part of a health care team.
- Involves the direct evaluation of a patient.

Patient contact hours may be paid or volunteer. We highly encourage applicants to list a detailed description of responsibilities of each role on your CASPA application to assure that you are given appropriate credit. Below is a list of patient care experiences that our program will consider for application (but not limited to).

- athletic trainer
- counselor in health care setting
- dental hygienist or assistant
- EMS/paramedic
- medic, corpsman
- medical assistant
- medical scribe
- nursing
- nursing assistant
- occupational therapy
- occupational therapy assistant
- pharmacy technician
- physical therapy
- physical therapy assistant
- respiratory therapy
- surgical or ER tech
- veterinary technician

*If you currently working in a professional position not on this list but in a clinical setting – we may still accept these hours. Please reach out to one of our enrollment services team members (paprogram@sullivan.edu) to see if your hours are accepted.