

## Clinical Hours Guidelines

1. The first 50 hours are completed as part of HSCI-230 Introduction to Health Care, and an additional 150 hours during HSCI-320 Clinical Interactions. This is in addition to the classroom component of the Introduction to Health Care course. Clinical Interactions is independent study with Blackboard assignments.
2. These hours must be done in an environment where you are in direct contact with patients. They can be paid or volunteer. For example, you can work as an EMT or volunteer at your local ambulance squad. You can work in a hospital or a nursing home as a CNA. You can shadow a health care provider. You can observe surgeries with a surgeon. You can work with Hospice as a patient visitor. There are tons of things you can do, use your imagination, and pursue what interests you. If you have questions about what is suitable, submit a pre-approval form before committing to any experience.
3. Make sure to always dress and act professionally both when you are applying to a work at a site and while you are working or volunteering there.
4. When setting up the experience, please identify yourself as a Health Sciences student in your \_\_\_\_ year. If you are in the accelerated BS Health Sciences to MS in Physician Assistant Studies or MS in Occupational Therapy, you will confuse people by saying you are a "PA or OT student". They mistakenly believe you are a professional phase student trying to set up a clinical rotation. Make sure that whomever you speak to understands that you are there for observation only and you cannot perform histories or physical examinations of patients. You do not have malpractice or liability insurance at this point in your education. This is a common problem for students. Once you get to meet with the PA, OT, or doctor, you can explain your situation as a pre-professional student.
5. Many hospitals and institutions such as nursing homes require an application, an updated physical exam, a PPD to check for tuberculosis, and a day or two of orientation before starting to volunteer or doing any shadowing. This can be time intensive. Start the application process and see your health care provider now so that you can get started when you want to. Some students have had as much as a 3-4 week delay from when they started the process to when they could actually start doing their hours.
6. You will be asked to describe your health care experiences during your in-class assignments. Please make notes about what you saw and did while being careful to abide by HIPAA (patient privacy) each day to be able to complete these assignments. If you complete all of your hours but have not been able to complete all assignments, you may need to do additional hours to be able to finish the assigned work.
7. You will be asked to submit documentation at the beginning of each course on an approval form, and at the conclusion of each course on a log sheet and evaluation. Many of these forms require signatures by your direct supervisor. These forms can be found in Current Undergraduate Resources at [www.philau.edu/paprogram](http://www.philau.edu/paprogram).