

The Scope



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The Importance of Shadowing

Written By: Olivia Rashid

Everyone hears about shadowing, but very few really understand the impact of it on one's choices throughout their undergraduate career. Very few even know what exactly it is. Shadowing is observing someone, usually a doctor or someone involved in a medical profession, and seeing what it is that they do/practice on a daily basis. During shadowing, the observer is able to see what the job entails, hence what requirements are needed to perform to the best of their ability in that field of work. One is also able to see the situations that can occur, how professionals handle/treat these situations, as well as if that particular profession is the right one for the potential student. Shadowing should be done on a regular, consistent basis for some length of time. Many numbers are rumored to be the minimum number of hours a pre-health student should spend shadowing but, like many things, there is no magic formula used to get into a graduate school. However, it is important to establish a solid relationship with whom you shadow so that you can truly learn and see things in a different way.

Shadowing is not just something you put on your application—it's an experience that can change you in ways you weren't expecting, something that you can learn from. Many people, including myself, may have had some difficulty realizing if a certain profession is the right one for them because unfortunately they have already narrowed down their choices without receiving advice from a professional first or realizing what a professional sees/feels on a day to day basis when examining patients. I'm not going to lie, it was very difficult for me (and still is) to break away from my dream of being an optometrist when I realized that the job didn't suit me well. I had wanted to do optometry since my freshman year of high school, it was the reason I specifically chose to attend UCF, believe it or not. I shadowed an optometrist for most of my summer and realized so much about myself and what I wanted for my future. Shadowing can make a huge difference in your plans, it can change everything sometimes. For instance, in my case, I am choosing not to pursue optometry, and therefore will not take the OAT, but rather a different admissions test next year. How frustrating would it be to take such an expensive test, not knowing that it's not something you need to do in order to get to where you want to go? Or to enroll in certain classes that aren't required for the program of your choice? The best advice I could give someone is to shadow as many professionals as you want and remember to really get a good grasp on what it is that you observe. Talk to others and research what kind of jobs are out there. Find what you like/what suits you and chase after your dream. You need to follow your heart, and believe that you can get where you want in life. Shadowing simply acts as a roadmap to that part of your undergraduate career.

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Q. What is a Physician Assistant (PA)?

A. Physician Assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. PAs employed by the federal government are credentialed to practice. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and in virtually all states can write prescriptions. Within the physician-PA relationship, physician assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. A PA's practice may also include education, research, and administrative services.

PAs are trained in intensive education programs accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) .

Because of the close working relationship the PAs have with physicians, PAs are educated in the medical model designed to complement physician training. Upon graduation, physician assistants take a national certification examination developed by the National Commission on Certification of PAs in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners. To maintain their national certification, PAs must log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and sit for a recertification every six years. Graduation from an accredited physician assistant program and passage of the national certifying exam are required for state licensure.

How to Become a PA

Where a physician assistant work:

Although the physician assistant is usually in a comfortable, well-lit environments, sometimes in the doctor's office, sometimes next to a doctor in the operating room. In the time of surgery often owners. Sometimes, the work requires considerable walking. Help doctors completed surgery. Physician assistants work schedule may vary according to actual situation, often depends on the doctor's time, follow the doctor's work. Weekly working time to hospital-based physician assistant may include weekend, night or early morning hospital rounds to visit patients. These workers may also call the physician assistant at the clinic is usually about 40-hour per week.

Physician assistant requirements for job:

Physician assistant requirements including education, clinical practice, licensing, continuing education and recertification. PA is a higher level than the medical assistant career, the requirements more and more. Admission to training requirements vary, most applicants have a college degree and some health-related work experience. All countries need to complete an approved physician assistant, and formal education programs, and through national examinations and obtain licenses. To find physician assistant jobs, Workers must have a physician assistant license. All countries have legislation regulating the control assistant physician. All jurisdictions required by the physician assistant physician assistant national certification examination by the National Committee of Physician Assistant (NCCPA) certification management, only open to accredited PA education program graduates. Only those who have successfully completed the exam, use the authentication credentials, "Physician Assistant." To maintain certification, PAS must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years. Every six years, they must re-certification exam or complete an alternative program combining learning experiences and a take home examination. Physician Assistant must be willing to care for patients and self-motivation. PAs also must have a good bedside manner, emotional stability, calm state of mind, ability to make decisions required in case of emergency. Assistant physician should have a life-long learning initiative, because their continuing education qualification.

Education and training you can obtain:

Each job requires education and training, physician assistant also. A promising career planning to start his or her career. physician assistant programs usually requires at least 2 years to complete for full-time students. Most programs are in schools of allied health, academic health centers, medical schools, or four-year colleges; several community colleges, is part of the military, or in the hospital. Many accredited PA programs have clinical teaching background with medical schools. Physician assistant education, including biochemistry, pathology, human anatomy, physiology, clinical pharmacology, clinical medicine, physical diagnosis, medical ethics and other disciplines, classrooms and laboratories. Physician assistant program also includes oversight in some areas, including family medicine, internal medicine, surgery, prenatal care, gynecology, geriatrics, emergency medicine, pediatric clinical training. Physician Assistant needed to continue their education in order to maintain their license. The physician assistant continuing education program, there are very many ways. Can participate in meetings and through community college or state university's local class. Now, online education is very popular, providing educational opportunities through the Internet, is very convenient. These continuing education requirements to ensure that physician assistants can keep pace, learn the latest medical information, and promote practices and technologies.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Networking Dinner	3 Ikiwi fund- raiser	4 Dental im- pression Ultimate	5
6 Pottery	7	8 Pre-course Auction PPMS Spin	9 Bowling	10 BP work- shop Jeremiahs Flippers	11	12 LECOM
13	14 Pre-Health MD	15 Pre-Health DO Applebees	16 Pre-Health PHARM	17 Pre-Health Dentist	18 Pre-Health Vet	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 PPMS Zumba			