

Fall & Spring Physician Assistant Observer Program

Program Overview

St. Luke's offers college students, who are at least rising juniors, an opportunity to apply for the Physician Assistant Observer Program. This program is designed to assist students in deciding if the Physician Assistant field is the best future career choice. Those accepted into the program will have an opportunity to observe: PAs at various locations within the Network, both inpatient and outpatient; PAs in various specialties as well as the entire multidisciplinary healthcare team; and various diagnostic and treatment areas to understand the role they play in the patient's care.

The purpose of this program is not to accumulate patient contact/observation hours, but to guide students in making a career choice. Individuals strictly in need of direct patient contact hours can do so through our volunteer experiences. Please see the college student volunteer opportunities page for a brief description and application package.

Program Requirements

Applicants must be of junior status with a 3.25 CUM to be considered. Please make sure your schedule will permit you to observe at least once a week in the morning from 7 – 11 and one afternoon a week. Students are required to attend Tuesday morning presentations (between 7:30-9am) and observe approximately 5-7 hours each week (minimum requirement) during the semester to achieve a minimum of 60 hours.

To apply for the PA Observer Program, please send the following to: Volunteer Services, St. Luke's University Hospital, 801 Ostrum St., Bethlehem, PA 18015. Applications for the fall program are due by July 1st, for the spring program by November 1st. **Space is limited and only complete application packages will be considered.**

1. **Letter of intent** (personal statement) addressing:
 - a. your interest in being a PA
 - b. previous experience that supports this decision (include number of observational hours already completed)
 - c. what interests you in healthcare
 - d. what you hope to gain from the experience
 - e. your availability to participate during the week and weekends
 - f. what extra-curricular activities do you actively participate in and when do they meet
 - g. how many credits/academic units you will have during this semester
2. **Letters of recommendation** from your professional advisor and a professor in your major field (or suitable replacement) noting interpersonal skills and academic abilities.
3. **Current resume**
4. **Official transcript**
5. **Availability** – please include timeframes of four hours or greater during which you're available to observe between Monday – Friday 7AM – 5PM

****It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that items #2 & 4 are sent to Volunteer Services by the school representative.***

Documents will be reviewed by Volunteer Services and the Senior Manager Advanced Practitioners to determine who will be accepted into the program. Acceptance notifications are sent via email about 2 weeks after the due date.

Please email Volunteers@sluhn.org with any questions.