

Summer 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 exemplary students in deciding if the Physician Assistant field is a fit for the student. Participants will have an opportunity to observe Physician Assistants at various locations within the Network, both inpatient and outpatient, in various specialties as well as the entire multidisciplinary healthcare team. The students are also encouraged to visit a number of diagnostic and treatment areas to understand the role they play in the patient's care. *In addition to observing, participants will be required to volunteer in a clinical setting, allowing the student to have opportunity to gain an understanding of the patients' perspective.*

The purpose of this program is not to accumulate observation hours, but to guide students in making a career choice. Those students strictly in need of direct patient contact hours can do so through a volunteer assignment. 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. You are required to observe a minimum of 60 hours during the semester.

If accepted to the PA Observer Program, the participant will be required to commit to a Volunteer Assignment arranged through the Volunteer Services Department. This assignment will be one shift per week, 3-4 hours in length for the duration of the summer.

**A print-out of hours observed/volunteered will not be released to the observer without fulfilling this commitment.*

The summer PA Observer Program will be split into two 6-week sessions (first half of the summer & second half of the summer). Participants will be required to be available to observe during one of these two sessions.

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 summer program are due by March 1st; Spaces are limited and only complete application packages will be considered.

1. **Letter of intent** (personal statement) addressing:
 - a. why you think you want to be a PA
 - b. previous experience that supports this decision
 - c. what interests you in healthcare
 - d. what you hope to gain from the experience
 - e. when you would like to participate
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 responsibility of the applicant to ensure that items #2 & 4 are sent by the school representative to the Volunteer Services Office via the aforementioned address.*

All documents will be reviewed by Volunteer Services and the Chief Physician Assistant to determine who will be accepted into the program. Please feel free to call the Volunteer Department with any questions 484-526-4673.