

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OBSERVATION AND JOB SHADOWING

INTRODUCTION

Job shadowing and observation are important parts of a complete, well-rounded application to any program in the School of Allied Medical Professions. Job shadowing and observations are opportunities for students to observe professionals in a patient care setting while providing services. Additionally, students may find useful observation with medical professionals who are providing tours or an orientation to the functions of a particular area of a medical facility.

All students should be able to report some type of job shadowing when submitting an application to professional study in the School of Allied Medical Professions. Some undergraduate and graduate programs require such observation, which other programs simply recommend that students pursue such experiences to be competitive for admission.

This guide should help guide students who wish to seek job shadowing and observation experiences.

ATHLETIC TRAINING

Students who wish to apply for admission to the Athletic Training program are required to register for a five credit hour course, ATH TRNG 303. In this course, students will complete 25 hours of observation in one of the athletic facilities at Ohio State. Students will be evaluated on their performance in the observation and these scores will be considered in the admissions process. Students may also make additional contacts with athletic trainers in local high school, colleges and universities, clinics, and professional sports teams.

CIRCULATION TECHNOLOGY

Students can contact the Division of Circulation Technology at 292-#### to learn about opportunities for observation in simulation labs during Autumn quarter. At other times of the year, students should contact the "Perfusion" department at local hospitals and clinics to discuss the profession with a circulation technologist/perfusionist. Students often talk with a perfusionist, tour facilities, and view taped videos of procedures before being permitted to observe during an actual procedure.

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND SYSTEMS (HIMS)

The Medical Information Management (MIM) department at The Ohio State University Medical Center offers tours and information sessions to students interested in applying for admission to the HIMS program. The HIMS program requires that students meet with a HIMS professional at the time of application. Students may also seek our professionals who work in a variety of care settings including hospital and clinics, government, and business in industry settings.

HEALTH SCIENCES- HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Students interested in applying for admission to the Health Management program should pursue opportunities to volunteer and job shadowing at hospitals and clinics, long-term care facilities, national/state/local government, and in areas of business and industry. Graduates of the Health Management have also found helpful observation and job shadowing opportunities with companies that provide in-home care to patients and families.

HEALTH SCIENCES- HEALTH & WELLNESS

Students interested in applying for admission to the Health & Wellness program should pursue opportunities to volunteer and job shadowing at hospitals and clinics, long-term care facilities, national/state/local government, and in areas of business and industry. Graduates of the Health & Wellness have also found helpful observation and job shadowing opportunities with companies that provide in-home care to patients and families.

MEDICAL DIETETICS

Students who submit an application to Medical Dietetics should consider observing Registered Dietetics (RD) in a variety of care settings including hospitals in acute care settings, outpatient clinics, food service areas, long term care facilities, health departments and other governmental agencies, and business/industry. Career tracks for Registered Dietitians are varied and diverse. Students should shadow in a variety of settings.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Students applying for admission to the Medical Technology program are not required to demonstrate observation experiences, however, it is highly recommended to students who have an interest in working in clinical laboratories, research, and management areas of clinical laboratories sciences. Students should contact labs at local hospitals and clinics, outpatient facilities, and even research facilities.

RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES AND THERAPY

The traditional programs (Radiography, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Radiation Therapy) require that students complete 50 hours of observation in at least two modalities for competitive admission to Radiologic Sciences and Therapy. The programs does no “place” students in observation experiences, but students are encouraged to pursue opportunities at the Ohio State University Medical Center (OSUMC) and other medical facilities. Students should complete the “Documentation of Applicant’s Radiology Patient Contact Hours” document found online at http://amp.osu.edu/nxfiles/rd/doc_of_volun_hr.pdf.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Students in Respiratory Therapy are not required to complete a specified number of observation hours, although it is strongly recommended that students talk with RT professionals. The division of Respiratory Therapy provides a list of “Partners in OSU RT Education” on their website at <http://amp.osu.edu/RT/pdfs/RT%20Partners.pdf>. This document includes contact information for Respiratory Therapy professionals throughout the state of Ohio. Students should contact professionals from that list to learn more about the profession.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Students who wish to submit an application to the Occupational Therapy graduate program are required to complete and document at least 40 hours of practical experience (observation or work experience) in occupational therapy. Applicants must document experiences in at least two of four areas: mental health, physical function/rehabilitation, early intervention with children, or intervention in a gerontology setting. Students should pursue these experiences at hospital and clinics, long term care facilities, and schools. For a list of recommended sites in the Columbus area, contact Dennis Cleary at dennis.cleary@osumc.edu.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Students applying to the Physical Therapy graduate program should plan to complete at least 40 hours of direct association with a licensed physical therapist in a physical therapy setting completed at the time of the application. Documentation will be requested at the time applications are received. Students should pursue these experiences at hospital and clinics, long term care facilities, and schools.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

The Ohio State University Medical Center Volunteer Services
http://www.medicalcenter.osu.edu/ways_to_give/volunteering/college/index.cfm

The Ohio State University Medical Center Observation Hours
http://www.medicalcenter.osu.edu/ways_to_give/volunteering/observation_hours/