

## **Video 1: Clinical Extracurriculars - Paid Experience**

Two major extracurricular activities Paige began before applying to medical school were working as a medical assistant and interning at her local hospital. After graduating college, she wanted to work in a clinical setting where she would be able to work one-on-one with patients, gain some experience in a healthcare setting, and learn the ins and outs of what it is like to work in a clinic daily.

### Paid Clinical Experience Application Process

When applying for a position, it was important to her that the job she chose did not require any certifications as it was a temporary position, and that the job also paid a livable wage to support herself. She applied for many positions, including Emergency Room Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant, and more. Because her main goal was to get her foot in the door into the healthcare setting, she was not picky about the specific specialty and advises others to do the same. After many applications, she was able to get a position as a medical assistant in a dermatology clinic, where she has worked there for the past two and a half years. She learned a lot about dermatology and the position allowed her to train on the job for 4 weeks, providing immense support when she first started.

### Medical Assistant Responsibilities

Responsibilities in the clinic include rooming patients, asking about their chief complaints, and preparing them for their visit before the doctor comes in. Once the physician enters, Paige scribes for them and assists in biopsies, skin cancer excisions, and cosmetic procedures. She is able to spend lots of one-on-one time with patients, which has been very valuable to her experience. She learned a lot about healthcare that she would not have known otherwise, including how to write a prescription, submit prior authorizations, talk to a patient, develop a bedside manner, and give post-visit instructions. She also learned a lot about areas such as billing and insurance, which are topics that are under-discussed in college.

### Paid Clinical Experience Takeaways

Paige highly recommends this experience to anyone in any specialty, as it is valuable prior to going into medical school. This experience was also utilized to make points in secondary essays and interviews. She felt that this experience truly helped her solidify her decision to go to medical school after working alongside a physician for many years. She plans on continuing her job as a medical assistant until she goes to medical school.

### Paid Clinical Experience Advice

Paige highly recommends trying to find a position that will allow you to work with patients, and also does not require any certifications. While it is a long process when you first start to apply, if you keep pushing through, you will eventually find a great fit for you. Put yourself out there, and if you are offered an interview, be professional, express a strong interest in medicine, provide your “why” for wanting to work in that specific position, and go from there. Good luck!