



HRSA: Helping Veterans Become Physician Assistants Initiative Work Group Bridge Committee

Focused Discussion

Paul F. Jacques, DHSc, PA-C

Ken Harbert, PhD, MCHES, PA-C, DFAAPA



Focused Discussion With PA Educators

- **Physician Assistant Education Association Annual Education Forum**
- **Friday, November 9, 2012**
- **Session Agenda**
 - **Review requirements needed in 2012 for civilian PA program admission**
 - **Evaluate military medical training and education transferability to academic credit hours**
 - **Sample ACE transcripts**
 - **Describe four example bridge programs**
 - **Future goals**

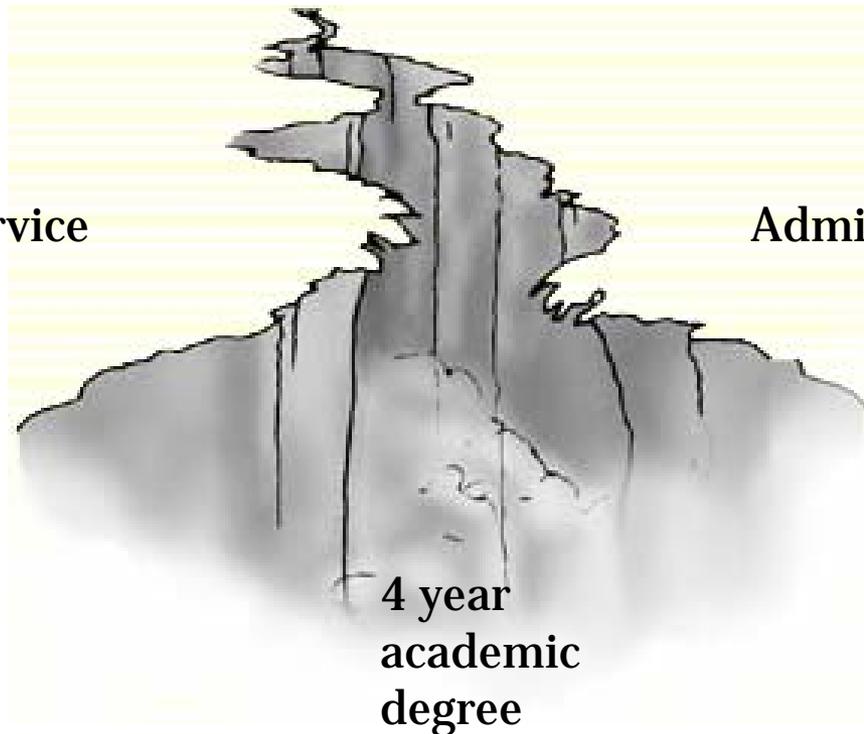
2012 PA Program Admission Requirements

- Admission opportunities have expanded exponentially over the past 10 years
- Requirements have increased
 - Bachelor degree required by 86% of programs
- Medical experience requirement has decreased
 - Veteran applicants typically have extensive experience and hours logged
- GPAs of applicants have climbed

Chasm Between Military Service and PA Program

Military Service

Admission to PA Program



Determining Military Training Equivalency

- **Evaluation of military medical training and education – focusing on academic credit hours**
 - **ACE**
 - **DANTE**
 - **Air Force Community College**

Sample ACE Transcript

SAILOR/MARINE
AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION
REGISTRY TRANSCRIPT



****UNOFFICIAL****

Transcript Sent To:

Name: [REDACTED]
SSN: XXX-XX-[REDACTED]
Rank: Hospital Corpsman, Second Class
Status: Active

[REDACTED]

Military Course Completions

Military Course ID	ACE Identifier Course Title Location-Description-Credit Areas	Dates Taken	ACE Credit Recommendation	Level
A-950-0001	NV-2202-0165 Recruit Training: Upon completion of the course, the recruit will demonstrate knowledge of general military and Navy protocol, first aid, personal health and safety, basic swimming, fire fighting and damage control, seamanship, water survival skills, and will meet prescribed standards for physical fitness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid And Safety • Personal Fitness/Conditioning • Personal/Community Health (3/92)(8/99)	07-SEP-1999 to 17-NOV-1999	1 SH 1 SH 1 SH	L L L

B-300-0010

NV-0703-0008

02-DEC-1999

to 24-MAR-2000

Hospital Corpsman Basic:

Hospital Corps School

Great Lakes, IL

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to perform as an entry-level provider of basic and emergency patient care.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|---|
| • Anatomy And Physiology | 3 SH | L |
| • Basic Patient Care Procedures | 7 SH | V |
| • Emergency Care | 4 SH | V |
| • Pharmacology | 1 SH | V |

(5/98)(12/03)

15 credits

NER-HN-002 16-MAR-2001

Hospitalman:

Performs basic nursing care; performs basic emergency and CPR procedures; takes and records vital signs; collects specimens; performs phlebotomy and IV insertions; under direction, administers medication; identifies the basic elements and functions of the circulatory, respiratory, digestive, urogenital, musculoskeletal, and nervous systems; keeps medical department equipment and spaces clean and sanitary; performs routine clerical duties of the ward; promotes patient wellness.

• Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	1 SH	L
• Clinical Nursing Practice	4 SH	L
• Emergency Medical Procedures	3 SH	L
• Health and Wellness	2 SH	L
• Infection Control Procedures	1 SH	L
• Medical Terminology	1 SH	L
• Nursing Procedures	3 SH	L
• Phlebotomy Procedures	2 SH	L

(S93)(S93)

NER-HM-002 16-JUN-2002

Hospital Corpsman:

Serves as an assistant in the prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries, and in the administration of medical departments. Administers first aid; assists with physical examinations and makes basic clinical assessments; provides nursing care to patients; administers medicine and collects specimens; assists in the transportation of the sick and injured; transcribes medical orders; writes admission nursing notes; admits, transfers, and discharges patients; maintains mechanical equipment on the ward.

• Clinical Nursing Practice	2 SH	L
• Physical Assessment	2 SH	L

(S93)(S93)

NER-HM-003 26-MAR-2004

Hospital Corpsman:

Serves as an assistant in the prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries, and in the administration of medical departments. Administers first aid; assists with physical examinations and makes basic clinical assessments; provides nursing care to patients; administers medicine and collects specimens; assists in the transportation of the sick and injured; transcribes medical orders; writes admission nursing notes; admits, transfers, and discharges patients; inputs and maintains computer, medical records; and maintains mechanical equipment on the ward. Submits routine medical reports; supervises personnel in performance of clinic or ward duties; maintains medical journals, logs, and health records; prepares, processes, controls, and transmits optical-scan documents; instructs medical and nonmedical personnel in general and emergency medical care and in self-administration of medications; performs elementary laboratory procedures, such as urinalysis, blood count, and preparation of smears.

• Clinical Nursing Practice	3 SH	L
• Personnel Management	2 SH	L
• Physical Assessment	2 SH	L

17 credits

11 credits

NER-HM-004

26-MAR-2004

Hospital Corpsman:

Assists hospital corpsman officers in the treatment of patients and performs clinical and administrative duties. Assists hospital corpsman officers with administrative procedures; emergency treatment; equipment maintenance; infection control; laboratory test procedures; material management; medication administration; patient assessment care, and transport; recording and documenting; routine medical care; and wound and incision care. Specific tasks include creating medical or dental records; monitoring patient vital signs; cleaning treatment rooms and equipment; inventorying and organizing medical department equipment and supplies; administering intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intradermal injections; assessing medical conditions, diseases, and injuries; obtaining vital signs; assisting health care providers with treatment and medical procedures; counseling patients regarding treatment plans; monitoring fluid intake and output; performing urinary catheterization; performing first aid; transcribing medical information; and operating medical equipment including EKG, AED, BP, cuff, suction devices, and O2 tanks.

Assists in command medical readiness, health and safety inspection, relationship building, and staff management. Specific tasks include screening active duty medical records and data for overseas and sea duty assignment suitability; updating medical and dental readiness reports; determining medical workspace problems to prevent adverse results; ordering medical supplies and equipment; advising medical or dental facilities of requirements for appointments including specialty consults, x-rays, and laboratory work; coordinating training for medical personnel and first responder crew; conducting trauma training to match field or fleet requirements; and operating shipboard battle dressing or battalion aid stations.

• Fundamentals Of Nursing	3 SH	L
• Health Information Management	3 SH	L
• Introduction To Supervision or Introduction To Healthcare Management	3 SH	L
• Medical Office Administration	3 SH	L
• Military Science	3 SH	L
• Pharmacology	3 SH	L
• Physical Assessment	3 SH	L
• Advanced Physical Assessment	3 SH	U
• Medical Surgical Nursing	3 SH	U

(10/06)(10/06)

27 credits

Bridge Program Examples

- **South College**
- **Touro Nevada**
- **Bethel University**
- **Trevecca Nazareen**

Bridge Program Example 1

- **South College**
 - Bachelor needed for traditional students
 - Vet-UP Program
 - 90 quarter hours = 60 credit hours
 - 3-2 program (60 credits + 1st year = bachelor degree)

Bridge Program Example 2

- **Touro Nevada**
 - Bachelor degree required – all applicants
 - “Bridge program” provides prerequisites science courses in the one year before consideration of admission to PA program.

Bridge Program Example 3

- **Bethel University**
 - **Bachelor degree required – all applicants**
 - **2 Bio, 2 chem, 2 A&P, 1 micro, 1 psych, 1 genetics**
CLEP: 2 (lab not required with science course)
 - **Online Criminal Justice Degree – 1 course every 5 weeks. Can complete 18-24 months – ACE/DANTE**

Bridge Program Example 4

- **Trevecca Nazareen**
 - **Bachelor needed for traditional students, not for Medics in Medicine Bridging Program**
 - 1 year 45 credits (21 civilian college, rest may be CLEP, ACE or DANTES)
 - 3-2 Program (45 + first year PA = bachelor degree)

Added Value of Veterans

- The right thing to do
- Increase maturity – life experiences
- Focused approach to achieving educational goals
- Medical experience – average of 7000 hours
- Motivation for success
- Ability to handle chaos
- Sense of Purpose - appreciation of role delineation (clearly understanding what PAs do in real life)

Bridge Programs

- **Are bridge programs the only way to overcome the chasm between military service and admission to a PA education program?**
- **No answer was offered during the discussion – however, the question has been introduced.**

Veteran Recruitment for PA Programs

- **What actions can PA programs take to increase their veteran recruitment activities and the number of veterans admitted?**
 - **Local marketing to currently enlisted personnel**
 - **Engage Veteran Administration career counselors**
 - **Visit Vet Centers**
 - **Visit USOs at Airports**
 - **Provide Open Houses specifically for Veterans**
 - **Provide in- services at local reserve and national guard and active duty stations**
 - **Visit military hospitals and provide in-service for staff**

Next Steps

- **Determine barriers for veterans pursuing higher education to prepare for admission to a PA education program**
- **Educate PA faculty and admissions counselors at PA programs about military education – DANTES/ACE**
- **Advocate for and advertise bridge programs for Veterans to prepare for PA education program admission**