



Northeastern University

**PreMed and PreHealth
Advising Program**

Co-op Workshop |

Agenda



INTRODUCTION TO PMPH



THE VALUE OF
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



CHOOSING A COOP

PreMed and PreHealth Advising Program

The Northeastern PreMed and PreHealth (PMPH) Advising Program provides individualized advising resources to Northeastern undergraduate students and alumni considering careers in the areas of allopathic medicine (MD), osteopathic medicine (DO), dentistry, optometry, physician assistant, podiatric medicine, or veterinary medicine.

PMPH students are encouraged to meet with their PreHealth Advisor at least once per academic year. Advisor contact information can be found [here](#).

Please schedule all appointments with your advisor through [EAB Navigate](#).



Medical Applicant Portal

Create your Medical Applicant Portal [HERE](#) or via the StudentHub



Medical Applicant Portal (MAP) is an online resource for Northeastern students and alumni to identify themselves as PreMed/PreHealth.

MAP is used to develop a portfolio of activities and experiences, and collect letters of evaluation, for your future health program application.

Creating a MAP is not a binding action – students are free to follow or leave the PreHealth path at any time.

The Value of Experiential Learning

- Admissions committees look beyond academics to holistically review an applicant's candidacy for their program. In addition to academics, students should have well-rounded set of experiences that will support their application and provide context to their narrative towards medicine.
- Relevant experiences include, but are not limited to, community engagement and service, clinical work, research, and global opportunities. How each applicant acquires these experiences will be unique to the individual. Learn more about experiential preparation for health professions by reviewing our PreHealth [Handouts](#).
- While experiential learning can take shape in many forms, Northeastern's cornerstone [Cooperative Education Program](#) offers students a unique opportunity to engage in full-time work as a part of their academic plan of study. Co-op provides Northeastern students the ability to explore career interests, create professional networks, and develop transferable professional competencies.



Co-op & PMPH

What role does Co-op play for a PreMed/PreHealth student?

- Co-op allows for full-time commitment to professional experiences, in support of a strong application to health professional programs.
- Co-op allows students to explore and better understand their professional interests
- Co-op provides opportunity to create relationships with mentors and supervisors that can speak to your growth and potential in a health career
- Co-op provides the opportunity to develop the competencies schools look for in applicants



Core Competencies for PreMed & PreHealth Students

Co-op is a great way to develop professional competencies that graduate health programs seek in candidates. Reflect on the AAMC Core Competencies below and consider on how your co-op work experience can help build upon these values.



Example #1: Patient Care Associate – Brigham and Women Orthopedic surgery

> Job responsibilities:

Functioning under the direction of the Registered Nurse (RN) and as **a member of the unit-based patient care team**, the Patient Care Assistant (PCA) performs duties of direct and indirect patient care. The PCA is responsible for **supporting the RN** with clinical tasks, including, but not limited to glucometry, EKGs, and vital signs. In addition, the PCA is responsible for **responding to the needs of patients and family members** and **takes a proactive role in the efficient operation of the unit.**

> Shift/hours requirements:

Students can expect to work between 36-40 hours per week both 8 hour and 12 hour shifts. Co-op students are required to work day, evening, night and weekend shifts. Students must be very open the first 3 weeks of the co-op for orientation.

- Teamwork
- Communication Skills
- Social Skills
- Service Orientation
- Cultural Competence
- Adaptability
- Reliability/Dependability



Example # 2: Medical Assistant - Mass General Hospital - Orthopedics

Clinical Responsibilities

- >Review the daily schedule of patients and facilitate efficient patient flow.
- >Utilize two appropriate patient identification methods for each patient in compliance with regulations. **Ethical Responsibility**
- >Assist with patient intake process. **Oral Communication/Cultural Competence/Social Skills**
- >Perform selected procedures, such as suture removal.
- >Take the patient's weight, appropriate vital signs, and appropriately prepare the patient for the physician evaluation.
- >Answer telephone calls from patients and send messages to providers. **Oral Communication, Cultural Competence, Social Skills**
- >Assist the physician in reporting test results to patients including follow-up. **Teamwork**
- >Assist the physician in coordinating all appropriate care in other settings such as visiting nurse visits, home agencies, hospice, home IV infusions, etc. **Teamwork, Oral Communication, Reliability**
- >Maintain a clean, uncluttered atmosphere for patient care. Disinfect and prepare clinic rooms before and after each patient visit and conduct clinic in a hygienic manner in keeping with infection control guidelines. **Ethical Responsibility, Reliability**

Administrative Tasks

- >Evaluate and coordinate the response to telephone calls from patients for advice or questions. **Oral Communication, Cultural Competence, Social Skills**
- >Ensure appropriate stocking of all examination rooms with supplies, requisitions and all materials necessary for efficient patient care. **Reliability**
- >Assist with supporting special projects & departmental initiatives **Teamwork, Capacity for Improvement, Reliability**
- >Monitor practice activities with physician to insure appropriate level and quality of services including maintaining supplies of medications, vaccines, and equipment **Ethical Responsibility, Reliability**
- >Prepare patient Records/ Charts and retrieve imaging in a proactive way so that all imaging and records on available prior to the start of each clinic day. **Reliability**
- >Participate in all quality assurance activities of the practice with respect to patient care. **Ethical Responsibility**
- >Other duties as assigned by the manager **Adaptability/Teamwork**



Co-ops for PreMed & PreHealth Students

Health professional programs look for candidates who have robust and diverse professional experiences. There are no designated PreMed or PreHealth co-ops. Rather, students should apply to co-op jobs based on their individual interest in the position. PreMed and PreHealth students have historically participated in a co-op work experiences including, but not limited to, the following:

Ø**Clinical**: clinical experiences should include interaction with healthcare professionals (within and/or outside of your intended health field discipline) and/or patients. These positions are typically not at an advanced medical level, but do provide the opportunity to learn more about healthcare systems and administration, various healthcare roles, and develop interpersonal skills and bedside manner.

ØExamples: emergency medical technician (EMT), certified nursing assistant (CNA), patient care assistant, medical assistant, medical scribe, etc.

Ø**Research**: research can be in any field of interest! Research co-ops help you learn about the research process and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

ØExamples: academic research, industry research/biotechnology, social science research, field research, clinical research, etc.

Ø**Service**: Service-focused co-ops demonstrate your desire to better your community and commitment to helping others.

ØExamples: teaching, public and community health, non-profit work, homeless services, etc.

Ø**Industry**: Industry co-ops help to develop leadership and teamwork skills.

ØExamples: consulting, finance, healthcare administration and management, data analytics, etc.

Ø**Global**: Global co-ops help develop a global perspective and understanding. Learn more about Global Coop [HERE](#).

Ø**Other**: You can use co-op to explore non-health interests, too!

