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HONORS PROFILE: CATHERINE HALL

NEUROSCIENCE MAJOR HELPS PATIENTS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

by [Jane Heeter](#) | December 1, 2020*Above: Catherine Hall**Read time: about 1 min*

[Neuroscience](#) major Catherine Hall gained valuable hospital experience during the COVID-19 pandemic that will help lead to physician assistant school after graduation next spring.

The [Honors Program](#) senior from Chesapeake worked at Riverside Regional Medical Hospital in Newport News after returning home in March when campus closed down. As a patient care assistant, Hall's job was incredibly variable. She worked as a customer service associate, transported patients throughout the hospital and trained to perform a secretarial role in the back of the emergency room as needed.

A key task for patient care assistants is to check patients in, check vital signs and perform an electrocardiogram if needed. If a patient is having a heart attack, the time between arriving at the emergency room and receiving an EKG is vital. Hall received a Riverside "Heart Saver" award for outstanding care of a heart attack patient for immediately taking a patient to receive an EKG and into the catheterization lab in under 40 minutes – the goal time for the highest chance of saving a patient's life.

Hall's time at Riverside followed a previous summer job as a medical transporter, further solidifying her desire to work in emergency medicine.

"Working within the emergency room, I have learned a great deal and acquired a wide variety of skills both medically and on how to interact with others," she said. "Working in the emergency department requires

continuous attention and is the fast-paced, continuous work that I need for my personality type. Expanding my line of work into the hospital setting has proven that emergency medicine is exactly where I would like to start my career after the conclusion of physician assistant school.”
