The Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Emergency Department (ER) usually hires a new group of scribes to start in June. The interview process usually starts in April. They look for eloquent and amicable pre-health students who have clinical experience and can keep up in a fast paced trauma unit. They ask for a two year commitment, with a minimum of 2-8 hour shifts per week, which include mornings, afternoons, nights, weekends, and holidays. Successful scribes are active listeners, fast leaners, and have a good bedside manner.

Scribing is a great opportunity to gain valuable insight into the world of medicine and the diagnostic thought process by working one-on-one with physicians. Scribes are exposed to everything from interesting case studies to the lifestyle of physicians. The entire ER is staffed with some of the most compassionate and engaging nurses, doctors, physician assistants, and patient care techs.