

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

HEGIS: 5219
SUNY CODE: 0489

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is designed to prepare the student to be a skilled health care technician who works under the supervision of a physical therapist. Physical Therapy is a dynamic profession involved in helping patients to preserve, develop and restore optimal function. The curriculum emphasizes “hands on” learning, professionalism, practice ethics and direct patient care. Students have the opportunity to participate in three supervised clinical affiliations for 600 hours of off-site learning. Graduates will be prepared to:

- Administer treatment interventions which include exercise, physical modalities (heat, cold, water, sound and electricity), and functional training using assistive devices (walkers and crutches)
- Perform tests and measures
- Assist the Physical Therapist in performing more complex treatment interventions
- Document interventions

Career Opportunities/Transfer Information

The PTA may find work in nursing homes, hospitals, private practices, schools, rehabilitation centers or any other area of practice where a supervising PT is available. The employment market is very competitive. Our program gives you the flexibility to seek jobs in diverse locations and diverse occupations. While not designed as a transfer program, HCCC has established transfer articulation agreements with Clarkson University, Becker College and American International College.

		1st Year			
1st Semester		Credits	2nd Semester		Credits
FS 100 Freshman Seminar		1	EN 111 English I		3
MA 127 Mathematical Statistics I OR			PT 140 Clinical Procedures II		3
MA 141 Pre-Calculus Mathematics		3	PT 141 Clinical Kinesiology for PTA		4
PT 120 Introduction to Rehabilitation		4	SC 254 Anatomy and Physiology II		4
PT 130 Clinical Procedures I		3	SS 151 Introductory Psychology		3
SC 129 Physics for PTAs		3	Physical Education Activity		1
SC 253 Anatomy and Physiology I		4			
	Total	18		Total	18

Summer
PT 206 Clinical Fieldwork I 3 Credits

		2nd Year			
3rd Semester		Credits	4th Semester		Credits
EN 112 English II		3	PT 160 Clinical Procedures IV		3
EN 228 Interpersonal Communication		3	PT 205 Contemporary Issues in Physical Therapy		1
PT 151 Clinical Procedures — Orthopedic		3	PT 207 Clinical Fieldwork II		5
PT 152 Clinical Procedures — Neurological		3	PT 208 Clinical Fieldwork III		5
SS 155 Abnormal Psychology		3			
Physical Education Activity		1			
	Total	16		Total	14

*69 Credits Required
for the
Associate in Applied Science Degree*

Admission Requirements

There are special admission requirements for this program. High school graduates must have an average of 80 or higher and a grade of 80 or better in Regents biology and 75 or better in their math sequence and chemistry or physics. Transfer students must have a GPA of 3.0 with “B” or higher in college biology and “C” or better in math and chemistry and physics. Completion of chemistry or physics and a 15-hour clinical observation is required for all students entering the Physical Therapist Assistant program. Applicants to the Physical Therapist Assistant program will be notified by mail of special application procedures and retention requirements. For more information, contact the Admissions Office at (315) 866-0300 or toll free at 1-888-GO-4-HCCC, ext. 8378.

FIELDWORK

In order to participate in any clinical fieldwork, the student must comply with New York State Health Department and pertinent OSHA regulations. The student must provide evidence of required immunizations. A physical examination is required for each student entering the program and must be updated annually.

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Students are responsible for arranging for individual health insurance prior to each Clinical Fieldwork. The student must also have personal liability and malpractice insurance for \$1 million coverage per occurrence, which is covered by student fees.

Students are individually responsible for obtaining CPR and First Aid Certification prior to each clinical affiliation and must provide evidence to the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE).

The PTA program includes three supervised five-week clinical affiliations at three different sites. Due to the limited availability of local clinical sites, students enrolled in the PTA program must be prepared to travel to participating facilities regardless of location. No guarantee of local placement can be made, however the ACCE will attempt to place you as close to home as possible. Students will be required to meet their own living and travel needs during all fieldwork assignments. Clinical Fieldwork assignments usually involve a 40-hour work week for the duration of the experience. PT 208 will be scheduled only after all other course work has been completed satisfactorily. Students must have a 2.0 GPA to be assigned to PT 208 Fieldwork.

The Clinical Fieldwork experience (PT 206, PT 207 and PT 208) must be completed within one semester following the completion of prerequisite requirements.

Additional Program Notes

Students must pass all PT and SC courses in the PTA curriculum with a “C+” or better and pass all lab practical exams to continue in this program. Students must demonstrate professional behavior in class, lab and clinical settings. A student must demonstrate discernable progress toward the achievement of a degree in this program. A student who is not making discernable progress will meet with their academic advisor for future program planning. The plan must be received and approved by the Allied Health Academic Standards Committee (AHASC).

Students previously enrolled in, and dropped from the program, who have successfully completed readmission requirements, may be readmitted one time.

The demands placed upon Physical Therapist Assistant students in the academic and practical portions of the program, and later in clinical settings, make good physical and mental health essential. Successful PTA students focus on their academic preparation. Allied Health programs, by the nature of the heavy science and professional emphasis, are among the toughest programs at the College, requiring increased study and dedication over other programs. Additionally, PTA's have additional expenses, including very expensive medical textbooks and lodging expenses during clinical fieldwork rotations.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the classroom and clinical fieldwork, the student is eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapist Assistant Licensing Examination and to apply to the State of New York Department of Education for certification as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

The American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) has accredited this program.

For more information, contact the Mathematics/Science/Allied Health & Physical Education Division at (315) 866-0300 or toll-free 1-888-GO-4-HCCC, ext. 8230.