

Associate in Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Introduction

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at the Jefferson College of Health Sciences (JCHS) is a two-year, five-semester Associate in Applied Science degree program. The blend of classroom, lab, and clinical components is designed to prepare students for careers as Physical Therapist Assistants.

A Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is a highly educated and skilled professional who works under the supervision of a Physical Therapist to provide physical therapy interventions. Physical Therapist Assistants work with a wide range of patients in many types of venues including acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health, and outpatient clinics. Duties of a PTA may include, but are not limited to, rehabilitation of adult and pediatric patients with orthopedic, neurological, traumatic injuries and various medical -surgical conditions through application of therapeutic exercise, physical agents, functional activities and education. The scope of work of the PTA is dependent upon the state in which the PTA practices.

Program Philosophy and Mission

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at the Jefferson College of Health Sciences has as its foundation the doctrine that the physical therapy profession is an essential and worthy component of society, particularly that aspect of society that deals with the physical health and well-being of society's members. The JCHS provides a program for the Physical Therapist Assistant student that strives to graduate individuals who are competent, ethical and qualified to assume roles in the healthcare field as Physical Therapist Assistants.

The mission of Physical Therapist Assistant Program is to provide a curriculum which meets the needs of its students and graduate employers in its service area through quality didactic coursework and clinical education experiences that are reflective of contemporary physical therapy practice. The Program is committed to preparing competent, ethical and knowledgeable graduates who are life-long learners.

Program Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, Phone 703/684-3245, e-mail, accreditation@apta.org, website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

Program Outcomes

Graduates of the Physical Therapist Assistant program will be able to

1. begin work as an entry-level Physical Therapist Assistant,
2. display ethical and professional behavior and awareness in patient care
3. collect data on patient through interviews, observations, screenings, and the administration of prescribed tests and assessments within the scope of work of the Physical Therapist Assistant,
4. provide physical therapy services as specified in the plan of care prescribed by the Physical Therapist, including modifying treatment techniques as indicated with the plan of care and within the parameters of state law and the scope of work of the Physical Therapist Assistant,
5. perform in a safe and effective manner within the scope of work of the Physical Therapist Assistant,
6. appropriately interact with patients and families,
7. understand basic principles and levels of authority and responsibility as it relates to functioning as an entry-level Physical Therapist Assistant,
8. appreciate the responsibility for continued personal and professional growth and a desire for life-long learning, and
9. demonstrate appropriate and effective, written, oral and non-verbal communications.

Minimum Performance Standards

Technical Standards

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program has identified technical standards that PTA students are expected to possess. These standards reflect reasonable expectations of the PTA student for the performance of common physical therapy functions and what may be required of a PTA on the job. They are not all inclusive nor do they reflect what may be required for employment as a graduate.

Sensory/Observation Skills: ability to see, hear and feel in order to assess patient condition, provides interventions, and assesses patient response to treatment.

Communication Skills: ability to communicate in English both orally and in writing. Must have sufficient communication skills (nonverbal, speech, reading and writing) to interact with individuals and communicate effectively.

Motor Skills: must have motor control to be able to lift, carry, adjust and use equipment, perform physical therapy tasks such as patient transfers, provide for patient's safety, and the physical endurance to work a 40 hour work week.

Intellectual Conceptual Skills: must have the ability to pass courses in a rigorous program, manage time effectively, the ability to concentrate with distractions, demonstrate critical thinking skills and problem solving skills, prioritize, collect, analyze and assess data, perform complex tasks or follow complex instructions.

Behavioral Social Skills: must interact appropriately with all individuals and demonstrate good judgment, maturity, and possess emotional health and stability to cope effectively with the stress of academic demands and clinical situations.

A deficiency in the abilities listed above can severely diminish a student's chances of success in school and in the profession. The PTA Program faculty will assist a student's compliance with these technical standards, but the responsibility for meeting the technical standards rests with the student.

If a student cannot demonstrate the ability to meet the technical standards, it is the responsibility of the student to request appropriate accommodations. The College will determine whether it agrees that the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation. This includes a review as to whether the accommodations requested are reasonable, taking into account whether accommodations would jeopardize clinician or patient safety, the institution, or the educational process of the student, including all coursework, and clinical experiences deemed essential for graduation.

Academic Policies

In addition to those policies published in the JCHS Catalog and JCHS Student Handbook, students are expected to follow the program policies as published in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Student Handbook. This handbook is available electronically on the program blackboard site and may be requested from the department secretary.

Program Progression

JCHS Curriculum Requirement: PTA courses (with a PTA prefix) must be taken in the sequence listed. Students must successfully complete the first-year courses before advancing to the second year. The student must achieve a

minimum grade of C in the professional courses, as well as meeting prerequisite or corequisite requirements in order to advance to the next semester. Please refer to the course descriptions published in the catalog for co-requisite and prerequisite requirements

Licensing Information

In the final semester of the PTA Program, students will be provided information and assistance in completing license exam applications. After successfully completing all required coursework in the PTA Program, an Associate in Applied Science degree in Physical Therapist Assisting is awarded. This degree allows the student to sit for the State PTA licensure exam. Each state has its own criteria for granting licensure (some states do not license PTAs). If you plan to obtain a license from other states, you need to contact that state's licensing agency.

Each state determines laws, rules and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy. This includes levels of supervision, restrictions on performance of physical therapy interventions and practice settings for the PTA. States also determine their requirements for initial licensure, continued competency and licensure renewal.

Details about the PTA licensing examination and contact information for state licensing agencies can be found on the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy website:
www.fsbpt.org.



**Associate in Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant
Program of Study (74 credit hours)**

Classes must be taken sequentially in the order presented.

PREFIX	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
Semester 1		
BIO 211/211L	Anatomy & Physiology I and Lab	4
BUS 111	Introduction to Computers	1
ENG 111	Grammar and Composition I	3
GEN 100	Academic Seminar	1
PSY 238	Developmental Psychology	4
PTA 106/106L	Basic Skills for the Physical Therapist Assistant	3
PTA 110	Integrated Sciences for the PTA	2
	Total Credits:	18
Semester 2		
BIO 212/212L	Anatomy & Physiology II and Lab	4
ELECTIVE	Elective	1
IDS 215	Bioethics	3
PTA 108L	Clinical Assessment Skills	2
PTA 150/150L	Functional and Applied Anatomy	4
SOC 213	Social Issues in Healthcare Delivery	3
	Total Credits:	17
Semester 3		
HPE 104	Therapeutic Massage I	1
HPE 105	Therapeutic Massage II	1
PTA 161/161L/161C	Principles and Procedures of Physical Therapy I	6
PTA 201/201L	Principles of Therapeutic Exercise	2
	Total Credits:	10
Semester 4		
PTA 203	Pathology for the Physical Therapist Assistant	2
PTA 221	Psychosocial Aspects of Therapy for the PTA	2
PTA 235/235L	Principles & Procedures of Physical Therapy II	4
PTA 236/236L	Principles & Procedures of Physical Therapy III	4
PTA 251C	Clinical Education I	3
	Total Credits:	15
Semester 5		
PTA 241/241L	Pediatric Physical Therapy	2
PTA 242/242L	Adult Neurological Rehabilitation	3
PTA 252C	Clinical Education II	7
PTA 285	Professional Seminar	2
	Total Credits:	14
	Total Credits:	74
	Credits from Non-Major Courses	26
	Credits from Major Courses	48