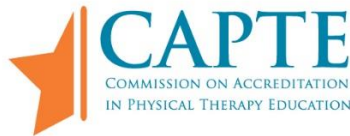




Physical Therapist Assistant

Program Information Packet



Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, gender/sex, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding Title IX and the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director, Equal Opportunity Compliance at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Mission Statement

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Pensacola State College is committed to academic excellence for students seeking associate degrees in the discipline. Program graduates will be culturally competent and knowledgeable of theoretical concepts and principles supportive of skills and procedures critical to the physical therapist assistant. Graduates, as they enter the workforce, will have achieved competency with general techniques common to practice settings available to them in the physical therapy community served by Pensacola State College. They will be prepared to meet standards for state certification and to function as technically competent, caring, responsible and safe physical therapist assistants under the supervision of a physical therapist.

Student Goals

Goal 1: The student will earn their Associate in Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant on time.

Goal 2: The student will be prepared to achieve Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) competently.

Goal 3: The student will be prepared to demonstrate entry-level clinical performance during clinical education experience.

Graduate Goal

Goal 4: The graduate will be prepared to work as a licensed PTA competently in healthcare facilities in the community.

Faculty Goals

Goal 5: Faculty members will foster a positive teaching environment.

Goal 6: Faculty members will develop professionally within their discipline, department, college, or community.

Program Goals:

Goal 7: Provide quality instruction through effective curriculum development, accessible delivery, and criterion-based assessment according to a common set of academic standards for the discipline.

Goal 8: Maintain a focus on program stakeholders and their needs, with the intent to create, communicate, and deliver education and training that has value for our students and community.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

- PSLO #1:** Exhibit conduct that reflects a commitment to meet or exceed the expectations of the community and other members of the healthcare profession:
- PSLO #2:** Safely and effectively implement selected interventions identified in the plan of care as directed by the supervising physical therapist.
- PSLO #3:** Perform appropriate data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care in order to quantify the patient's response to treatment and modify treatments within the plan of care.
- PSLO #4:** Complete thorough, accurate, logical, concise, timely, and legible documentation to support the delivery of physical therapy services.
- PSLO #5:** Work effectively in a clinical setting under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.
- PSLO #6:** Communicate verbally and non-verbally with the patient, physical therapist, health care delivery personnel, and others in an effective, appropriate, and capable manner.
- PSLO #7:** Possess the knowledge to think independently and critically, use fundamental theory, and basic sciences to solve patient care during clinical practice.
- PSLO #8:** Educate patients, families, caregivers, and members of the health care team using relative instruction methods commensurate with the needs of the learner.

Allied Health Department Mission Statement

The Allied Health Department provides health service education programs to meet the needs of a highly diverse and dynamic health care community. The goal of our programs is to graduate learners who excel in state-of-the-art performance capabilities while demonstrating professionalism consistent with the Code of Ethics in all aspects of excellent health care. Our programs are designed to accommodate the adult worker as well as the aspiring high-school student interested in a health care career.

General Information

Physical therapy is a dynamic health care profession that is concerned with relief of pain, prevention of disability and restoration of function in those individuals threatened or impaired by disease, injury or loss of body part. The physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a skilled technical health care worker who, under the direction or supervision of a licensed physical therapist, carries out a planned patient care program. Duties of the PTA include, but are not limited to:

- Training patients in exercise and activities of daily living
- Conducting treatments utilizing special equipment
- Assisting in performing tests, evaluations and treatment procedures
- Observing the patient's responses and reporting to the physical therapist
- Interacting positively with patients, families and other health care professionals.

To enter the field a person must satisfactorily complete a two-year education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) which is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation (COPA), the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS) and the U. S. Department of Education.

Graduates must take and pass the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) and the Florida Laws and Rules Exam in order to become eligible for licensure in Florida. The 2-year average pass rate for the licensing exams by graduates of the Pensacola State physical therapist assistant program is 95.2%. Students may register for their initial license through another state; they are responsible for meeting the eligibility requirements of that state and are also responsible for acquiring the appropriate paperwork for signature. Details are available at the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) website at www.apta.org.

Pensacola State College's Physical Therapist Assistant program had a site-visit in April 2014 and is fully accredited through December 2024.

Occupational Outlook

Physical Therapist Assistants can work in a variety of settings and command a varying salary based upon the employment setting. For the latest information regarding these statistics visit the Bureau of Labor and Statistics website for Physical Therapist Assistants: <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes312021.htm>.

The 2-year average employment rate for graduates of the physical therapist assistant program at Pensacola State College is 100%.

The outlook for Physical Therapist Assistants in Florida can also be found on the Bureau of Labor and Statistics website for Physical Therapist Assistants: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm>.

PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- High School Diploma or GED
- College Application
- Minimum grade of "C" or better and 2.75 GPA on Program Specific General Education Prerequisite Courses.

When the student has met the program admission requirements, the student's application is evaluated by the Office of Admissions and ranked according to the date on which the student completed the final requirement. Students are selected in that rank order.

PROGRAM PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

- A grade of "C" or higher in courses in the curriculum.
- Earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better in all courses applicable to the program of study.
- Satisfactory completion of clinical requirements which include the following:
 - Level II FDLE background screen;
 - Urine drug screen;
 - Immunizations and Vaccines; and
 - Current American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers Certification or American Red Cross Basic Life Support/CPR for Healthcare Providers Certification.
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PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

- Earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better in all courses applicable to the program of study.
- Meet the academic residence requirement of completing at least 25% of the program with classes at Pensacola State College.

Grading policies differ from that of the College and follow the same grading policies of other allied health programs. The Program uses a fixed-percent method for evaluation and grading for all courses. A minimum grade of "C" required to successfully complete department courses. A minimum grade of "C" is considered passing. The Program uses the following grading scale:

93% - 100% = A
 88% - 92% = B+
 83% - 87% = B
 79% - 82% = C+
 75% - 78% = C
 70% - 74% = D+
 65% - 69% = D
 0% - 64% = F

Positive Drug Screen Policy

Applicants who test positive on the required drug screen and cannot provide appropriate documentation to the Medical Review Officer explaining the positive result will not be eligible to attend clinic.

Estimated Cost of Program

For estimated program costs, see the Financial Fact Sheet located at: <https://www.pensacolastate.edu/docs/programs/pta-as/2024/2024-pta-student-financial-fact-sheet-1.pdf>

Performance Standards

The Physical Therapist Assistant program applicant should possess the following capabilities:

1. Be of sound mind and body to perform the professional duties of a Physical Therapist Assistant student without becoming injurious to self or others.
2. Sufficient physical, motor, sensory, intellectual, emotional, and social/ communication skills to provide safe patient care utilizing a variety of equipment in different health care environments.

Examples of performance standards are outlined below.

Technical Standards/ Physical Abilities & Skills	Standard	Examples
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move independently from room to room, walk in hallways, maneuver in small places such as patient rooms and equipment rooms.	Walking independently with patients from department to department, around the patient room, down the corridor, from one patient room to another to take care of all patients on a team. Walking, standing, stooping, lifting, squatting, reaching, twisting, bending, pushing, pulling, dragging, or climbing for periods of time as related to patient care and after care.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor skills to deliver safe and efficient patient care. Sufficient manual dexterity to manipulate equipment in the patient care setting.	Demonstrate manual dexterity by manipulating small items, maneuvering equipment, and operating used. Ability to demonstrate therapeutic exercises to patients and provide tactile cues for motor learning and re-learning. Control and maintain inventory of equipment, and devices according to an established plan.
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess patient through patient's subjective response, and machinery bells or other sounds pertinent to patient care and after care.	Ability to hear clients or patients when speaking in a low tone. Auscultation of breath sounds, heart sounds, blood pressure, bowel sounds, hearing alarms, telephone tones and alerts, converse with patients, family, and staff from varying distances with varying audible sounds from varying distances with varying audible sounds.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary to provide safe patient care.	Ability to read materials used in Physical Therapist Assistant such as policies and procedures, patient medical records and information, and PT plan of care. Ability to read using the sphygmomanometer for BP, thermometer for body temperature and monitor for pulse and respiratory rate.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for manual therapy and palpation in patient care.	Provides soft tissue mobilization as part of the PT plan of care. Perform palpation of major skeletal muscles and bony landmarks for manual muscle testing and range of motion measurement.

Technical Standards/ Physical Abilities & Skills	Standard	Examples
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in coherent and concise oral and written form.	Follow spontaneous verbal and/or written instructions. Able to effectively communicate in English. Ability to communicate the patient's response to therapy to other members of the health care team. Assess nonverbal language. Ability to consult with health care team members/workers in a professional manner.
Interpersonal	Interpersonal skills sufficient for interaction with patients, families, and groups from diverse backgrounds (cultural, emotional, intellectual) in a variety of settings such as health care and retail settings.	Converse effectively with patients, families, and groups and in stressful patient care situations such as emergencies. Remain sensitive to the needs of the patient through good communication and patient assessment.
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking sufficient for clinical decision-making	Ability to prioritize. Ability to reason, analyze and synthesize. Ability to retain information.

Physical Therapist Assistant Degree Requirements

Prerequisites (14 cc)

Course Number	Course Name	College Credits (cc)
BSC 2085	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3
BSC 2085L	Human Anatomy & Physiology I Laboratory	1
BSC 2086	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3
BSC 2086L	Human Anatomy & Physiology II Laboratory	1
ENC 1101	English Composition I	3
MAC 1105	College Algebra	3

Semester 1 (18 cc) – Fall (First Year)

PHT1000	Introduction to Physical Therapy	3
PHT1120	Functional Anatomy & Kinesiology	3
PHT1120L	Functional Anatomy & Kinesiology Lab	2
PHT1251	Basic Skills in Patient Care	2
PHT1251L	Basic Skills in Patient Care Lab	2
See Choices	Humanities (General Education Core Course)	3
See Choices	Social Sciences (General Education Core Course)	3

Semester 2 (14 cc) – Spring (First Year)

PHT1210C	Therapeutic Modalities	3
PHT1253	Neuromuscular Therapeutic Techniques I	3
PHT1253L	Neuromuscular Therapeutic Techniques I Lab	2
PHT1224	Musculoskeletal Therapeutic Techniques I	3
PHT1224L	Musculoskeletal Therapeutic Techniques I Lab	2
PHT1801L	PTA Clinic I	1

Semester 3 (15 cc) – Fall (Second Year)

PHT2162	Neuromuscular Therapeutic Techniques II	1
PHT2162L	Neuromuscular Therapeutic Techniques II Lab	2
PHT2301	Pathological Conditions if PT I	3
PHT2227C	Musculoskeletal Therapeutic Techniques II Lab	3
PHT2810L	PTA Clinic II	6

Semester 4 (13 cc) – Spring (Second Year)

PHT2020	Trends and Issues in PTA	2
PHT2401	Psychosocial Issues of the Disabled	2
PHT2304	Pathological Conditions in PT II	3
PHT2820L	PTA Clinic III	6

TOTAL COLLEGE CREDITS: 74**Who Can I Call If I Have Questions About the Program or The Application Process?**

Department	Telephone #
Allied Health Department Head Dr. Mitzie Sowell.....	850-484-2308 msowell@pensacolastate.edu
Academic Advising Offices Warrington Campus.....	850-484-2270
Pensacola Campus	850-484-1630
Milton Campus	850-484-4410
South Santa Rosa Center	850-471-4630
Century Center	850-471-4622
Admissions Warrington Campus.....	850-484-2270
Pensacola Campus	850-484-2544
Milton Campus	850-484-4410
South Santa Rosa Center	850-471-4630
Century Center	850-471-4622
healthprograms@pensacolastate.edu	
Financial Aid/Veteran Affairs/Scholarships Pensacola Campus.....	850-484-1680
Warrington Campus.....	850-484-2349
Milton Campus	850-484-4410

Complaints regarding Accreditation of this program should be addressed to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. This Commission is located at 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085; phone 800-999-2782; accreditation@apta.org