



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT

Middletown, New York 10940

**Information Packet for Prospective PTA Students**

This packet serves to provide students interested in the Physical Therapist Assistant A.A.S Degree Program with pertinent information regarding the program; it's mission, role of the PTA, program requirements, academic courses work, costs, attendance policy, student support services, and important phone numbers.

**Program Mission:**

Orange County Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program strives to recruit and admit a full class of qualified candidates from our community; to provide each student with an enriching educational experience; to enhance and to deepen the appreciation of our diversified culture. Our faculty seeks to instill personal commitment of the students to graduate, ready their ability to obtain employment, and establish their place within the health care system.

Orange County Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. In accordance with Federal regulations, the New York State Human Rights Law & Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Orange County Community College does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race, gender or sexual orientation in employment or in the educational programs and activities which it operates.

**Program Statistics:**

Orange County Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program maintains statistical information over the course of several years to provide prospective students with a general perspective of the Program. Statistical information with regards to direct employment rates has not been successfully tracked as several of our more recent graduates (within the past several years) have returned to college to pursue their DPT (Doctoral in Physical Therapy). Employment opportunities are maintained by the Career Services Department of Orange County Community College.

The following charts depict statistical information pertaining to Admissions, Graduation and Pass Rates for the National Physical Therapy Examination for PTAs;

**Admission Data:**

Entering year	Planned class size	# of students who applied	# of students who met the criteria	# of students who were offered seats	# of students who began PTA classes
2011	24	80	46	33	27
2010	24	45	26	26	25
2009	24	66	26	26	26
2008	24	38	26	26	24
2007	24	76	53	31	25

**Graduation Data:**

Class	# of students entering the program	# of students withdrawing from 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	# of students withdrawing from 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> semesters	# of students graduating in 2 years	# of students graduating in 3 years
2012	28	5	-	-	-
2011	26	4	6	15	2
2010	24	4	0	18	1
2009	28	6	3	16	3
2008	27	8	4	15	1

## The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy National Physical Therapy Examination for PTAs:

Graduation Year	Group	Number of exams	Number of Passing Candidates	Percentage Passing Rate for the Graduation Year
2007	First Time	16	8	93.75%
	Retake	12	7	
	All	28	15	
2008	First Time	13	10	84.62%
	Retake	5	1	
	All	18	11	
2009	First Time	19	14	89.47%
	Retake	7	3	
	All	26	17	

### OUTCOMES & GOALS

#### Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Graduates of our program will possess entry level skills as deemed appropriate for the Physical Therapist Assistant by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education;
2. Graduates of our program will be able to work under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist in an ethical, legal, safe, and effective manner becoming an integral member of the health care team;
3. Graduates of our program will demonstrate appropriate critical thinking and problem solving skills in their role as a physical therapist assistant;
4. Graduates of our program will demonstrate an understanding of the New York State Education Law as it relates to the provision of Physical Therapy services.
5. Graduates will also demonstrate an awareness of the existence of varying practice laws from state to state;
6. Graduates of our program will successfully complete the National Physical Therapy Examination for PTAs;
7. Students/graduates of our program will develop the skills necessary to pursue lifelong learning needed for personal and professional growth;
8. Students/graduates of our program will be aware of their responsibility to promote the profession through membership in the APTA, attending local and national meetings and conferences, and participation in community events;
9. Students/graduates will interact with patients, families, and co-workers in a manner which demonstrates an appreciation of cultural and socioeconomic diversity;
10. Graduates of our program will possess a broad general education background which includes humanities, mathematics, social sciences, biological sciences, physical education, and technologies.

#### Program Goals:

1. Provide role modeling for relationships of PT/PTA and PTA/PTA;
2. Provide role modeling by full-time faculty/instructors in the pursuit of life long learning for personal and professional growth including but not limited to membership in the APTA, attending local and national meetings and conferences, and participation in community events;
3. Encourage faculty members' development in both teaching and professional skills, so that they can continue to revise their courses and help in program evaluation and revisions;
4. Provide the student with a variety of clinical experiences in order that he/she may have an opportunity to practice the complete range/variations of competencies/skills included in our curriculum;
5. Provide the student with the opportunity to gain additional information on professional topics by making resources, on hand, readily available;
6. Continual ongoing program assessment to insure that all aspects of the program are kept up to date and appropriate.

#### **Role of the PTA:**

PTs/PTAs provide a wide variety of physical therapy services to people of all ages who have limitations in their ability to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives, due to medical problems or other health-related conditions. The PT/PTA relationship is one in which the PT provides supervision and role modeling with an emphasis of continual communication. The physical therapist evaluates the patient/client and establishes a plan of care in which selected interventions are designated. These interventions are applied and progressed by the

physical therapist assistant. Through on-going monitoring and data collection of patient/client responses, the PTA recognizes if and when treatments should not be administered secondary to the patient/client status or condition and thus communicates same to the PT. Moreover, the PTA must possess the ability to distinguish whether an intervention procedure is outside of his/her scope of practice and will pursue clarification with the physical therapist.

Potential interventions provided by a PTA may include training techniques and education to improve strength, coordination, and balance; exercises to improve activities of daily living and mobility, for example, walking with devices such as crutches, walkers or canes; manual techniques to reduce pain and increase range of motion; the use of modalities or physical agents and various forms of electrical stimulation. Intervention is not limited to the application of physical treatment alternatives, but the PTA also affords education to patients/ clients, family members, caregivers and other health care professionals including PTA students.

The PTA relates information with regard to treatments, responses, education, and billing in the form of verbal and/or non-verbal communication and documentation.

**Academic Course Sequence:**

<u>1<sup>st</sup> Semester (Fall 1<sup>st</sup> Year)</u>		<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (Spring 1<sup>st</sup> Year)</u>	
ENG101 Freshman English I	3	ENG102 Freshman English II	3
BIO111 A&P I	4	BIO112 A&P II	4
PTA103 Intro to Physical Therapy	2	PTA102 PTA II	4
PTA101 PTA I	4	PTA104 Kinesiology	4
PTA105 Med Conditions for the PTA	3	MAT101 Elementary Algebra	<u>3</u>
PES100 Concepts Of Phys. Wellness	<u>1</u>		<b>18</b>
	<b>17</b>		

<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Semester (Fall 2<sup>nd</sup> Year)</u>		<u>4<sup>th</sup> Semester (Spring 2<sup>nd</sup> Year)</u>	
PSY101 General Psychology I	3	PSY220 Developmental Psychology	3
PED202 Basic Exercise Physiology	3	PTA202 PTA IV	4
PTA201 PTA III	4	PTA208 Contemp Practice for the PTA	3
PTA207 Tests & Measure. for PTA	4	PTA206 Clinical Education II	3
PTA205 Clinical Education I	<u>3</u>	COM101 Foundations of Communication	3
	<b>17</b>	PES — Physical Education	<u>1</u>
			<b>17</b>

**SUMMER SESSION (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)**

PTA220 - Clinical Education III - August Graduation - 3 credits

**TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS – 72**

## **Admission's Requirements for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program:**

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is a selective program requiring specific prerequisites for consideration in the admission process. Students who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for admission to the program:

### **Academic Requirements:**

1. High school diploma or GED
2. Eligible to take Freshman English 1(ENG 101)
3. Eligible to take Elementary Algebra(MAT 101) or have completed Developmental Algebra (MAT 020)
4. Completed Intro to Biology (BIO 110). Anatomy & Physiology I (BIO 111), or Anatomy & Physiology II (BIO 112), with a grade of 2.0 or better; High School AP Biology (score of 3, 4, or 5) or a passing grade in the Biology CLEP examination within 5 years of applying
5. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0

### **Department Specific Requirements:**

1. Submit Physical Therapy practitioner observation form with essay (16 hour minimum with documentation)
2. Completion of an online Physical Therapist Assistant Pre-Admission Orientation and follow-up interview with Dept. Chair. At this follow-up interview, students will receive and sign off on information pertaining to health forms, drug testing ,m and criminal record policies. The online orientation link can be located at [www.sunyorange.edu/pta/preadmission.shtml](http://www.sunyorange.edu/pta/preadmission.shtml) .Observation forms are available online at [www.sunyorange.edu/admissions/healthforms.shtml](http://www.sunyorange.edu/admissions/healthforms.shtml) .

### **Selection Process:**

Students will be considered for admission in the this program based on the completion of all academic and program specific requirements, highest combination of cumulative GPA and credits completed towards the program, quality of observation and essay and seats available. Students must meet all of the above requirements to be considered for admission into the program.

All Physical Therapist Assistant Admissions Requirements must be completed before February 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be considered for acceptance into the program for the fall semester. If seats remain available after February 1<sup>st</sup>, students will be assessed as they apply.

Students may take the following non-core courses prior to entering the PTA core curriculum: Freshman English I and II, Anatomy and Physiology I and II, General Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Foundations of Communication, Elementary Algebra or higher, Physical Education, Concepts of Wellness.\* These courses must not be confused with pre-requisites as they are co-requisites and may be taken within the course curriculum. Once enrolled in the PTA curriculum, all courses must be completed in sequence as courses within each semester relate together, and courses build from semester to semester.

\* Please note that Concepts of Wellness is required for all students, even if you have previous Physical Education course work.

# **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

## **Suggested Three Year Sequence**

### **(For Students Wishing to Spread the Program Out)**

#### **Fall Year One**

- Freshman English I
- Anatomy & Physiology I
- General Psychology I
- Foundations of Communication
- Concepts of Physical Wellness
- Apply to PTA Program by Feb. 1 (Please note that you are not in the PTA program until you have received an acceptance letter to the program. You are considered a “pre- PTA/Biological Science Major” until that time). Please review the admission requirements located in the “Viewbook,” as this program has extra requirements.

#### **Spring Year One**

- Freshman English II
- Anatomy & Physiology II
- Development Psychology I
- Elementary Algebra
- 1 credit Physical Education

#### **Fall Year Two**

- PTA I
- Introduction to Physical Therapy
- Medical Conditions for the PTA

#### **Spring Year Two**

- PTA II
- Kinesiology

#### **Fall Year Three**

- PTA III
- Basic Exercise Physiology
- Clinical Education I
- Tests & Measurement Skills for the PTA

#### **Spring Year Three**

- PTA IV
- Clinical Education II
- Contemporary Practice for PTA's

#### **Summer Session**

- Clinical Education III

## **Program Requirements:**

The field of Physical Therapy is demanding. Physical Therapist Assistant students are required to fulfill all program requirements, which are guided by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. In order to meet these requirements, the Physical Therapist Assistant Department has identified the following essential functions which students must possess. These functions are not all-inclusive nor do they reflect what may be required for employment of the graduate PTA.

### Observation Skills:

1. Possesses the visual ability to observe a patient's response to treatment, read or set parameters on physical therapy equipment, observe and assess the environment, gather information from medical records and professional literature.
2. Possesses the auditory ability to recognize and respond to a patient's or co-workers voice, equipment timers, and alarms.
3. Able to use equipment to assess blood pressure, pulse rate, and breath sounds.
4. Possesses the tactile ability to palpate surface anatomy, palpate pulses, detect skin temperature, and adjust physical therapy equipment.

### Communication Skills:

1. Able to communicate in English in both written and oral fashion with faculty, patients, fellow co-workers and family members using appropriate terminology, accuracy, and efficiency.
2. Possesses the ability to recognize, interpret, and respond to nonverbal behavior of self and others.

### Motor Skills:

1. Has the motor control necessary to safely transfer a 150 lb. patient from the bed to the wheelchair with maximal assist.
2. Has the motor control necessary to safely walk with patients and provide gait training with and without assistive devices.
3. Has the ability to lift 50 lbs. and carry 25 lbs.
4. Has the motor control necessary to adjust knobs on physical therapy equipment, perform manual therapy techniques, adjust equipment such as wheelchairs, and utilize physical therapy equipment such as goniometers, grip gauges, and free weights.
5. Able to obtain and maintain CPR certification for the Professional Rescuer.
6. Able to use proper body mechanics for all skills related to physical therapy.
7. Able to demonstrate the ability to apply universal precautions when rendering physical therapy treatment.
8. Has the motor control necessary to provide for the patient's safety in all physical therapy activities.
9. Possesses the endurance necessary to perform 40 hour work week during their clinical education courses.

### Intellectual Conceptual Skills:

1. Able to attain a 75% (C) or better in all Physical Therapist Assistant core courses as well as a "C" in Anatomy and Physiology I and II, and Basic Exercise Physiology.
2. Able to prioritize multiple tasks, integrate information, and make decisions.
3. Able to collect, interpret, and assess data about patients.

### Behavioral Social Skills:

1. Able to interact appropriately with individuals of all ages, genders, races, socio-economic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.
2. Able to cope with heavy workloads, patient demands, changes in schedule, and patients who may be terminally ill.
3. Able to recognize and respond appropriately to potentially dangerous situations.
4. Adheres to the Orange County Community College Student Code of Conduct in all academic and clinical settings.
5. Maintains patient confidentiality.
6. Possesses the emotional health and stability required to fully utilize intellectual capabilities, demonstrate good judgment, and render physical therapy treatment.

Program requirements are not altered. Instead, it is the policy of Orange County Community College and the Physical Therapist Assistant Program to provide reasonable accommodations to students with special needs who request them so that they can meet the program requirements. It is the student's responsibility to contact the office for Special Services to arrange for an assessment of his/her needs. Students are encouraged to contact the Department Chair as early as possible to discuss their particular situation.

### **Physical Examinations:**

Students must undergo a complete physical, including a 10 panel urine drug screen with synthetics. Following the initial physical and urine drug screen, the student will be required to have annual physicals until the core program is completed. Failure to successfully complete the Physical will result in removal from PTA classes and clinics.

### **CPR:**

Students must maintain certification in "CPR for the Professional Rescuer," or equivalent, while enrolled in all clinical education courses. This can be taken for credit or in a non-credit fashion. Students who fail to maintain on-going certification will be removed from clinic with a grade of "F."

### **Student Conduct:**

The students in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program are expected to adhere to the code of Student Conduct as stated in the SUNY Orange Student Handbook. This code applies for both academic and fieldwork experiences. The faculty and students are also expected to follow the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Physical Therapist Assistants, APTA Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy, New York State Education Law, and the New York State Practice Act. Failure to adhere to these principles will result in immediate removal from the program.

### **Grades:**

An overall C average (2.0 CQPA) is required for graduation. A minimum grade of 75 (C) is also required in all PTA core courses. A grade of "C" is also required in Anatomy & Physiology I & II and Basic Exercise Physiology. Students who have not received a "C" will be required to repeat these courses as part of the curriculum sequence. A numerical average between 60%-74% is **NOT** passing for any PTA core course. Failure to receive a 75% in any core PTA course will prevent you from progressing to the next course in the PTA curriculum sequence. For Non-Core courses, receiving a failing grade in sequential courses will prevent you from progressing to the next course in that particular sequence. For example, a failure in Anatomy & Physiology I will prevent you from going on to the second semester courses within the program as the material in these courses is based on an understanding of the material covered in Anatomy & Physiology I.

## **Repeat Policy:**

Departments in the Allied Health and Nursing curricula may, with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, designate courses with an (R-1) at the end of the course description in the College Catalog, meaning that they may be repeated only once. All courses in the core Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum are designated as such. If a student withdraws from a course for any reason or fails to attain at least a C (75%), the student may petition to retake a course. The student must seek permission from the Department Chairperson in writing to retake the course. Permission to retake a course (or two in the same semester) may be granted only once, and only if space allows. The core Physical Therapist Assistant courses must be completed within three years of beginning the core curriculum.

Students will be required to audit, as appropriate, sequential Physical Therapist Assistant courses (PTA I-IV) and the Assessment course prior to repeating a course which they failed. Student must pass the lab practicals on the first attempt while auditing a core course. The faculty also reserves the right to require a student to repeat an entire course which has undergone significant curriculum revision as well as repeat a clinical education course.

\* Repeating and auditing courses may have financial aid implications.

## **Classes:**

Academic classes take place on the Middletown campus. All classes are scheduled in the day time, usually between the hours of 8am and 5pm. Non-core classes (English, Math, Psychology, etc.) may also be taken at night. PTA classes are only offered in one time period, so there is no choice of time slots. Due to the nature of the program, students are required to attend classes and/or clinic five days per week.

## **Clinical Education Courses:**

Beginning in the third semester, students attend clinical education courses in actual physical therapy settings such as hospitals, private offices, pediatric settings, nursing homes, etc. These internships are assigned by the Academic Coordinator for Clinical Education. During the third and fourth semester, students work two full days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) in the clinical setting and attend classes in Middletown on the other three days. Upon completion of four semesters of academic work, students are required to attend a six week full time clinical education course which takes place during either of the summer sessions, dependent on the available facilities. Hours in clinic vary, and are determined by the clinical setting. For example, clinics may be open 7-3, 8-4, 9-5, 12-8, etc. Students do not receive payment for any of the field work experiences.

## **Attendance Policy:**

It is the philosophy of the PTA Department faculty and our clinical instructors, that good attendance is crucial in order to: obtain all didactic material, observe and practice laboratory skills, demonstrate knowledge of course components, and implement skills/knowledge in the clinical environment. Attendance in all lecture classes and laboratory sessions is expected. Faculty is authorized by the college to lower grades for poor attendance. This is clearly outlined in the PTA Department Student Handbook which students receive at orientation as well as in all course syllabi.

## **Costs:**

Students will be responsible for tuition, lab fees, activity fees, accident/health insurance and any and all additional costs including: APTA Student Membership fees, all transportation to clinics, shoes, uniforms, pins, name tags, patches, etc.

- Textbooks-Approximately \$400 for 1<sup>st</sup> semester, \$200 for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, \$275 for 3<sup>rd</sup> semester and \$100 for 4<sup>th</sup> semester for PTA core courses, non core courses may run an additional \$100-300 per semester.
- APTA Membership - \$85 annually



- PTA Pin - \$50
- Transportation Costs - students must pay for all costs associated with attending clinic. This includes gas, tolls, parking, meals, etc. At some clinical sites, parking could range up to \$200.
- Lab Coats - some clinics require that students wear these (\$30-40 each).
- Name Tags - \$8
- Additional Study Aids - BP cuff and stethoscope (\$40), CD-ROMs, review books (\$64), etc.
- Physicals, Testing, and Immunizations - \$425.00 – 590.00 for 2 year program (this includes each annual physical and a total of 3 PPDs); there is an optional Hepatitis B vaccination series at an additional cost of approximately \$210.00. These prices are reflected by the 2008 pricing proposal by Partners-In-Safety. Students may choose to have their physicals performed by their family physicians accessing their family insurance.
- Drug Testing - \$60.00
- Criminal Background Check - \$65.00
- Subject to Change (Cost of Certification & National Physical Therapy Exam for PTAs):
  - \$103 application fee for Certification
  - \$370 National Physical Therapy Exam for PTAs plus additional \$55.60 fee

\*Please note that costs are approximate and are subject to change without prior notification\*

### Student Support Services:

- Department Resources - The PTA Department maintains an extensive in-house library of texts, journals, videos, and CD-ROMs. A student computer with Internet access is available in the PTA Lab. Students may also access the BAT CAVERN which is a computer aided learning facility maintained by the Biology Department, located in BT 109.
- Tutoring - Tutoring is available through the College's Tutoring Center, located in the LRC. The PTA Department maintains a current list of adjunct instructors, recent graduates, and current students who are available for tutoring.
- The Counseling and Guidance Center - Numerous programs and services are available through this center, which is located in the George Shepherd Center. These include academic advising, counseling, testing services, career services, Student Support Services Program, Office of Special Services, Veteran's Affairs, Center for Adult Lifelong Learning, and the Educational Opportunity Program.
- Financial Aid Office - A variety of programs, loans, and scholarships are available to students. Eligibility is based on academic progress, family income, and/or assets.

### Important Department Contacts:

Dr. Maria Masker, PT Department Chair	341-4290 maria.masker@sunyorange.edu
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