

**Proposal for a  
Physical Therapist Assistant  
Associate in Applied Science**

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## **I. ABSTRACT**

The Community College of Philadelphia proposes to offer a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program that leads to an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) The curriculum is designed to provide graduates with the knowledge and skill set necessary to work under the guidance and supervision of a licensed physical therapist (PT), assisting in all aspects of physical therapy from screening and assessment to treatment and documentation. The Program will train future PTAs to provide services to consumers across the life span; particularly those with medical problems, or other health-related conditions that prevent or limit independence in carrying out daily-living functions.

PTAs provide a variety of care including: patient/client education, assistive device training, massage, and the use of physical agents and electrotherapy such as ultrasound and electrical stimulation. PTAs may also measure changes in the patient's performance as a result of the physical therapy provided. Additionally, graduates will be prepared to communicate with other members of the health care delivery team; interact with members of the patient's/client's family and caregivers; and work cooperatively with other health care providers as well as providing psychosocial support for patients/clients, their families and caregivers.

The PTA curriculum will provide a strong General Education foundation as well as courses specific to the field of Physical Therapy, as per the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The graduates from the accredited program will be prepared to sit for the national certification examination for Physical Therapist Assistants. The State Board of Physical Therapy regulates the practice of Physical Therapy in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The exam, the National Physical Therapy Examination

(NPTE), is developed and administered by The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy for both physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

## II. OPPORTUNITIES/ PROBLEMS ADDRESSED BY THE PROPOSED PROGRAM

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) is expected to increase 46 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. The increased demand for physical therapy services is multifaceted. First, it is in response to the aging population. While this cohort is entering a time of increased risk of heart attacks and strokes they are also maintaining a more active lifestyle thus increasing the demand for cardiac and physical rehabilitation in addition to therapeutic services for chronic and debilitating conditions. Also, survival rates of other cohorts, such as trauma victims and pre-mature and term newborns with birth defects continues to increase adding to the demand for therapy and rehabilitation services. Secondly, restriction on reimbursement by third-party payers continues to decrease, which will increase patient access to physical therapy services and therefore demand. Lastly, employment of physical therapist assistants decreases the overall cost of service and is becoming the model in many therapy settings.

Therefore, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, opportunities for PTAs appear quite promising. In addition to employment growth, job openings will result from the need to replace PTAs who leave the occupation permanently over the 2010-2020-period.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projection Data<sup>1</sup>**

Occupational Title	Employment, 2010	Projected Employment, 2020	Change, 2010-20	
			Percent	Numeric
Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides	114,400	165,500	45	51,100
Physical Therapist Assistants	67,400	98,200	46	30,800
Physical Therapist Aides	47,000	67,300	43	20,300

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm> (visited March 31, 2012).

For a full report on regional employment projection data see Appendix A.

Physical Therapist Assistants must earn an Associate Degree from an academic program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) in order to sit for the national certifying exam for Physical Therapist Assistants. In addition, Pennsylvania regulates the practice of Physical Therapist Assistants through state licensure. The PTA curriculum at Community College of Philadelphia will be a rigorous program of study that provides graduates with an academic and practical foundation that meets both the accreditation and industry standards and protocols.

The vast majority of PTAs, approximately 72%, work in hospitals or privately owned physical therapy practices. Others work in home health, schools, and rehab units. Twenty eight percent of PTAs work part-time.

### **III. STUDENT PROFILE**

A large number of students who enroll at the Community College of Philadelphia express interest in an Allied Health career. Thus, a Physical Therapist Assistant Program will provide prospective and current students another educational path into the health care profession. In addition, the extant population of workers who occupy positions as Physical Therapy Aides – a position which requires only a high school diploma or GED - will now have an affordable and accessible opportunity to advance to a Physical Therapist Assistant level. Thus, students who have an interest in working with the elderly, toddlers, school-age children and adolescents, or people with disabilities may find the field of Physical Therapy a rewarding career option.

## **A. Program Entry and Graduation Requirements**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program will be a “select program” and will require applicants to the program to have successfully completed, with a grade of “C” or better, high school biology (or a college biology course with a lab) and high school algebra (or MATH 118 or placement into a higher level math course). These requirements must have been met within the past 10 years. For applicants holding a high school diploma, the 10-year requirement is calculated from the date of graduation. Students who have taken accredited postsecondary coursework must have a minimum of a 2.50 grade point average in order to be considered for admission into the Program. If there are more qualified applicants than available seats in the Program, the program director and faculty will utilize a selection process agreed upon by the faculty and program director to determine which students are accepted. A cohort model consistent with accreditation Standards will be used for this program. To qualify for the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Physical Therapist Assistant, a student must complete 66 credit hours as prescribed and attain a grade point average of 2.0 or better and no grade below “C” in any required course for the curriculum.

## **B. Projected Recruitment Activities**

There are many avenues within the College that will be taken to publicize the new Physical Therapist Assistant Program. The College’s Web Site will be used for publicity. Information about the Program will also be provided in a specially designed brochure to be made available at the College’s Welcome Center, in Academic Advising and Counseling, and in the Division of Math, Science, and Health Careers, and all Regional sites. Program flyers will be posted on all campuses, and an announcement introducing the Program may be included in *Transcripts*, the *Student Vanguard*, *Career Focus*, and other College publications. The College will also work with health care providers in the region to disseminate information to potential students.

The College may also feature the PTA Program in the Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 *Educational Guides* that are inserted into newspapers throughout the greater Philadelphia area, such as the Philadelphia Inquirer. In addition, the College may choose to publicize the Program on the College's Portal during the Spring 2013 and Fall 2013. Finally, recruiters will be encouraged to emphasize the uniqueness and marketability of this new Program in their presentations to high school students and at college fairs.

Recruitment efforts within the College will target undecided students in various curricula including those currently enrolled in the Culture, Science, and Technology (CST) Program. Students enrolled in the Department's *AH 101 – Introduction to the Health Care Professions* will also have the opportunity to learn about this career option as multiple health care professions are explored. The Department Head of Allied Health, in addition to the College's recruitment coordinators, will also collaborate with relevant professional organizations, health care organizations, and the local healthcare workers union ('1199 C') to inform their members about this new Program.

#### **IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is designed to prepare students for a career in physical therapy, a health profession which helps patients who are recovering from injuries, illnesses, and surgery regain movement and manage pain. PTAs are involved in the direct care of patients. Under the direction and supervision of Physical Therapists, they give therapy through exercise; therapeutic methods, such as electrical stimulation, mechanical traction, and ultrasound; massage; and gait and balance training. Physical Therapist Assistants record patients' responses to treatment and report the results of each treatment to the physical therapist.

This Associate in Applied Science curriculum emphasizes the application of treatment techniques that enables the student to work under the supervision of a Physical Therapist. Students will learn treatment planning and delivery, data collection, and how to communicate effectively and collaborate with other members of the health care team. A developmental model

of learning is employed that progresses from basic to complex. This enables students to build upon a conceptual and practical foundation as they progress through the curriculum.

This Program will include clinical rotations in a variety of settings, including schools, nursing homes, and ambulatory, acute, rehabilitation and long-term care facilities. In these settings, students may support people with traumatic injuries, strokes, orthopedic injuries and other mobility issues.

The development of professional behaviors will be considered a critical component of the PTA Program. Therefore, ethical and professional behavior will be an inherent part of all PTA courses and be factored into the overall assessment of student achievement. The desired outcome of the Program is that graduates acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to become competent, caring and ethical Physical Therapist Assistant practitioners. This Program will comply with the accreditation requirements of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) which can be found at: <http://www.capteonline.org/home.aspx>

#### **A. Program Goals**

The primary goals of offering the Physical Therapist Assistant Program are to:

- Fulfill employer demands in the area of health care and direct support services
- Prepare students for entry level positions as Physical Therapist Assistants
- Prepare students to pass the national board certification exam and complete state licensure requirements
- Increase the level of education and opportunities of individuals already employed in lower level positions in the health care industry
- Provide an avenue for individuals currently employed as Physical Therapist Aides to enhance their skills
- Provide students who have an interest in pursuing a health care program with another career choice
- Graduate knowledgeable, competent, ethical, self-assured, adaptable, and service-oriented patient/client care providers

## **B. Student Learning Outcomes**

**Upon successful completion of the Program, students will be able to:**

1. apply basic concepts of anatomy and physiology to physical therapy treatment
2. act in a professional manner consistent with established legal standards, standards of the profession and ethical guidelines
3. perform all techniques to CPI (Clinical Performance Instrument) standards and in a safe manner that minimizes the risk to patient, self and others and in consideration for patient differences, values, preferences and needs
4. document using SOAP (S= Subjective, O=Objective, A= Assessment, P= Plan) protocol in a timely manner
5. communicate and educate patients and families as well as other health care delivery team members

The Program's courses will challenge students to develop critical thinking and analytical skills through assignments in a number of their courses such as *Clinical Kinesiology/Biomechanics*, *Therapeutic Exercise*, *Principles of Rehabilitation and Pathophysiology* as well as the *PT (Physical Therapy) Principles and Procedures and Clinical Practices* courses. Students will learn that to be effective in their role as Physical Therapist Assistants, they must be effective decision makers, open to different opinions and effective at analyzing contradictory information. Tact, diplomacy, flexibility, and communication are essential skills required of clinical personnel who spend a great deal of time interacting with clients. The Curriculum Map in Appendix B illustrates how Student Learning Outcomes are embedded in the Program's courses.

## **C. Relationship to College Mission**

The PTA Program is an Associate in Applied Science degree program and students will complete general education courses as well as professionally focused courses. The Program will prepare students to "become informed and concerned citizens, active participants in the cultural life of the city, and enabled to meet the changing needs of business, industry, and the



professions.” Finally, because the Program is focused on skills necessary for employment in the health care field, students will achieve "self fulfillment based on service to others, preparation for future work and study and enjoyment of present challenges and accomplishments."

Developing a Physical Therapist Assistant Program is consistent with several goals of the College's Strategic Plan including:

- In the context of changing resources and expectations for the College, the College will strengthen its ability to identify and set priorities for an effective response to the changing educational needs of its communities.
- The College will strengthen and expand its workforce partnership programs with Philadelphia for-profit and non-profit employers and agencies.
- The College will foster timely innovation in the development of new programs and services in a manner that promotes the College's Mission effectiveness with a positive return to the College.

Finally, Pennsylvania has 16 postsecondary institutions that offer Physical Therapist Programs and 13 that offer Physical Therapist Assistant Programs. Harcum College is the only PTA Program that is in close proximity to Community College of Philadelphia. However, the Community College of Philadelphia offers prospective PTA students (particularly Philadelphia residents) a more cost effective alternative as is evidenced by tuition credit costs: Harcum College: \$630/credit; Community College of Philadelphia \$138/credit. Thus, the development and implementation of the proposed PTA Program strongly supports the College's mission by providing accessible workforce training that is both high quality and affordable.

#### **D. Potential Employment**

As noted above, employment is expected to grow much faster than average as demand for physical therapy services is rising and physical therapists are in need of licensed Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs). Also creating a demand for PTs and PTAs is a continual rise of baby boomers moving into middle and old age with the oldest boomers turning 65 in 2010. Currently, the 65 or older and 85-or older group make up 14 % of the Philadelphia population.

Further, 23% of the city's population report some form of disability. These percentages are similar to state-wide and national trends and, hence, point to an increased demand for physical therapy services and care.

### **E. Transferability**

Although this Program is not designed for transfer to a four year degree program at other colleges, students completing the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum may choose to earn a baccalaureate degree in a field such as Health Sciences or Health Care Administration. Some students may pursue the terminal degree in the Physical Therapy field, the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT).

## **V. PROGRAM'S INSTITUTIONAL CONGRUENCE**

### **A. Relationship to Other Programs at the College**

Community College of Philadelphia's Health Career Programs have been among the College's most successful in terms of retention, student outcomes, post graduation employment and transfer. Comparable to other Health Career Programs, the PTA Program will provide students with the skills and training for obtaining gainful employment in a health care facility immediately upon graduation. Nursing, Diagnostic Medical Imaging, and Respiratory Care Technology currently have limited capacity in terms of admitting students into the program; hence, the PTA Program will increase the options available to students interested in working in health care. The College has expertise in dealing with health care education accreditation agencies and licensure requirements that will benefit the proposed Program during the implementation stage and continuing re-approvals.

### **B. Program Support Structure**

Due to the specialized nature of the training, educational support will be primarily provided from the Physical Therapist Assistant faculty. Open laboratory sessions supervised by faculty

will be made available to students. However, the PTA Program will also use all of the College's support services. The Office of Educational Support Services will be a valuable resource for those students who are identified as needing developmental courses prior to applying to the Program. Students will be referred to the Learning Lab when identified as having academic difficulties. Faculty will also identify peer tutors in the Program and regular tutoring sessions will be established to assist students to develop competence in their performance of skills and understanding of the coursework. Students will also be encouraged to attend Master Student Workshop Series when appropriate. Along with study groups and peer tutoring, faculty will work with students who need additional academic support on an individual basis for Programmatic coursework. Faculty will participate in the "early alert" system that provides students with feedback concerning their progress and meaningful support interventions for those who may be in need. Students will receive Library instruction early in the Program as many of the courses require them to complete research assignments using various databases.

### **C. Location of the Program**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program will be housed in the Division of Mathematics, Science, and Health Career's Department of Allied Health. The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) requires that institutions interested in pursuing "*Developing Program Status*" for a PTA Program must hire a Program Director prior to filing an application. The qualifications for this individual include: a Licensed Physical Therapist or a Licensed, Certified or Registered (if required in his or her state) Physical Therapist Assistant who

- a) holds an earned master's degree
- b) has five years of experience as an PT or PTA that includes clinical practice, didactic and/or clinical teaching, and experience in administration.

The Physical Therapist Assistant lab will be housed in the College's newly renovated Northeast Regional Center. The Lab will include treatment tables and rehabilitative equipment needed for the lab components of the course.

## **VI. Internal Program Coherence**

The course content is organized into a curriculum that provides for structured, sequential and integrated learning experiences. Content is consistent with the philosophical base of the profession and is presented in a logical fashion to ensure that the foundational knowledge and skills are attained before progressing to higher level tasks. For example, Human Anatomy and Physiology I will be a prerequisite for Kinesiology which focuses on musculoskeletal human movement, posture, and body mechanics.

Laboratory activities including skill instruction, demonstration and practice are essential to develop competency. Each course will have student learning outcomes and methods for assessing each outcome. The physical therapy content will typically be presented in the classroom and/or laboratory environment. The curriculum is designed so that the skill competency is attained in the academic environment and then practiced and mastered in the clinical environment on actual patients/clients under the direct supervision of the clinical instructor. By the end of the Program, students will have accumulated over 520 hours experience in a variety of clinical environments.

There will be 10 new PTA courses written for this proposal which are described in greater detail in section VII of this document. PSYCH 101: Introduction to Psychology and PHIL 211: Ethical Problems are requirements for accreditation. The program grid below shows the Program courses arranged in a two-year sequence.

### Physical Therapist Assistant

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>			
ENGL 101 - English Composition I		3	ENGL 101
BIOL 109 - Anatomy and Physiology I		4	Natural Science
<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>			
ENGL 102 - English Composition II	ENGL 101	3	Info Lit and ENGL 102
BIOL 110 - Anatomy and Physiology II	BIOL 109 with grade of "C" or better	4	
CIS 103 – Applied Computer Technology		3	Tech Comp
PHIL 211 –Ethical Problems	ENG 101	3	Humanities and Interpretive Studies
PTA 101 - Introduction to Physical Therapist Assistant	ENG 101	3	
<b>THIRD SEMESTER</b>			
Math 118 - Intermediate Algebra or higher		3	Mathematics
AH 210 - Clinical Kinesiology/Biomechanics	BIOL 110 with a grade of 'C' or better	4	
PTA 140 - Therapeutic Exercise	BIOL 110 with a grade of 'C' or better PTA 101 with grade of "C" or better	4	
PTA 150 - Physical Therapy Principles and Procedures I	BIOL 110 with a grade of 'C' or better PTA 101 with grade of "C" or better	4	
<b>FOURTH SEMESTER</b>			
PTA 155 - Physical Therapy Clinical Practice I	AH 210, PTA 140 and PTA 150 with grade of "C" or better	2	
PTA 160 - Physical Therapy Principles and Procedures II	PTA 155 with grade of "C" or better	4	
<b>FIFTH SEMESTER</b>			
PTA 212 - Principles of Rehabilitation	PTA 160 with grade of "C" or better	4	
PTA 222 - Pathophysiology for the PTA	BIOL 110 with a grade of 'C' or better PTA 101 with grade of "C" or better	3	
PTA 250 – Physical Therapy Principles and Procedures III	PTA 160 with grade of "C" or better	4	

PSY 101- Introduction to Psychology		3	
<b>SIXTH SEMESTER</b>			
PTA 265 - Physical Therapy Clinical Practice II/III	PTA 155	5	
Social Science Elective		3	Social Science
<b>MINIMUM CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE</b>		66	

**GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS** All General Education requirements are met through required courses (as indicated above) except for the **American/Global Diversity and Writing Intensive** requirements. Therefore, in order to graduate, students in this program must choose a Social Science course that is designated American/Global Diversity and Writing Intensive. A list of courses that fulfills these requirement and a more detailed explanation of the College’s general education requirements appear elsewhere in this catalog and on [www.ccp.edu](http://www.ccp.edu).

For More Information Contact:

The Division of Math Science and Health Careers Room W2-7 , 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130, Telephone (215) 751-8431; or the College Information Center (215) 751 8010. Refer to appendix for comparison of clinical and total credit hours required in community PTA programs.

## VII. PROPOSED COURSES

The proposed curriculum includes ten PTA specific courses that will need to be developed; they are as follows:

### 1. PTA 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

This course is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career as a Physical Therapist Assistant. It is a required course for Physical Therapist Assistant majors. The course introduces the student to physical therapy topics including: the profession of Physical Therapy (PT), major PT specialties, ethical and legal issues, communication and patient care essentials. By the end of the course the student will be able to: 1) differentiate between the role of the Physical Therapist, the Physical Therapist Assistant and other healthcare providers; 2) explain ethical legal issues related to physical therapy care; 3) articulate the differences between the various practice specialties available within the Physical Therapist Assistant profession; 4) write basic chart notes using the SOAP format and 5) identify patient care essentials.

## **2. AH 210: CLINICAL KINESIOLOGY/BIOMECHANICS**

This is a core course required for Physical Therapist Assistant majors. The course provides an overview of structure and segmental movement of the human body including joint structure, muscle anatomy and physiology. Lab activities provide students with an introduction to measurement, palpation and muscle testing techniques. By the end of the course, the student will be able to: 1) identify advanced joint and muscle anatomy of the human body, 2) measure joint angles using the goniometer, 3) test muscle strength using proper manual muscle testing techniques and 4) analyze normal and abnormal gait patterns. This course also satisfies the Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) requirement for accreditation and students from the OTA program with the appropriate prerequisites may register for the course.

may register for the course

## **3. PTA 222: PATHOPHYSIOLOGY**

This is a core course required for Physical Therapist Assistant majors. The course provides students with the essential information about diseases, abnormalities of structure and function related to the disease. Students will also be introduced to identifying categories of medications and the impact on psychosocial aspects with the client. The course will introduce students to various diseases in order to treat patients when in the clinical setting. By the end of the course the students will be able to 1) describe the differences between normal and abnormal diseases and how they impact the individual's ability to interact with his/her environment; 2) explain the differences between various disease processes and their effects on the body systems; 3) discuss the role of the Physical Therapist Assistant in understanding how an individual can

understand or accept a disease process 4) analyze medication information sheets for potential side effects for selected body systems (musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory).

#### **4: PTA 140: THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE**

This is a core course required for Physical Therapist Assistant majors. The course provides students with the essential clinical techniques related to stretching, strengthening, posture, balance, coordination and conditioning. Patient care and safe handling techniques including: positioning and bed mobility, vital signs, transfers, use of gait and assistive devices and aseptic techniques will be introduced and practiced in the laboratory setting. Skills will be tested for competency and must be mastered. By the end of the course the student will be able to: 1) transfer and lift clients using proper body mechanics for transport, 2) measure/fit various assistive devices and communicate safe and proper use of same; 3) design a therapeutic exercise program to increase strength, range of motion and endurance for various clinical diagnosis, 4) measure vital signs using proper aseptic technique, 5) demonstrate and explain stretching, strengthening, and balance techniques with common exercise equipment related to individual's functional impairment.

#### **5. PTA 150: PT (Physical Therapy) PRINCIPLES and PROCEDURES I**

This is a core course required for Physical Therapist Assistant majors. This course introduces the student to clinical procedures related to the use of physical agents and therapeutic modalities in relation to patient care. Lecture and laboratory activities will teach students the safe and proper application of modalities such as: cryotherapy, hydrotherapy, ultrasound, electrotherapy, aquatics, phonophoresis, and intermittent compression. Students will be tested for competency for each of the modalities. Additional activities will include discussion and problem solving strategies for using these modalities. By the end of the course the student will be able to



1) identify the appropriate parameters required to accomplish treatment goals with each of the modalities discussed; 2) describe the properties of electrical stimulation, hydrotherapy, cryotherapy, ultrasound, aquatics, and phonophoresis; 3) demonstrate the proper application for the following modalities: hydrotherapy, cryotherapy, ultrasound, electrical stimulation; 4) recognize the importance of clinical research regarding the application of modalities.

#### **6. PTA 160: PT (Physical Therapy) PRINCIPLES and PROCEDURES II**

This is a core course required for Physical Therapist Assistant majors. This course builds upon PTA 150 in addressing specific patient care techniques needed in the clinical environment. This course introduces the student to clinical procedures related to massage and manual modalities particularly in patients with various orthopedic conditions as well as wound care. Students will be tested for competency for each of various skills: massage, joint mobilizations, manual techniques and wound care applications. Additional activities will include discussion and problem solving strategies for using these modalities. By the end of the course the student will be able to: 1) apply massage and manual techniques; 2) manage a wound by describing wound characteristics, grid measurement and applying basic wound dressing; 3) assess boney joints of the body: spine, hip, knee, shoulder, arm to measure joint stability and 4) compare and contrast normal and abnormal screening tests for boney joints.

#### **7. PTA 250: PT (Physical Therapy) PRINCIPLES and PROCEDURES III**

This is a core course required for Physical Therapist Assistant majors. This course builds upon PTA 160 in addressing specific patient care techniques needed in the clinical environment related to treatment of patient populations with neurological conditions as well as special populations in pediatrics. The focus of this course will be to introduce developmental milestones for normal and abnormal development across the lifespan. Specific examples of tests, measures and interventions that a Physical Therapist Assistant may use when treating patients with central

nervous system damage will be examined. By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- 1) evaluate specific patient populations with the appropriate test measure; 2) analyze test measure information to create treatment activities appropriate for special patient population groups; 3) identify functional limitations in special patient populations; and 4) create treatment activities appropriate for each age group across the lifespan.

#### **8. PTA 212: PRINCIPLES OF REHABILITATION**

Treatment strategies for patients with complex diagnoses such as developmental disorders, cerebrovascular accidents (CVA), traumatic brain injury (TBI), spinal cord injury (SCI), amputation (Transfemoral/Transtibial) and upper motor neuron (UMN) and lower motor neuron (LMN) lesions. Study of the nervous system and techniques related to the theories of neurological development will also be addressed. The study of abnormal gait, types of wheelchairs, and types of supportive devices are also included. By the end of the course, the student will be able to: 1) specify treatments for each of the special populations identified; 2) fit and maintain wheelchairs for various clients; 3) synthesize information to select appropriate equipment and 4) educate clients in the proper and safe use of equipment.

#### **9. PTA 155: PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINICAL PRACTICE I**

This course includes observation and hands on experience with personal supervision in a clinical setting, self-assessment and goal setting for development of a Professional Development Plan. This clinical externship will provide students with the opportunity to apply clinical skills acquired in the didactic setting. The online Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) will be used for assessing clinical performance at all externships. This clinical class will provide clinical interaction in the health care environment. The course entails on-going communication between the clinical instructor, student, and course coordinator. Upon completion, the student should be able to 1) safely and effectively apply procedures and techniques attained in the classroom in the

clinical setting; 2) communicate test findings, patient changes and other pertinent information to supervisor and interdisciplinary healthcare team; and 3) educate clients in the purpose and necessity for physical therapy procedures.

#### **10. PTA 265: PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINICAL PRACTICE II/III**

This course consists of two 6 week full time clinical rotations. Each clinical externship will provide students with the opportunity to apply clinical skills acquired in the classroom setting. The online Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) will be used for assessing clinical performance at all externships. This clinical class will provide clinical interaction in the health care environment. The course entails on-going communication between the clinical instructor, student, and course coordinator. Upon completion, the student should be able to 1) safely and effectively apply procedures and techniques attained in the classroom and in the clinical setting. 2) perform clinical test measures appropriate to clinical setting; 3) clearly communicate the benefits and risks of treatment modalities within the clinic; 4) demonstrate entry level competency in those skills necessary for functioning as a Physical Therapist Assistant; 5) maintain an appropriate patient caseload with decreased supervisory feedback; and 6) communicate to health care members regarding patient progress independently.. At the beginning and end of each clinical rotation students will meet with the PTA faculty to discuss and review clinical processes as well as career related topics including obtaining licensure and developing a career plan. Other topics include identifying abuse, neglect, and harassment, maintaining quality assurance, recognizing organizational structure, and understanding finances related to Physical Therapy. This course will additionally help prepare students for the workforce through resume writing and developing job readiness skills. Students consider ethical and organizational problems and learn the importance of continuing education and professional development activities. Additionally students will 1) navigate the licensure process for Physical

Therapist Assistants; 2) explain and apply the PTA ethic and practice code for Pennsylvania; and 3) create a resume for job readiness.

## **VIII. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **A. Projected Number of Students**

Given the number of inquiries that the Division Office receives regarding Physical Therapist Assistant type of offerings as well as the increasing demand for entry-level professions, it is projected that the proposed Program will attract many applicants. It is expected that the program will accept 24 full time students in the first semester of the Program. By the second year, it is expected that enrollment will increase to 48 students, comprised of 24 first year students and 24 second year students.

### **B. Personnel**

According to accreditation guidelines, the Physical Therapist Assistant program must have at least 2 core full time faculty. One may be the program director. The faculty are required to hold the appropriate licensing in Physical Therapy or Physical Therapist Assistant and have worked in the field and have had teaching experience. One of the faculty members must be a Licensed Physical Therapist.

As the Program evolves part time faculty may be required to assist in teaching the PTA course offerings. In addition, accreditation guidelines require an appropriate level of clerical support.

### **C. Capital Equipment**

Equipment will be purchased to meet the standards of the courses and accrediting agency. Specific equipment and supplies that are deemed necessary to support student learning and Program goals are listed below. However, as in the case with other allied health and technical programs, additional equipment will be purchased as needed to meet the changing industry

demands

#### **D. PTA Classroom Equipment & Supplies**

CAPTE standards require space dedicated to PTA Program for classroom instruction, secure storage of equipment and supplies, faculty offices with sufficient privacy for student advising and locked space to maintain confidential student records. It is recommended that a space be identified for students to have a private dressing area to change into lab attire.

The equipment needs projected below are based on a classroom with lab space for 15 students (2 per treatment table) and an instructional area to accommodate 36 students.

#### **PROJECTED START UP EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit Cost \$</b>	<b>Total Cost \$</b>
Physical therapy plinthe tables	7 (1 per 2 students)	530.00 each	3710.00
Treatment table (double wide)	2	550.00	1100.00
Hydro collator Machine	1	1400.00/each	1400.00
Cold Pack Unit(chilling unit and stand)	1	1700.00/each	1700.00
Ultrasound machine	1	2000.00/each	2000.00
Electrical Stimulator Unit	1	1300.00/each	1300.00
Transcutaneous Electrical Stimulator Unit	3	60.00/each	180.00
Paraffin Bath unit	1	150.00/each	150.00
Wheelchairs (elevating leg rests, etc)(4)	4	450.00/each	1800.00
Walkers Rolling (2)	2	120.00/each	240.00
Walkers Standard (2)	2	100.00/each	200.00
Hemi walker (1)	2	55.00/each	110.00
Quad cane (2)	2	75.00/each	150.00
Straight Cane (2)	2	50.00/each	100.00
Crutches (2)	2	70.00/each	140.00
Hoyer	1	1200.00	1200.00
Loftstrand crutches (2)	2	140.00/each	280.00
Sliding transfer board (3)	3	125.00	375.00
Hand weights	1	120.00/set	120.00
Ankle/wrist weights (set of 18)	1	405.00/set	405.00

Weight bars	4	60.00/each	200.00
Weight rack to hold weights	1	145.00/each	145.00
Parallel bars	1	1800.00	1800.00
Stairs	1	1285.00	1285.00
Wheelchair training ramp	1	850.00	850.00
<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit Cost \$</b>	<b>Total Cost \$</b>
Full length mirror (2)	2	455.00/each	910.00
Computers (2)	2	500.00/each	1000.00
Mobile Computer stand (2)	2	50.00/each	100.00
Balance disc (2)	2	60.00/each	120.00
Vestibular rocker board	2	250.00/each	500.00
Foam board	2	26.50/each	53.00
Folding exercise Mats (4)	4	300.00/each	1200.00
Theraball (3)	3	100.00/each	300.00
Bolster (set of 3)	1	1200.00/set	1200.00
Hoyer pad (2)	2	450/each	900.00
Small trampoline	1	70.00/each	70.00
Weighted balls	3	45.00/each	135.00
Anatomical skeletal model full adult	1	1285.00/each	1285.00
Anatomical brain models (2)	2	100.00	200.00
Muscle and skeleton posters for reference	7	25.00/each	175.00
Knee joint models (2)	1	395.00/each	395.00
Shoulder joint models (2)	1	130.00/each	260.00
Muscle model layered poster on stand	1	465.00/each	465.00
Vertebral column model (1)	1	130.00/each	130.00
Laundry hamper cart	1	145.00/each	145.00
Bosu ball (2)	2	109.00/each	218.00
Linen cart	1	285.00/each	285.00
Storage Units for equipment (5)	5	1500.00/each	7500.00
Seated Stools	7	130.00/each	910.00
Nested steps	1	400.00/each	400.00
<b>Total projected cost</b>			<b>39796.00</b>

### Supplies needed

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit Cost \$</b>	<b>Total Cost \$</b>
Hydrocollator packs (cervical, lumbar)	6	60.00/each	360.00
Thermometer for Hydrocollator	1	18.00/each	18.00
Treatment Towels (36)	3	30.00 pk	90.00
Linens (flat sheet -24)	2	150.00/pk	300.00
Pillow cases (2 dozen)	2	40.00/pk	80.00
Cold packs (cervical, lumbar)	1	200.00	200.00
Ultrasound gel	1	100.00/box 12	100.00

Gel Electrodes	1	400.00/box 100	400.00
Theraband (various types)	3	200.00/ box 100 yd	600.00
Gait Belts (8)	8	30.00/each	240.00
Blood pressure cuffs (7)	7	70.00/each	490.00
Stethoscope	7	90.00/each	630.00
Soft measuring tape	10	6.25/each	62.50
<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Finger pulse oximeter	4	70.00/each	280.00
Training stethoscope (dual head, multiple cuffs, pen light)	1	130.00/each	130.00
Cleaning spray bottles for disinfectant	1 pkg 12	25.00/pk	25.00
Sterile and non sterile gloves	6 boxes	6.00/bx 100	36.00
Wound care products	1	200.00	200.00
Velcro wraps	4	35.00	140.00
Elastic ace bandage	4 pkg	8.75/pkg	35.00
Brackets to hold walkers,balls			
Goniometers (8)	8	22.00/each	176.00
Waterless handwashing stations	4	67.00/each	268.00
Denver II training DVD #2045	1	215.00/each	215.00
Denver II test forms #21115	2	37.00/pack	74.00
Knee immobilizer (3)	3	45.00/each	135.00
Ankle splints (3)	3	33.00/each	99.00
Pillows (10)	10	12.00/each	120.00
Platform walker attachment (2)	2	145.00/each	290.00
Terry cloth covers for hot packs	6	60.00/each	360.00
Massage lotion	1	50/00 gallon	50.00
Theraball stand	3	30.00/each	90.00
Paraffin wax	3	30.00/each	90.00
Accreditation Fees			13000.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED COST</b>			<b>19385.00</b>

#### D. Budget

Below are estimates of some ongoing expenses for the operation of the program:

Supplies	\$6383.50
Hospitality	\$1,000.00
Institutional and Professional Membership	\$2,000.00
Travel	\$ 600.00
Maintenance of lab equipment	\$3,000.00

**Total**

**\$12,983.50**

## **XI. CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is designed to prepare students for a career in physical therapy, a health profession which helps patients who are recovering from injuries, illnesses, and surgery regain movement and manage pain. PTAs are involved in the direct care of patients. Under the direction and supervision of Physical Therapists, they give therapy through exercise; therapeutic methods, such as electrical stimulation, mechanical traction, and ultrasound; massage; and gait and balance training. Physical Therapist Assistants record patients' responses to treatment and report the results of each treatment to the Physical Therapist.

This Associate in Applied Science curriculum emphasizes the application of treatment techniques that enables the student to work under the supervision of a Physical Therapist. Students will learn treatment planning and delivery, data collection, and how to communicate effectively and collaborate with other members of the health care team. A developmental model of learning is employed that progresses from basic to complex. This enables students to build upon a conceptual and practical foundation as they progress through the curriculum.

This Program will include clinical rotations in a variety of settings, including schools, nursing homes, and ambulatory, acute, rehabilitation and long-term care facilities. In these settings, students may support people with traumatic injuries, strokes, orthopedic injuries and other mobility issues.

## **ACCREDITATION**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is pursuing accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- apply basic concepts of anatomy and physiology to Physical Therapy treatment
- act in a professional manner consistent with established legal standards, standards of the profession and ethical guidelines
- perform all techniques to CPI (Clinical Performance Instrument) standards and in a safe manner that minimizes the risk to patient, self and others and in consideration for patient differences, values, preferences and needs
- document using SOAP (S= Subjective, O=Objective, A= Assessment, P= Plan) protocol in a timely manner
- communicate and educate patient and family as well as other health care delivery team members



## **PROGRAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Admission is selective and requires that potential students fulfill all admission requirements of the College. The requirements for admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant program are:

1. High school diploma or general education diploma (GED).
2. A minimum of one year of high school biology or BIOL 106 or equivalent with “C” or better grades in the past 10 years.
3. Demonstrated readiness for ENGL 101 and MATH 118 as determined by the College’s placement tests or by successful completion of identified developmental course work.
4. A minimum of a 2.5 grade point average if the applicant comes with previous college experience.
  
6. Documentation/verification of volunteer/work/observation experience in a Physical Therapy setting (minimum of 40 hours) within the past two years. A minimum of 20 hours must be in an inpatient setting.

## **CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE:**

1. A record of a complete physical examination, including laboratory test results and immunizations, including Hepatitis B, must be on file in the Program office before the start of a clinical education course. Health problems which would interfere with the applicant's ability to meet program objectives will be considered individually. Health requirements must be documented in English by a US health care provider. Admission is considered conditional until all health information is received and reviewed.
2. Verification of medical and liability insurance and CPR certification is mandatory.
3. Applicants must attend a scheduled Program orientation prior to entry.
4. Students are responsible for purchasing uniforms and other related materials required for the clinical laboratory experiences of the Program.
5. During College laboratory and clinical experiences, physical activity is required. Standing and walking are required during the entire work day. Students should be able to have full range of motion, be able to push, pull, twist, lift and bend. Health problems that could interfere with the applicant’s ability to meet Program objectives will be considered individually.
6. The PTA Program requires participation in clinical education. Some clinical affiliates of the PTA Program require evidence of a negative drug screening test in order for a student to participate in the clinical education program at their facility. Therefore, any student with a positive drug screening test cannot be admitted into the PTA Program.

7. Applicants must obtain a Criminal Record Check, a Child Abuse Clearance and Drug Screening prior to entering the Program.

The College, in its admission process, will consider information regarding criminal conviction and/or crimes of moral turpitude. Admission is conditional pending receipt and evaluation of criminal background check, FBI clearance and child abuse clearance to determine whether there is any conviction that would bar the student from the Physical Therapist Assistant program and/or licensure. The following guidelines are used in making decisions about an applicant's criminal and child abuse background.

### **Child Abuse Clearance**

The Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy examiners have the authority to deny licensure if the applicant is listed as a perpetrator of child abuse. Therefore, any record results in denial of admission into the PTA Program.

### **Criminal Background Check**

Acceptance to the PTA Program will be denied for any person who has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor which relates to a person's suitability for registration as a physical therapist assistant. Consistent with State licensing guidelines conviction as used in this paragraph includes a finding, or verdict of guilt, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.

Consistent with State licensing guidelines any felony conviction results in denial of admission to the PTA Program. The Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy examiners makes determinations on an individual case basis at the time of the application for licensure. Applicants who have a criminal record should consult with a PTA faculty member and/or the Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy to ensure that they are eligible for licensure before entering the PTA Program.

## **RECONSIDERATION**

An applicant who believes that an error of fact has been made in terms of the information provided to the decision-making committee can request reconsideration by the committee. This request must be made in writing within 10 days from the date of the letter notifying the applicant of the decision. The reconsideration should address what the applicant considers to be errors of fact.

Following reconsideration by the decision making committee, the applicant can appeal the committee's decision to the Vice President for Academic Affairs whose decision is final.

Any official change or the initiation of any governmental proceeding affecting the information revealed by the required criminal or child abuse background check must be reported immediately to the PTA curriculum supervisor.

Involvement in any incident which resulted in a disciplinary action against a student at Community College of Philadelphia or any post-secondary institution is considered in the

admissions process. The PTA Program reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant who has a history of violating College rules and regulations or who has been previously suspended or expelled from the College or any other post-secondary educational institution.

## **READMISSION**

1. One-time readmission into the PTA Program is permitted.
2. Students requesting a readmission must meet Program entry requirements, conditions for acceptance, and are selected on a competitive basis as space permits.
3. Students may be required to retake PTA and/or general education courses as determined by the program director.
4. Students who were dropped for unprofessional conduct or safety issues will not be considered for readmission.
5. The Program must be completed within five years of initial enrollment into the program.

## **PROGRAM OF STUDY REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Students whose attitudes and/or behaviors appear inconsistent with professional standards may be dropped from the Program, pending a review by the Program faculty and Advisory Committee.
2. Any student who receives a “D” or below in any PTA course or who withdraw from a PTA course may not continue in the PTA program and must reapply to the Program.
3. PTA students must follow the curriculum sequence according to courses listed in each semester, unless approval is granted by the Program Director.
4. PTA students must submit proof of two-year CPR certification prior to entering the Early Summer Session .
5. Second-year PTA students must submit the results of a two-step PPD prior to the end of the fall semester.
6. During all clinical experiences, students must maintain client safety and receive a passing grade for the clinical component of a course. Violation of safety may result in immediate clinical failure, an administrative withdrawal from the Program and a failure for the course.
7. Students dropped from the Program because of academic deficiencies will be considered for re-admission to the Program after remediation of the deficiencies and recommendation of the PTA faculty.
8. Students will not be permitted to continue in a clinical course without a yearly medical exam and proof of medical insurance on file.

## **Legal Requirements for Licensure**

It is important for applicants who plan to study Physical Therapy know that licensure requirements include the following:

1. be at least 20 years of age at time Program completion unless reviewed and waived by the Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy.
2. be of good moral character”. (PA code 40.12)

3. not addicted to habitual use of alcohol, narcotics or habit forming drugs ([www.pacode.com](http://www.pacode.com))

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Physical Therapist Assistant students must complete 66 credit hours as prescribed and must maintain an overall 2.0 GPA and no grade below a “C” in any course.

NOTE: Students who become pregnant while in the PTA Program must submit appropriate documentation from their obstetrician to the program director. Since students may be required to perform physical tasks during the clinical practice that may jeopardize the pregnancy, it may become necessary for the student to withdraw from the Program.

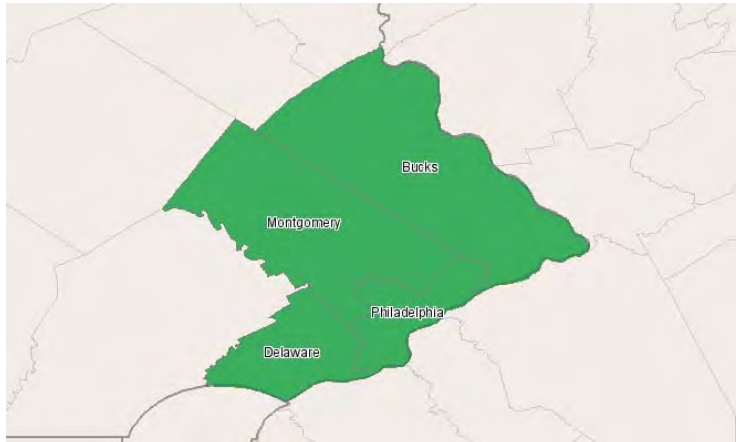
The College cannot assume responsibility for any harm that might occur to a fetus as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation. A student who is required to withdraw from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program because of pregnancy can gain readmission to the Program by following the established procedure.

# Appendix A

# Community College of Philadelphia

1700 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130  
215.751.8350

## Occupation Report Phila area



## Region Info

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Name: Phila area

County Areas: Bucks, Pennsylvania (42017), Delaware, Pennsylvania (42045), Montgomery, Pennsylvania (42091), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (42101)

## Selected Occupations

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Occupation	Education Level
Physical therapist assistants and aides (SOC 31-2020)	N/A

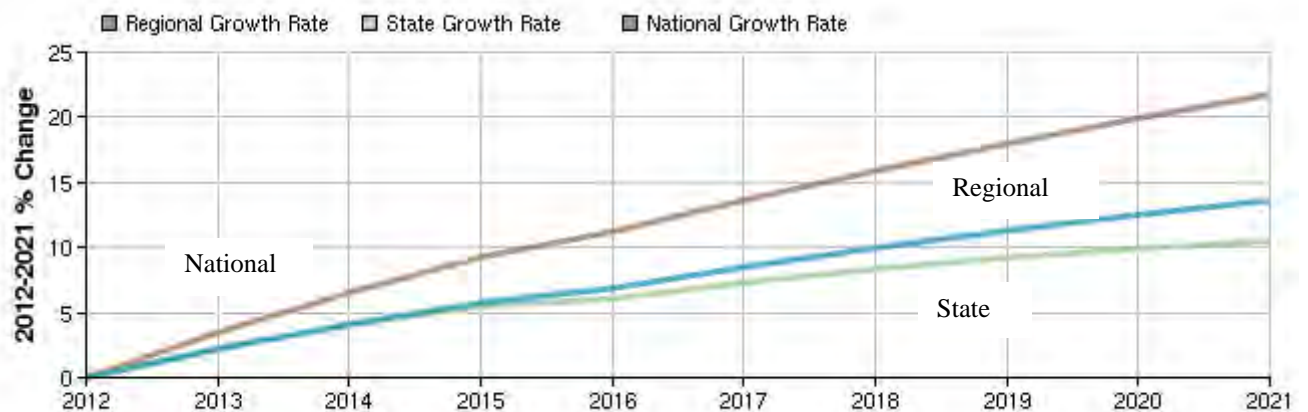
## Executive Summary

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Basic Information	
2012 Occupational Jobs	1,665
2021 Occupational Jobs	1,892
Total Change	227
Total % Change	13.63%
Openings	438
2011 Median Hourly Earnings	\$18.50

## Occupational Change Summary

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<b>Region</b>	<b>2012 Jobs</b>	<b>2021 Jobs</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Openin gs</b>	<b>2011 Median Hourly Earnings</b>
Regional Total	1,665	1,892	227	14%	438	\$18.50
State Total	6,340	7,004	664	10%	1,499	\$17.31
National Total	119,645	145,672	26,027	22%	41,294	\$18.28

Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 2011.4

## **Data Sources and Calculations**

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### **State Data Sources**

This report uses state data from the following agencies: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis.

## APPENDIX B: Curriculum Map

Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program Curriculum Map					
Key: "I"=Introduced; "R"=reinforced and opportunity to practice; "M"=mastery at the senior or exit level; "A"=assessment evidence collected					
Courses	Intended Student Learning Outcomes				
	Apply basic concepts of anatomy and physiology to physical therapy treatment	Act in a professional manner consistent with established legal standards, standards of the profession, and ethical guidelines	Perform all techniques to CPI (Clinical Performance Instrument) standards and in a safe manner that minimizes the risk to patient, self and others and in consideration for patient differences, values, preferences, and needs	Document using SOAP (S=Subjective, O=Objective, A=Assessment, P=Plan) protocol in a timely manner	Educate patient and family as well as other health care delivery team members
PHIL 211		I			
ENGL 101/102					
PTA 101		I	I	I	I
BIOL 109/BIOL 110, AH 210,PTA 222 (anatomy, physiology, kinesiology and pathophysiology courses)	I, R, M, A	I		A, R	R
PTA 150, PTA 160, PTA 250 (Principles and Procedures courses)	A, R	R	A, R	A,R,M	R
PTA 140 Therapeutic Exercise	A, R	R	A,R	A,R	I,A
PTA 212 Principles of Rehab	A, R, M	A,R	A,R	R, M	R
PTA 155, PTA 265 Clinical Practice I-III	M, R	A, M,R	A, M,R	M,R	M,R