

PENSACOLA STATE — COLLEGE —

Physical Therapist Assistant Admission Information Packet

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Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy
Education (CAPTE)

Pensacola State College is an Equal Access/Equal Opportunity
Employer

This publication is to provide general career and program information and is not to be construed as a contract between the student and Pensacola State College. The student is encouraged to work closely with counselors and the department to verify the appropriateness of courses for registration.

CAREER INFORMATION

PHYSICAL THERAPY

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

The physical therapist assistant 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 physical therapist assistant 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.

EDUCATION

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 3-year average pass rate for the licensing exams by graduates of the Pensacola State physical therapist assistant program is 91%. 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 www.apta.org.

Pensacola State College's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program had a site-visit in April 2004 and is fully accredited through 2014.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A physical therapist assistant may choose to practice in a variety of settings offering both good benefits and starting salaries ranging between \$19.00 and \$25.00 per hour. The work settings include general hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools, home health agencies, sports medicine centers and other settings in which physical therapists are employed. The 3-year average employment rate for graduates of the physical therapist assistant program at Pensacola State College is 100%.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The PTA program at Pensacola State is a five semester course of study. Students in the program follow the enclosed curriculum which includes both general education courses and PTA technical courses. The technical curriculum utilizes lecture sessions, laboratory sessions and clinical education experience in local and regional physical therapy departments to prepare students to perform the many duties of a PTA.

The PTA program is run in a daytime format with no evening or weekend courses available at this time. The online component of the curriculum is deeply embedded within the program and the "hands-on" nature of skilled laboratory instruction makes a distance-learning format unfeasible.

Class days vary each term according to the availability of adjunct and core faculty. Students have difficulty maintaining part-time employment during the sixteen weeks of full-time clinical experience associated with the program as their clinical sites frequently require a significant commute. Full-time employment is never recommended due to the intensive academic requirements of the program.

The 3-year average graduation rate for students enrolled in the PTA program at Pensacola State College is 66%. Students who successfully complete the program will receive an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant (AAS-PTA). After August 2012, the degree awarded will become an Associate of Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant (AS-PTA). Program policy requires that all general education and technical courses required for the degree be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

Student enrollment in the program is limited to 20 new candidates per year. The number of students in each class is determined by the availability of space, equipment, qualified faculty and hospital and clinical facilities necessary for a meaningful education. Only one class per year is accepted, with technical courses beginning annually in August. The 3-year average acceptance rate for qualified candidates to the physical therapist assistant program is 82%.

Program acceptance is based on selection from all qualified candidates meeting the minimum criteria on a first-completed/first-seated basis. Contact the Admissions Office for details at (850) 484-2210.

LICENSING INFORMATION

Graduates are eligible to apply for the entry level licensing examination administered by the Board of Physical Therapy & Physical Therapist Assisting under the following conditions in Florida: Chapter 486.125 Refusal, revocation, or suspension of license or license: etc.

- (a) Being unable to practice physical therapy/physical therapist assisting with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemical, or any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition.
- (b) Having committed fraud in the practice of physical therapy or deceit in obtaining his license as a physical therapist or as a physical therapist assistant.
- (c) Been convicted or found guilty regardless of adjudication, of a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of physical therapy or the ability to practice physical therapy. The entry of any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purpose of this chapter.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Student selection into the PTA Program is based on the following criteria:

1. Satisfactory completion of application criteria for both Pensacola State College and the Health Program Admissions office.
2. High school or college grade point average minimum of 2.5, with a “C” or better earned in every course that is applicable to the AAS-PTA degree. (AS-PTA requirements beginning 2011). All required transcripts must be on file.
3. Completion of the following prerequisite general education courses with a “C” or better:
 - BSC 1093 Anatomy & Physiology I
 - BSC 1093L Anatomy & Physiology I Lab
 - ENC 1101 English Composition I
 - MAC 1105 College Algebra
 - HLP 1081 Concepts of Life Fitness
4. Completion of a total of 48 hours of clinical observation at three **DIFFERENT** types of facilities.
 - 16 hours of observation in an acute care facility
 - 16 hours of observation in an outpatient facility
 - 16 hour of observation in a rehabilitation facility

Upon completion of the requirements listed above, candidate status is achieved. Please contact the Health Admissions office at (850) 484-2210 regarding your program status.

SELECTION PROCESS

Qualified candidates as of March 1st will be mailed a letter of provisional acceptance in mid-March. This letter will include information about the mandatory orientation session scheduled in April or May. Once you become a candidate for the program by completing prerequisite course work and observation hours, you are guaranteed a seat in the next available class opening based upon the date of completion. Your name will remain on the list unless you notify the Health Admissions Office in writing that you wish to have your name removed from the candidate roster. If a qualified candidate who was offered a seat in the program should refuse to accept a seat in the current year, the first name on the alternate list will be offered the opportunity to start at that time. Please make sure you update your contact information with the college if changes are made, and monitor your Pirate Mail regularly for information forwarded from the program regarding your progress towards program acceptance.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is conducted on the Warrington Campus. For an application to be complete, **ALL** admissions requirements must be on file in the Health Admissions Office, Bldg. 3600, 5555 West Highway 98, Pensacola, FL 32507-1097. There are no application deadlines due to the nature of the rolling-admissions process, but the initial selection will be made from candidates who have completed admissions criteria by March 1st.

CANDIDATES WITH PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE

The trial schedule for the fall term will be distributed at the mandatory orientation session for prospective students. In addition, the following topics will be discussed as requirements for program participation:

- A. **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS** Physical, cognitive and environmental performance standards are encountered by Physical Therapist Assistant students in classroom, laboratory and clinical practice situations in the workforce. A task list will be provided to the candidate who must gain a physician's signature acknowledging their ability to meet the standards. The performance standards will be distributed at the mandatory orientation session.
- B. **PHYSICAL** A complete physical is required. A health form (including the TB and immunization/titer information) will be provided at orientation.
- C. **T.B. SKIN TEST OR CHEST X-RAY** These may be taken at the Escambia County Health Department or through a private physician.
- D. **IMMUNIZATION OR TITERS FOR THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS MUST BE ACHIEVED AND RECORDED ON THE HEALTH FORM:**
 - Measles
 - Mumps
 - Rubella
 - Varicella
 - Tetanus/Diphtheria
 - Hepatitis B

If a student has a non-immune response to the Varicella/MMR/DPT or Hepatitis B titers, they will be required to receive the immunization prior to beginning the program. Titers and immunizations can be obtained through the applicant's personal physician or through the Escambia County Health Department.

Prospective students must successfully pass a Federal Level II criminal background check* and a drug screening prior to the beginning of the program. This process will be discussed at the mandatory orientation session with instructions for procuring the appropriate forms.

- * **If you have been convicted of a felony, the Florida Board of Physical Therapy will not allow you to sit for the Board Examination, even if you successfully complete the program at Pensacola State College. You cannot become a Physical Therapist Assistant.**

Note: **PLEASE** do not begin having physicals and securing background checks until you have been accepted into the program and have heard about the program's specific requirements. It will save you time and money if you adhere to this policy!

The college provides a one-time background check and drug screen for all prospective health occupations students. However, you may be required to repeat a drug screen, background check and TB test at your own expense to meet clinical affiliation requirements. Annual flu vaccinations are also required.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For information and application, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs at (850) 484-1680 or 484-2349. Financial counseling is available.

PROGRAM COST

The following are approximate costs for this course of study (all fees are subject to change):

Tuition:

Florida residents	\$98.05/credit hour	x 74 hours	=	\$7,255.70
Alabama residents	\$99.05/credit hour	x 74 hours	=	\$7,329.70
Non-Florida residents	\$369.58/credit hour	x 74 hours	=	\$27,348.92

Approximate program costs listed below do **NOT** reflect the cost of room and board or other living expenses. They do not include the costs of clinical attire, babysitting fees, gasoline or car care. Finally, they do not include the expense of traveling to clinical sites around and out of the immediate Pensacola area which may be incurred by the student over the sixteen weeks of full-time clinical experiences they must participate in prior to program graduation.

	Tuition	Books	Lab Fees + Miscellaneous expenses
Term I	\$1,569	\$612.75	\$25
Term II	\$1,569	\$903.30	\$255
Term III	\$1,667	\$543.55	\$170
Term IV	\$1,275	\$0	\$75
Term V	\$1,177	\$172.90	\$50
Total *	\$7,257	\$2,232.28	\$555

Total approximate costs for program: \$ 10,044.28*

*These approximate costs are for the entire program.

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Department of Health Sciences

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

APPLICANT'S CHECK LIST OF FORMS/REQUIREMENTS

(For Students)

- _____ 1. Application to college
- _____ 2. Application to program (Health Related Application)
- _____ 3. Request for high school/GED transcript and for all college transcripts (if applicable)
- _____ 4. A 2.5 minimum overall GPA
- _____ 5. Placement test(s) for the college.
 - _____ College Placement Test (CPT) if required
 - _____ Completion of all preparatory courses if indicated by CPT
- _____ 6. Completion of the following general education courses with a "C" or better (These are the prerequisite courses)
 - _____ BSC1093 Anatomy & Physiology I
 - _____ BSC1093L Anatomy & Physiology I Lab
 - _____ ENC1101 English Composition I
 - _____ MAC 1105 College Algebra
 - _____ HLP1081 Concepts of Life Fitness
- _____ 8. Completed Observation Forms submitted to:
 - Health Admissions Office
 - Bldg. 3600, Warrington Campus
 - 5555 West Hwy 98
 - Pensacola, Fla. 32507
 - (see form at end of this packet of information)
- _____ 9. Retain a copy for personal use of all forms submitted.

It is the applicant's responsibility to update all documentation in their file. All information for the program will be forwarded to the address on file. Contact the Health Admissions Office at (850) 484-2210 to make pertinent changes or corrections.

RETAIN THIS LIST TO ASSIST YOU IN COMPLETING THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT – A. A. S. Degree
(changing to AS-PTA degree in Aug 2011)

Term I – Summer

Course Number	Course Name	Credits
BSC1093	Anatomy & Physiology I	3
BSC1093L	Anatomy & Physiology I Lab	1
ENC1101	English Composition I	3
MAC 1105	College Algebra	3
HLP1081	Concepts of Life Fitness	3
-----	Humanities/Fine Arts	3
	TOTAL	16

Term II – Fall

Course Number	Course Name	Credits
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
LIS1004W	Introduction to Internet Research	1
DEP2004	Human Growth & Development	3
	TOTAL	16

Term III – Spring

Course Number	Course Name	Credits
PHT1210C	Therapeutic Modalities	3
PHT1224	Musculoskeletal Therapeutic Techniques I	3
PHT1224L	Musculoskeletal Therapeutic Techniques I Lab	2
PHT1253	Neuromuscular Therapeutic Techniques I	1
PHT1253L	Neuromuscular Therapeutic Techniques I Lab	2
PHT1801	PTA Clinic I	1
HSC1590	AIDS/OSHA/ME/DV	1
BSC1094	Anatomy & Physiology II	3
BSC1094L	Anatomy & Physiology II Lab	1
-----	CPR (CEU)	
	TOTAL	17

Term IV – Fall

Course Number	Course Name	Credits
PHT2162	Neuromuscular Therapeutic Techniques II	1
PHT2162L	Neuromuscular Therapeutic Techniques II Lab	2
PHT2933C	Special Topics in Rehabilitation I	2
PHT2227C	Musculoskeletal Therapeutic Techniques II	2
PHT2810	PTA Clinic II	6
	TOTAL	13

Term V – Spring

Course Number	Course Name	Credits
PHT2932	Transition Seminar	2
PHT 2401	Psychosocial Issues of the Disabled	2
PHT 2704C	Special Topics in Rehabilitation II	2
PHT2830	Clinic III	6
	TOTAL	12

TOTAL CREDITS 74 **CURRICULUM SEQUENCING**

The curriculum listed on the previous page is the sequence approved by CAPTE for the completion of the program in five semesters at Pensacola State College. Most students have used more than five semesters to complete the AAS-PTA degree, utilizing the summer between the freshman and sophomore year to complete general education requirements or completing the general education requirements prior to admission to the technical component of the PTA program.

There are two courses that may cause problems for students who complete them in advance of program admittance.

- CPR certification is a 2-year certification and must be current in order to go to clinic. If you have a current CPR card, you may have to renew it during the program if you do not follow the recommended sequence.
- AIDS/OSHA/ME/DV course has the same 2-year certification limit and the same renewal requirement if completed too far in advance.

Be sure to consult with the program director or a financial aid specialist if you have concerns about maintaining full-time status for your grants or loans and your insurance. Each semester of the technical phase of the program is formatted to assure students are considered to be enrolled full-time.

OBSERVATION HOURS REQUIREMENT

Pensacola State College does **NOT** participate in the establishment of observation hour appointments or opportunities but recommends that each applicant contact facilities nearest to them to arrange the visits for their mutual convenience. Many of the larger facilities such as hospitals and rehabilitation centers will require the applicants to complete a volunteer orientation in order to assure patient privacy in compliance with federal regulations; and in recent years have begun requiring physicals, background checks, drug screens and vaccinations (at the observer's expense) to be performed prior to allowing observation hours opportunities. These requirements are facility specific and cannot be assumed; so please verify the requirements at the facility in which you intend to complete your observation time.

The faculty of the PTA program at Pensacola State College considers these observations to be critically important to incoming students as these facilities are the most common places of employment following graduation, and students need to observe the fundamental conditions of employment for themselves. A picture is worth a thousand words!

The form for observation hours is on the next page and may be copied as necessary to complete the requirement.

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Student Name: _____

Facility Name: _____

Facility phone number: _____

Check One:

- Acute Care Facility
- Skilled Care Facility
- Outpatient Facility

(Duplication of this form may be required.)

	Date: Comments	Date: Comments	Date: Comments
On time			
Professional attire (modest, clean, neat, pressed)			
Attitude			
Appropriate questions			
Seeks learning opportunities			
Hours completed:			
PT/PTA Signature:			

(*Any additional comments may be written on the back of this form or emailed directly to me at the address below.)

Applicants for the PTA program at Pensacola State College are required to spend sixteen hours in each of three different types of clinical settings (total of 48 hours) observing the function of PTs and/or PTAs in a real work situation. The student is to complete these observation hours prior to acceptance into the program and has been informed that he/she may have to complete volunteer orientation, a federal background check, a drug screening and a health screening prior to being allowed to complete this requirement.

Your cooperation is valued and appreciated!

Thank you,



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