PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA)

Courses

PTA 101. Introduction To Physical Therapist Assisting. 1 Credit.
This course provides students with an introduction to the profession of physical therapy and the role and utilization of the physical therapist assistant. Professional and ethical behaviors are emphasized throughout various course topics including documentation, patient/healthcare provider interaction, legal issues, death and dying, and stress management. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, MAT 096, RDG 098, or placement.

PTA 102. Basic Therapeutic Techniques. 4 Credits.
This course is designed to provide the student with an introduction to basic patient care skills such as: Patient and environment preparation, aseptic technique (standard/universal precautions, infection control, and hand sanitation), body mechanics, verbal commands, patient turning and positioning, wheelchair prescription and management, transfer techniques, ambulation with assistive devices, vital signs measurement, and traditional soft-tissue massage. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, MAT 092, RDG 098, or placement. Corequisite: BIO 199. Fall.

PTA 104. Applied Anatomy And Kinesiology. 4 Credits.
Identification and detailed palpation of the bones and muscles of the human skeleton will be correlated with joint and muscle function. Introductory concepts concerning tissue organization, basic biomechanics, and the nervous system will be studied. Basic concepts of musculoskeletal structure and function will be applied to a more complex analysis of human movement and skill. Prerequisite: BIO 199 (or corequisite) with a C+ or better. Fall.

PTA 105. Assessment Techniques. 3 Credits.
This course covers the theory and application of the assessment skills that are required to ensure entry-level competence for physical therapist assistants. Data that is collected using the assessment skills covered in this course will support the rationale for rehabilitative techniques, modalities, and exercises that will be employed in subsequent courses in the curriculum. Prerequisites: PTA 101, PTA 102, PTA 104. Intersession.

PTA 110. Clinical Practicum I. 3 Credits.
This course is the first of three comprehensive clinical experiences in a physical therapy setting. The purpose of this initial experience is to apply, integrate, and perform learned clinical skills on patients under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist and/or licensed physical therapist assistant. Basic patient care skills, anatomy/biomechanics, therapeutic exercise, selected assessment techniques, and human disease and pathology will be emphasized. Typical practice settings may include acute care hospitals, private practice, skilled nursing centers, and outpatient rehabilitation centers. Prerequisites: BIO 204, PTA 111, PTA 139. Summer.

PTA 111. Clinical Orthopedics for the PTA. 8 Credits.
This course covers the assessment and treatment strategies that are applicable to an orthopedic patient that are part of entry-level practice as a PTA. Normal and pathomechanics of the neuromusculoskeletal systems are covered in detail via regional analysis of the major articulations of the extremities and spine. Etiology and physical therapy management of clinical dysfunctions commonly encountered in a general orthopedic patient population will be studied. Normal and pathological gait will be analyzed. The assessment skills of goniometry, manual muscle testing, and tests for muscle length including instructor demonstrations of special tests for the spine and extremities will be covered in the laboratory component of this course. This course also presents the theory and application of traditional therapeutic exercise including ROM, stretching, resistive exercise, balance and coordination and cardiovascular/aerobic activity. Evidence-based practice guidelines regarding traditional exercise suggestions for selected musculoskeletal diagnoses and home exercise program instruction will also be covered. Prerequisite: Enrollment in PTA; PTA 105; BIO 199 and BIO 204 (or corequisite). Spring.

PTA 112. Therapeutic Modalities. 4 Credits.
This course is designed to present the physiological basis, clinical application and specific techniques of administration for the following modalities: infrared heating and cooling, ultraviolet light, deep heating, intermittent compression, mechanical traction, electrical stimulation for analgesia, muscle contraction and specialized currents, iontophoresis, biofeedback, and LASER. Emphasis will be placed on the indications and precautions and contraindications of each to assure patient safety and treatment effectiveness. Prerequisite: PTA 110. Fall.

PTA 113. Advanced Rehabilitation Techniques. 3 Credits.
This course presents an advanced view of rehabilitation. Specific patient populations and techniques associated with the treatment of these populations will be addressed. Topics include but will not be limited to pathological gait, cardiac rehabilitation, advanced soft tissue approaches to the spine and extremities, an introduction to extremity joint mobilization (non-laboratory), aquatics and geriatrics. A problem based oriented approach using specific case studies representing targeted patient population will be utilized. An evidence-based practice research project is required. Prerequisite: PTA 110. Fall.
PTA 114. Neurophysiological Techniques. 4 Credits.
This course presents the theoretical framework of neurodevelopmental and neurophysiological approaches to therapeutic exercise. Normal movement, motor development, and motor learning are emphasized. Sensorimotor dysfunctions, characteristic limitations, and abnormal motor movements are discussed. The basic approaches to neurophysiological techniques and their rationale are included. These traditional approaches will be compared to contemporary theories of motor development, motor learning, and motor control. Prerequisite: PTA 110. Fall.

PTA 116. Clinical Practicum II. 5 Credits.
This is the second of three comprehensive clinical experiences in a physical therapy setting. The purpose of this intermediate experience is to apply, integrate, and perform learned clinical skills on patients under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist and/or licensed physical therapist assistant. The emphasis of this experience is to integrate previously learned and practiced PTA skills, therapeutic modalities, advanced therapeutic techniques, and neurophysiological techniques into an established physical therapy program. Typical practice settings may include acute care hospitals, private practice, sports developmental centers, skilled nursing centers, geriatrics, pediatrics, VNA, inpatient rehabilitation centers, VA hospitals, and psychiatric centers. Prerequisites: PTA 112, PTA 113, PTA 114. Spring.

PTA 117. Special Topics. 3 Credits.
This course covers specialty topic areas in the profession. Students will gain an introductory exposure to the theory and application of, women’s health issues, pediatrics, burn rehabilitation, chest physical therapy, amputation & prosthetics, and wound care. Key non-patient care-related topics concerning issues of importance to the physical therapist assistant are also presented including: Evidence-Based Research Project Presentation, basic study techniques/licensure examination preparation and a mock licensure examination are also included utilizing the Online Advantage software materials. Prerequisites: PTA 112, PTA 113, PTA 114. Spring.

PTA 118. Clinical Management And Healthcare Issues. 1 Credit.
Key non-patient care-related topics are presented concerning issues of importance to the physical therapist assistant. Course topics include PTA licensure, job search (cover letter, resume writing, and interviewing), the ADA, insurance regulations, supervision/delegation issues for the PTA, quality assurance, and risk management. Prerequisites: PTA 112, PTA 113, PTA 114. Spring.

PTA 119. Clinical Practicum III. 5 Credits.
This course is the third of three comprehensive clinical experiences in a physical therapy setting. The purpose of this final experience is to apply, integrate, and perform learned clinical skills on patients under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist and/or licensed physical therapist assistant. The emphasis of this experience is to integrate previously learned and practiced PTA skills, special topics, and clinical management and health care issues into the delivery of a comprehensive physical therapy treatment program. Typical practice settings may include acute care hospitals, private practice, sports developmental centers, skilled nursing centers, geriatrics, pediatrics, VNA, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation centers, VA hospitals, and psychiatric centers. Prerequisites: PTA 116, PTA 117, PTA 118. Spring.

PTA 139. Human Disease And Pathology. 4 Credits.
This course will cover the etiology, natural course, and termination of disease in order to assist the student in understanding the cause and effect relationship between disease and disability. Emphasis will be placed on the most common diseases and disabilities which the student will likely encounter in the practice of physical therapy and/or massage therapy. Prerequisites: BIO 199 and BIO 204 (or corequisite). Spring.