

Physical Therapist Assistant

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The Physical Therapist Assistant Program, administered by the Health Sciences Department, leads to an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree and its graduates are eligible for certification by the New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions. The program is approved by the New York State Education Department and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, website: www.apta.org. Passing the National Certification Exam after graduation is required.

Graduates work under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist in a variety of settings including: outpatient practices, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools, and sports centers. Physical Therapist Assistants carry out the plan of care established by the Physical Therapist, and work with patients who have neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary and integumentary impairments.

The interventions performed by the Physical Therapist Assistant include therapeutic exercise, aerobic conditioning, gait training, pain management, heat and cold treatment, massage, electrotherapy, and muscle re-education. The program consists of classroom and laboratory courses at the college, as well as clinical affiliations in different physical therapy settings.

Special progression standards exist for physical therapist assistant majors. Students take courses in the “pre-clinical” phase of the major. To progress to the “clinical” phase, specific criteria must be met as described in the program’s admissions handbook. The handbook is available from the Program Director in Room E-300 and from the Admissions Office. Achievement of the progression standards does not guarantee advancement to the clinical phase of the program. Completion of 50 volunteer hours in physical therapy with a letter from the physical therapy supervisor is required prior to entering the clinical phase.

Students who need additional skill development as determined by the college placement exam will be required to take basic skills and/or ESL courses. These courses are not listed in the curriculum. The particular courses students must successfully complete are determined by their scores on the college placement test. For more information on basic skills requirements, see page 175.

Descriptions of courses in this major can be found on page 134.

Physical Therapist Assistant Curriculum: AAS Degree

Counseling	
New Student Seminar	0
English: 6 credits	
Composition I ENC/G101*	3
Writing Through Literature ENG102	3
Natural Sciences: 8 credits	
Fundamentals of Human Biology I SCB203*	4
Fundamentals of Human Biology II SCB204	4
Health Sciences: 8 credits	
Community Health SCN195*	2
Functional Pathology SCO230	3
Aging and Health SCH111	3
Social Science: 6 credits	
General Psychology SSY101*	3
Developmental Psychology I SSY240	3
Physical Therapist Assistant: 29 credits	
Introduction to Physical Therapy SCT101	2
Ethical Concepts for PTA's SCT102	2
Clinical Kinesiology SCT203	4
Therapeutic Procedures I SCT211	4
Therapeutic Procedures II SCT212	3
Mobility Skills in Physical Therapy SCT220	3
Functional Gait Training Skills SCT221	3
Orthopedic Therapeutic Exercise SCT230	4
Neuromuscular Rehabilitation SCT231	4
Affiliations: 8 credits	
Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Affiliation and Seminar I SCT290	2
Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Affiliation and Seminar II SCT291	3
Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Affiliation and Seminar III SCT292	3
Liberal Arts Electives: 3 credits	
<i>Select one of the following courses:</i>	3
Oral Communication HUC101	
Critical Thinking HUP100	
Group Dynamics SSY260	
Volunteer Work	
50 Hours of volunteer work in a Physical Therapy Department	0

TOTAL CREDITS: 68

* Pre-Clinical Physical Therapy Key Courses

Note: Students should consult with a counselor and /or program faculty in the selection of elective courses to ensure maximum transferability of credits taken.