



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Health Sciences

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum prepares graduates to work in direct patient care settings under the supervision of physical therapists. Assistants work to improve or restore function by alleviation or prevention of physical impairment and perform other essential activities in a physical therapy department.

Course work includes normal human anatomy and physiology, the consequences of disease or injury, and physical therapy treatment of a variety of patient conditions affecting humans throughout the life span.

Graduates may be eligible to take the licensure examination administered by the NC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Employment is available in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, extended care facilities, specialty hospitals, home health agencies, private clinics, and public school systems.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Southwestern Community College's Physical Therapist Assistant Degree Program has a two-year integrated format, meaning that students experience classroom instruction and clinical education simultaneously, and is five semesters in length.

Students who successfully complete the program graduate with an Associate's Degree in Applied Science, and are eligible to sit for the National Licensure Exam and become NC state licensed Physical Therapist Assistants.

WHY SOUTHWESTERN

- Southwestern hosts the only public, regionally accredited Physical Therapist Assisting (PTA) associate degree program in Western North Carolina.
- Students will learn from highly qualified faculty, who use up-to-date teaching methodologies and state-of-the-industry equipment in their instruction.
- Southwestern's PTA program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (APTA).
- Students experience small classes and individual attention from instructors with the acceptance of 16 students in the program each fall.
- Based on site availability, students experience a clinical rotation through each of the following types of healthcare organizations: general hospital, skilled nursing facility/home health, and a freestanding facility.

AFTER GRADUATION

Upon successful completion of this program licensed graduates will be prepared to help patients restore quality of life through rehabilitation by working under the supervision of a Licensed Physical Therapist. They will have an in-depth knowledge of anatomy, kinesiology and pathology. They will work with patients who have lost the ability to function normally from any number of reasons from birth defects, traumatic injuries, heart attacks, strokes, athletic injuries, or diseases such as arthritis and Parkinson's disease.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST IN:

- Home Health
- School Systems
- Hospitals
- Skilled Rehab Centers
- Outpatient Rehab Centers
- Sports Centers
- Private Clinics

Graduates have the opportunity to work with patients of all ages, from birth to geriatrics, within a variety of settings as listed above.

TOP RECENT EMPLOYERS

- Angel Medical Center
- Health Pros, Inc.
- Harris Regional Hospital
- Mission-St. Joseph's Medical Center
- Haywood Regional Medical Center
- Pardee Hospital
- Numerous other healthcare institutions throughout Western North Carolina and Northern Georgia

NC STATE ESTIMATED ENTRY WAGE

\$41,092 - \$51,360

* Information found through the North Carolina Occupational Employment & Wages 2010

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE (AAS)

A45620

FALL SEMESTER 1

<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>Clinical</u>	<u>Credit</u>
BIO	168	Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	0	4
CIS	111	Basic PC Literacy	1	2	0	2
ENG	111	Expository Writing	3	0	0	3
PHY	110	Conceptual Physics	3	0	0	3
PHY	110A	Conceptual Physics Lab	0	2	0	1
PTA	110	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2	3	0	3
PTA	130	Physical Therapy Procedure I	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		Totals	13	16	0	19

SPRING SEMESTER 1

BIO	169	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	0	4
ENG	114	Professional Research and Reporting	3	0	0	3
PTA	120	Functional Anatomy	1	6	0	3
PTA	150	Physical Therapy Procedure II	1	6	0	3
PTA	170	Pathophysiology	3	0	0	3
PTA	212	Health Care/Resources	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
		Totals	13	15	0	18

SUMMER SEMESTER 1

PTA	140	Therapeutic Exercise	2	6	0	4
PTA	160	Physical Therapy Procedure III	2	3	0	3
PTA	180	PTA Clinical Education Introduction	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
		Totals	4	9	9	10

FALL SEMESTER 2

BIO	271	Pathophysiology	3	0	0	3
PSY	150	General Psychology	3	0	0	3
PTA	222	Professional Interactions	2	0	0	2
PTA	240	Physical Therapy Procedure IV	3	6	0	5
PTA	254	Pediatrics for the PTA	0	3	0	1
***	***	Humanities Elective	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		Totals	14	9	0	17

SPRING SEMESTER 2

PTA	260	Advanced PTA Clinical Education	0	0	30	10
PTA	270	PTA Topics	1	0	0	1
***	***	Technical Elective	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		Totals	2	0	30	12

Total Semester Hour Credits: 76

Technical Electives:

PTA	250	Advanced Massage for PTA	0	3	0	1
PTA	252	Geriatrics for the PTA	2	0	0	2
PTA	280	PTA Issues I	1	0	0	1
PTA	282	PTA Issues II	0	3	0	1

FACULTY

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