

Physical Therapist Assistant

Associate in Applied Science Degree

Program **PTA.B.AAS**
CIP 510806



The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program combines courses in general education and physical therapy with supervised clinical experiences in area clinics, hospitals, and private practices. The PTA program at Mercer County Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-706-3245 www.capteonline.org

Graduates are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination for licensure as physical therapist assistants and be recognized by the State of New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs, State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, which regulates the practice of physical therapy in the state of New Jersey.

PTAs work under the supervision and direction of a physical therapist and are employed by hospitals, pediatric, geriatric, and private practice physical therapy facilities.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Communicate effectively with other members of the health care team, patients and their families;
- Provide patient care and physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist;
- Perform patient assessment techniques including joint range of motion, manual muscle testing, and measurement for assistive devices;
- Assist patients in gait training activities, body mechanics principles, and therapeutic exercise;
- Utilize clinical decision-making skills in the performance of physical therapy interventions.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or the equivalent with at least one year of a high school laboratory science. Students who did not complete at least one year of a high school laboratory science and those students whose background in the sciences is old or weak may be expected to complete one or more of the following courses: Physical Science Concepts (PHY 111), Introductory Chemistry (CHE 100), Biological Science Concepts (BIO 113). Full acceptance into the program requires satisfactory performance on the college skills placement test or completion of any required remediation.

Enrollment in the program is limited and based upon a petitioning process. If the number of qualified applicants for the Physical Therapist Assistant program exceeds available openings, acceptance will be made in accordance with procedures published separately. Contact the Enrollment Services office or the Health

Curriculum

Code	Course (lecture/lab/clinical hours)	Credits
PRE-PROFESSIONAL PHASE		
BIO 103	Anatomy and Physiology I (3/3)	4
ENG 101	English Composition I (3/0)	3
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology (3/0)	3
MAT —	Mathematics elective (3/0) ¹	3
BIO 104	Anatomy and Physiology II (3/3)	4
CSW 100	College Success and Personal Wellness (2/0) [†]	2
ENG 102	English Composition II (3/0)	3
PTA 105	Kinesiology (3/0)	3
— —	General Education elective ²	3
PROFESSIONAL PHASE		
PTA 107	Therapeutic Measurement (1/2)	2
PTA 112	Pathology for PTAs (3/0)	3
— —	First Aid and CPR Certification ³	—
PTA 201	Therapeutic Exercise (1/2)*	2
PTA 210	PTA Techniques (3/2)*	4
PTA 211	Physical Agents (3/3)*	4
PTA 224	PTA Clinical Education I (160 hours)	3
PTA 227	PTA Seminar (3/0)*	3
PTA 205	Motor Development (1/0)	1
PTA 213	PTA Therapy Clinic (3/3)*	3
PTA 216	Orthopedics in PTA (1/2)*	2
PTA 235	PTA Clinical Education II (200 hours)	4
PTA 237	PTA Professional Development (3/0)*	3
PTA 240	PTA Clinical Education III (240 hours)	5
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¹ Select from MAT 115, 125, 140, 200, or approved alternative.

² Select course from the following general education categories: Social Science, Humanities, Historical Perspective, Diversity and Global Perspective.

³ Students must hold current certifications in First Aid and CPR for Professionals prior to the start of the Clinical Education courses.

[†] Some exemptions apply. Consult academic advisor for details.

* Courses are interrupted for either four weeks (for PTA 201, 210, 211 and 227) or five weeks (for PTA 213, 216 and 237) for the Clinical Education course included in the semester. Class times have been adjusted accordingly.

NOTE: Students must earn a minimum grade of C+ in all PTA and science courses. All PTA courses may only be attempted twice.

Professions division for a copy of the eligibility requirements and acceptance procedure.

All Health Profession majors are required to undergo a criminal background check prior to commencing the clinical portion of the professional phase of their respective program. A prior criminal history may prevent applicants from participation in the PTA program and ultimately licensure.