



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

PTA PROGRAM UPDATE

PTA Program Updates:

The PTA Program is proud of the PTA Class of 2022, which will be completing their final affiliation in July! They will have an opportunity to walk in the May commencement ceremony and participate in a Health Professions Pinning Ceremony in Kelsey Theatre in July.

We are very much looking forward to resuming pre-covid teaching formats for *ALL* courses beginning this summer.

We have a substantial number of changes that will be going into effect in 2023. We believe that each of these will have a positive impact on the program.

1. The application for the professional phase of the program will include a writing skills assessment.
2. The professional phase of the program will begin in the fall semester (instead of the summer) and take 18 months to complete (instead of 14 months).
 - a. The Fall I semester will consist of Pathology, Clinical Orthopedics (a combination of Therapeutic Exercise and Orthopedics), Therapeutic Measurement, and Seminar, all completed over the entire 14 week semester.
 - b. The Spring I semester will consist of PTA Techniques, Physical Agents, Professional Development, and a new Applied Kinesiology course, all completed over the entire 14 week semester.
 - c. The summer semester will consist of the first 4-week clinical affiliation
 - d. The Fall II semester will consist of Therapy Clinic and Motor Development taken during the first 9 weeks of the semester, followed by the second clinical affiliation during the final 5 weeks of the semester.
 - e. The Spring II semester will consist of the final clinical affiliation, which will take place during the first 6 weeks of the semester.
 - f. This will enable the learners to complete the final affiliation in March, take the national board exam in April, and participate in the May commencement ceremony.
3. These changes add 12 weeks of didactic (classroom) preparation to the program, allowing them to complete 28 weeks of classroom preparation prior to the first affiliation (instead of a mere 15 weeks). We anticipate learners who are better prepared for their clinical affiliations, and able to engage in deeper learning by eliminating the number of condensed semesters.