

# Physical Therapist Assistant

Degree Awarded: Associate in Applied Science

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at SUNY Orange is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: www.capteonline.org.

## Recommended Course Sequence

First Semester	Credits
ENG 101 Freshman English 1	3
BIO 111 Anatomy & Physiology 1	4
PTA 101 PTA 1	4
PTA 103 Introduction to Physical Therapy	2
PTA 105 Medical Conditions for the PTA	3
<b>Second Semester</b>	
ENG 102 Freshman English 2	3
BIO 112 Anatomy & Physiology 2	4
PTA 102 PTA 2	4
PTA 104 Kinesiology	4
PED 224 Introduction to Exercise Principles	2
<b>Third Semester</b>	
PSY 111 Introduction to Psychology	3
PED 202 Basic Exercise Physiology	3
PTA 201 PTA 3	4
PTA 205 Clinical Education 1	3
PTA 207 Tests and Measurement Skills for the PTA	4
<b>Fourth Semester</b>	
PSY 220 Developmental Psychology	3
PTA 202 PTA 4	4
PTA 206 Clinical Education 2	3
PTA 208 Contemp.Practice for the PTA	3
<b>Summer Clinical</b>	
PTA 220 Clinical Education 3	3
Total: 66	

## Program Description

The Associate in Applied Science degree program in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is designed to provide students with both the academic knowledge and clinical skills to become certified/licensed PTAs. The field of Physical Therapy is demanding. Graduates are required to meet all program requirements which are guided by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Many states, including New York, also require that students pass the national licensing examination as part of the certification/licensure process.

The PTA works with, and under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist who plans the patient care program; the PTA then helps to carry out this program. Duties of the PTA include monitoring of vital signs, lifting of patients and equipment, training of patients in therapeutic exercises and activities of daily living, wound care, use of whirlpool and electrical stimulation during treatment procedures, application of heat and cold modalities, patient and family education, wheelchair activities, use of walkers and crutches, assisting the physical therapist in performing patient assessments and complex treatment procedures. The PTA also monitors the patient's responses to treatment, documents relevant aspects of patient care and maintains ongoing communication with the patient, family, supervising physical therapist and other health care professionals.

The primary focus of the curriculum is to develop a strong clinician who possesses critical thinking and problem-solving skills. To accomplish this, the program provides the clinical training as well as a broad general education background. Courses include both core classes and non-core classes (general education courses). The core Physical Therapist Assistant courses are offered once each year beginning in the fall semester.

All program requirements must be completed within six consecutive semesters from the time of enrollment in the first PTA course. These courses must be taken in the sequence in which they are offered. The curriculum includes classroom instruction, laboratory time and clinical experiences. However, general education courses may be taken on a part-time basis during the day or evening, and may be completed over a longer period of time than the four semesters. But they must be completed no later than the semester in which they fall into sequence with the core courses.

A minimum grade of C is required in all PTA courses and a minimum grade of C is required in each of the following courses: Anatomy and Physiology 1, Anatomy and Physiology 2, and Basic Exercise Physiology.

## Licensure

Graduates of the Physical Therapist Assistant program are eligible to apply for certification in the state where they plan to practice. This process includes providing a history of possible existing criminal convictions and/or professional misconduct. Criteria for determination of good moral character varies from state to state, therefore, completion of the program does not guarantee acceptance by that state's regulatory entity to become certified or licensed.

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## Admission Criteria

### Academic Requirements:

- High school diploma or high school equivalency (HSE) diploma
- Eligible to take Freshman English I (ENG 101)
- Eligible to take Intermediate Algebra (MAT 102) or equivalent with a 2.0 or higher or have completed Elementary Algebra (MAT 101)
- Completed High School AP Biology (score of 3, 4, or 5) or a passing grade in the Biology CLEP examination; or Introduction to Biology or Anatomy & Physiology 1 with a grade of 2.0 or better (within 5 years of program entry)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0

### Department-Specific Requirements:

- Submit Physical Therapy practitioner observation form with essay (48 hour min. with documentation).
- View the Pre-Admission Orientation Power Point located on the program website and complete the survey. Once completed you will be directed to a "Certificate of Completion" which must be printed, signed, and submitted to the Admissions Department.
- Most qualified candidates will be invited to attend a program interview.
- If invited, schedule and attend an interview with the Department Chair.

Note: Admission to this program is selective. In addition to an application to the College, students must apply for acceptance into this program through the Admissions office. Consideration for admission is based on the completion of all mandatory academic and departmental-specific requirements, highest combination of program credits completed and cumulative GPA towards the degree, Orange County residency and seat availability. All requirements must be completed and an eligibility form must be submitted to the Admissions Office before February 1 in order for a student to be considered for acceptance into this program for the Fall semester. If seats remain available after February 1, students will be assessed as they apply.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- possess entry-level skills as determined by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.
- be able to work under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist in an ethical, legal, safe, and effective manner becoming an integral member of the healthcare team.
- demonstrate appropriate critical thinking and problem-solving skills in their role as a Physical Therapist Assistant.
- demonstrate an understanding of the New York State Education Law as it relates to the provision of Physical Therapy services.
- successfully complete the National Physical Therapy Exam for PTAs.
- develop the skills necessary to pursue lifelong learning needed for personal and professional growth.
- be aware of their responsibility to promote the profession through membership in the APTA, attending local and national meetings and conferences, and participation in community events.

## Career Opportunities

- hospitals, nursing homes
- private offices
- rehabilitation centers
- schools
- fitness centers
- home care settings

## Transfer Opportunities

The A.A.S. degree is primarily intended to prepare students for immediate employment; however, transfer opportunities exist in some areas.

If a student plans to pursue a Physical Therapy doctorate program, he or she should see the department chair or a faculty advisor as soon as possible.

## Contact Information

Physical Therapist Assistant  
Department Chair  
(845) 341-4290  
Admissions Office  
(845) 341-4030