

# Pre-Admission Orientation



ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Middletown, New York  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT  
PROGRAM

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# WELCOME



Please proceed through this presentation  
At the end you will be directed to complete  
a quiz which must be forwarded to  
Admissions with the remainder of your  
paperwork.

# What is physical therapy?

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- ❑ Defined by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA):
- ❑ Physical therapy is a dynamic profession with an established theoretical and scientific base and widespread clinical applications in the restoration, maintenance, and promotion of optimal physical function. For more than 750,000 people every day in the United States, physical therapists:
  - Diagnose and manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional abilities.
  - Restore, maintain, and promote not only optimal physical function, but optimal wellness and fitness and optimal quality of life as it relates to movement and health assisted by PTAs when appropriate.
  - Prevent the onset, symptoms, and progression of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities that may result from diseases, disorders, conditions, or injuries.

# What is the difference between a physical therapist and a physical therapist assistant?

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## □ Defined by the APTA:

- The physical therapist is responsible for the services provided by the PTA. Physical therapists (PTs) are health care professionals who examine each individual and develop a plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. In addition, PTs work with individuals to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.
- PTAs provide care for people in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and nursing homes. PTAs must graduate from a CAPTE-accredited PTA program and licensure is required in all states in which a PTA works.

# What is the role of the Physical Therapist Assistant?

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- Physical therapist assistant provides physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. Care may include:
  - Functional training
  - Therapeutic exercise
  - Data collection
  - Patient/family education
  - Physical agents and modalities
  - Documentation
  - Supervision of support staff

# What type of person should pursue a career in physical therapy?

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- Someone who likes:
  - to provide care
  - a challenge
  - to work directly with people
- Energetic
- Able to perform public speaking
- Adaptability in an ever-changing environment
- Cannot be squeamish
- Although not required – someone who is physically fit or enjoys exercising is a plus

# What are the benefits of physical therapy?

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- Through PT, patients experience:
  - Increased independence
  - Improved self worth and self-esteem
  - Return of pain free function
  - Improved household and community living
- The therapist and therapist assistant experience:
  - Job satisfaction
  - Improved self-esteem
  - Ability to make a difference in their patient's lives

# Where do Physical Therapist Assistants work?

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- Physical therapist assistants work in:
  - Hospitals
    - Private Practices
    - Outpatient clinics
  - Rehabilitation Facilities
    - Nursing Homes
    - Home Health Agencies
  - Sports and Fitness Facilities
    - Schools
    - Work Settings



# Types of Patients/Clients Encountered:

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- Dependent upon the type of work environment
  - Inpatient facilities – clients typically “more ill”
  - Outpatient centers – may still encounter patients who may be “ill” but do not outwardly display “sickness”
- The PTA may encounter patients who may have an illness or lesion such as:
  - Open wounds
  - Skin lesions
  - Physical deformities
  - Medical compromised
  - Terminally ill

# Types of Patients/Clients Encountered:

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- Therapy patients may have:
  - Skin diseases
  - Broken bones or muscle injuries
  - Heart or lung diseases
  - Missing limbs or other body parts
  - Brain or neurological disorders
  - Diseases of the glands
  - Transmittable or infectious diseases
  - Mental illness

# Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admission Eligibility

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- The applicant must:
  - Possess a High School Diploma or GED
  - Be eligible to take Freshman English 1 (ENG101)
  - Be eligible to take MAT 102 (Intermediate Algebra)
  - Have completed High School AP Biology (score of 3, 4, or 5), or a passing grade in the Biology CLEP examination, or a passing grade in the Introduction to Biology Challenge Exam or completion of Introduction to Biology, or Anatomy & Physiology 1 with a grade of 2.0 or better (within 5 years of program entry)

# GPA Requirements

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- ❑ STUDENTS MUST POSSESS A **MINIMUM GPA OF 2.0** TO BOTH BE CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION AND REMAIN IN THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
- ❑ IN ADDITION, CERTAIN GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES REQUIRE A **GRADE OF "C" OR BETTER**
- ❑ **ALL** CORE COURSES REQUIRE A GRADE OF "C" OR BETTER TO REMAIN IN THE PROGRAM

# *The College Experience:*

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- General Education/Non-Core Coursework
  - Core Coursework
- Clinical Education Experience

# General Education Coursework:

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- Includes those classes which satisfy the college requirements for a well-rounded education:
  - English 1 & 2
  - Psychologies (Introduction and Developmental)
  - Anatomy and Physiology 1 & 2
  - Mathematics
  - Oral Communication
  - Theory and application of exercise principles, fitness modalities, and wellness concepts

# Core Coursework:

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- Includes that information which is unique to the degree
- Includes, but is not limited to, medical terminology, pathology, kinesiology, and instruction in hands on techniques for care
- Prepares the student to venture forth into their clinical experiences to become an entry level clinician

# Clinical Education Experience:

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- ❑ The program is designed to provide hands on experience to the student to prepare them for the workplace in their respective careers
- ❑ Experiences are provided to meet or exceed the standards of clinical education for the PTA Program accrediting agency
- ❑ Hours of clinical offerings are mostly day hours; however, there may be a circumstance where the individual may be required to attend clinic during evening hours as well



# Clinical Education Experience:

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- ❑ Each clinical education experience is off campus and may require a student to travel **up to one hour and fifteen minutes** from their home. Arrangements are made to minimize this commute; however, are not guaranteed.
- ❑ Each and every student must possess a means of reliable transportation and is responsible for their own transportation to and from their clinical education site.

# *Academic Expectations:*

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- ❑ Higher expectations are maintained in the Health Care Professions
- ❑ Attire and general appearance is expected to meet the standards of the program
- ❑ Professional behavior must be maintained
- ❑ GPA (overall 2.0)
  - General education classes – overall 2.0
  - Anatomy and Physiology courses, Theory and application of exercise principles, fitness modalities, and wellness concepts – minimum of “C”
  - Core courses – minimum of “C”

# The Admission's Process:

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- ❑ The health professions at SUNY Orange are selective programs which require additional Admissions Processes.
- ❑ The following two slides indicate the deadline for submission of appropriate paperwork.
- ❑ Please refer to the college's PTA Program website or the Admission's website for links and pages associated with the indicated paperwork.

# *The Admissions Process:*

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## □ **By February 1:**

- All college and high school transcripts must be RECEIVED
- Completion of the Pre-Admission Orientation
- Completion of the Pre-Admission Orientation quiz
- Submit the Observation paper(s) and Essay
  - **ANY/ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE ADMISSION'S DEPARTMENT**

# *The Admissions Process: CONTINUED...*

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## □ **By February 1:**

- Apply to the college
- **AND** (as these are separate requirements)
- Apply to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program
- Each candidate must meet all indicated academic requirements
- **ANY/ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE ADMISSION'S DEPARTMENT**

# What type of observations must be completed and where?

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- A minimum of 1 setting is required with a total of 48 hours in one of the following two manners:
  - *All 48 hours in a skilled nursing facility or acute care hospital*
  - OR**
  - *24 hours in a setting of your choice **AND** 24 hours in a skilled nursing facility or acute care hospital*
  - *Observations should be completed in **8 hour work days/intervals***

# How do you schedule your observations?

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- ❑ Print out the observation sheets located on the Admissions Website – be aware that you may need to observe at more than one location (hospital, skilled nursing facility and/or private/outpatient practice –refer to Eligibility Form)
- ❑ Contact a local physical therapy provider and tell them that you are inquiring if they will please allow you to observe their practice (facility of your choice)
- ❑ Include that you are a potential student to the PTA Program at SUNY Orange
- ❑ Remember to schedule each day as a **full 8-hour day**
- ❑ *Ask the facility for **exact** attire requirements. **Remember that you are representing yourself and the college***
- ❑ Make sure the clinician you are observing signs your observation form and verifies the hours you have observed

# Facility Requirements

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- In order to attend observations facilities may require the following:
  - Medical documentation of immunizations
  - Criminal background information
  - Drug screening
  - Additional immunizations/testing



# When observing:

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- ❑ Be on time if not early to observe
- ❑ Act in a polite and respectable manner to both the clinician and patient
- ❑ Ask pertinent questions regarding what you are viewing
- ❑ **DO NOT DISCUSS PATIENTS YOU OBSERVE WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN THE CLINICIAN YOU ARE OBSERVING**
- ❑ And remember – the clinicians you are observing volunteer their time to do so

# What should the essay be about?

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- ❑ Description of the site(s) observed
- ❑ Your impression of the field of physical therapy at each site
- ❑ Answer the following question: How and where do you see yourself in the field of physical therapy?
- ❑ Please do not include any information which would allow identification of the patients you observe (HIPPA)

# How should the essay look?

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- ❑ Remember that this is a chance to provide a first impression
- ❑ This must be a college level essay
- ❑ Grammar, typos, formatting will all be assessed
- ❑ The essay should be two pages, double-spaced, 11 or 12 font
- ❑ The heading should contain your full name, A number (if available), and DOB

# **REMEMBER:**

*Any and all paperwork should be sent or brought into Admissions*



# The selection process:

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- ❑ Students will be considered for admission in the program based on the completion of academic coursework and program specific requirements, highest combination of cumulative GPA and credits completed towards the program, quality of observation and essay and seats available.
- ❑ Students must meet all of the above requirements to be considered for admission into the program.

# The selection process:

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- Following the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, the Admissions Department and the Department Chairperson meet to review every candidate who successfully completes all components of the Admission process
- **Select** eligible candidates **may be invited** to interview with a panel of individuals from the PTA Program and Admissions
- Together a cohort consisting of the **most** eligible candidates is picked for the fall

# The selection process:

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- If seats remain empty following the first round of considerations, additional candidates will be considered and interviewed
- If all seats are filled, an alternate list will be established

# What can you expect if you are not accepted to the program?

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- If for some reason you are not offered a seat in the PTA Program you will receive a letter of denial
- This means that you may not have satisfied one or more of the following:
  - GPA of 2.0 or higher
  - Completion of all paperwork
  - Essay or observations are not satisfactory
- Or the candidates selected have achieved greater overall points within the selection process



# What can you expect if you are selected for admission to the Program?

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- If selected, you will receive information containing the following:
  - Welcome letter from Admissions and the Department Chairperson
  - Invitation with a date and time for a **mandatory** orientation to the fall – SAVE THE DATE (typically at the end of the Spring semester)
  - Health/Physical forms
  - Criminal Background Check information
  - Urine Drug Screening information
  - **Deadlines for completion of all aspects of acceptance will be contained within the packet**

# Criminal Background Checks and Drug Testing

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- ❑ Both criminal background checks and drug testing are mandatory requirements for all Health Professions candidates
- ❑ Information regarding pursuit and completion of criminal background check and urine drug screening will be provided once an applicant is offered a seat in the program.

# Criminal Records Policies:

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- ❑ An individual who has charges pending or has ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor and/or has been found guilty of professional misconduct or negligence may or may not be eligible to be licensed/certified as a health care professional in the State of New York
  - ❑ <http://www.op.nysed.gov/title8/part29.htm#pt>
- ❑ For additional information please contact:  
New York State's Education Department,  
Office of the Professions

# Drug Testing Policy

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- If a student is found to have negative drug screening results (have either illicit drugs found in their urine or too high of a prescribed medication in their urine) they will not be allowed to register for program classes and must wait a year before being able to undergo screening a second time
  - Other reapplication/eligibility requirements must be met should this situation occur
  - If the student is found to have a **second episode** of negative drug screening results they **will not be able to reapply** to the program

# Health forms/requirements:

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- ❑ ***ALL STUDENTS must have an ANNUAL physical examination and Mantoux test for Tuberculosis screening in order to meet New York State Hospital Code Requirements***
  - Additionally, proof of immunity/immunization is required of various infectious diseases.
- ❑ **ALL students must be able to fulfill the following physical requirements: Lift 50 pounds off the ground, carry 25 pounds and transfer a 150-pound patient with maximal assistance**

## FYI: *Additional costs to the program:*

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- ❑ In addition to tuition, textbooks and related fees, the PTA Program requires students to pay additional monies toward the following, including but not limited to: transportation costs to clinic, blood pressure cuff and stethoscope, analog watch, name tag, national boards and certification, annual physical, drug testing and criminal background check, possible lab coat and additional study aids
- ❑ For a complete listing of fees please refer to the most current PTA Program Student Handbook located on the PTA website

**Eligible/select candidates may  
be invited to interview with a  
panel of Program faculty and  
Admissions representatives.**



Interviews will occur during the  
month of March.

Barring any delays; acceptance  
decisions will be made at the end  
of March/early April.

# *Any Questions:*

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- Please address any additional questions regarding eligibility and acceptance to:
  
- Dr. Maria Harjes, PT\*
  - Department Chair, PTA Program
  - [mariaharjes@sunyorange.edu](mailto:mariaharjes@sunyorange.edu) \*
  - (845) 341 – 4290

**\* For prompt responses email contact preferred**