

**JACKSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

Introduction

Physical therapy is a health profession whose primary purpose is the promotion of optimal health and function. This purpose is accomplished through the application of scientific principles to the processes of examination, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention to prevent or remediate impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities as related to movement and health. (American Physical Therapy Association, 1999) The physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a technically educated health care provider who assists the physical therapist in the provision of physical therapy. Although the ultimate responsibility for physical therapy services rests with the physical therapist (PT), the partnership between the PT and PTA is a key ingredient to success in the physical therapy environment. The PTA is a graduate of a physical therapist assistant associate degree program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE, 2000). PTAs may perform many aspects of patient care as delegated by the PT. The degree of delegation and supervision is dependent on the education and experience of the PTA. The interventions that PTAs may administer include, but are not limited to, balance and gait training, therapeutic exercise, hydrotherapy and other modalities, and patient education. See www.apta.org for more information on the PTA career.

Program Length

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Jackson State requires twenty-one (21) months to complete and entails five semesters of study including one summer term once a student is officially accepted into the program. Students begin the program's coursework in the fall semester following notification of program admission. The program's overall curriculum combines basic science, general education and technical courses on campus, and clinic education at various hospitals and healthcare facilities in the surrounding West Tennessee area. The majority of the clinical training occurs during the last semester of the program.

Admission

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program has specific admission requirements because of its limited annual enrollment. Students seeking admission to the PTA Program must submit an application for admission to Jackson State Community College and a separate application for admission to the program.

The program application must be submitted by the June 1st deadline. Applications are considered for one application period only. Preference is given to Tennessee residents who are eligible for admission if applications exceed the number of available positions.

Admission Criteria

To be considered for admission, the following criteria must be met:

1. Obtain regular and current admission status to JSCC (for the fall semester). Applicants should contact the JSCC Admissions Office for the college's application procedures and requirements. All required learning support coursework must be completed in order for a student to be eligible to apply for the PTA Program.
2. Submit a completed PTA Program application by June 1 of the desired year of entry. The program's application is available in the Allied Health department at JSCC or at the PTA Program's web pages.
3. Fulfill the following academic requirements (an Application Criteria Points Calculation Worksheet is attached):

- Have an ACT Math score of 19, English score of 18, and Reading score of 19 or the equivalent as determined by the JSCC Admissions Office OR have completed all required learning support competencies as applicable. **ACT scores of 21 or above are preferred but not required.**
 - **Have had high school algebra I and II or the college level equivalent** (see above if applicable).
 - **Have had high school biology or the college level equivalent** (one semester of college general biology.)
 - Have a minimum high school GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale if ≤ 9 college credits OR an overall college GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (excluding learning support coursework). A grade of a "C" or better is required in all PTA degree coursework including the general education coursework that may be taken prior to applying to the program.
 - Additional college level science coursework is preferred but not required. A college level course in Medical Terminology is also highly recommended but not required.
 - **It is recommended that students complete some or all the general education courses required for the PTA degree before applying to the program in order to be competitive in the applicant pool. This curriculum should include Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Physical Science I, English Composition I, General Psychology, Fundamentals of Speech, and a Humanities elective.**
4. Submit most recent official transcripts of high school and/or all college(s) to the JSCC Admissions Office by the application deadline. **An official or unofficial copy of all transcripts must be submitted with the PTA Program application (this includes current JSCC students).** Applicants should not assume that transcripts will be forwarded to the PTA Program from the Admissions or Records Office.
5. Submit documentation of a cumulative total of twenty-four (24) hours of observation in at least two physical therapy departments/settings and/or documentation of physical therapy technician experience (see the program's Observation Verification Form for specific information). NOTE: Students with physical therapy technician experience must also obtain at least 12 observation hours in ONE additional setting and submit verification of this on the program's form. The form for this documentation and further information about obtaining observation hours is available in the Allied Health department at JSCC and on the PTA Program's web pages. **This experience must have been completed within one year prior to the submission of the current application.**
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange these observation experiences. The completed observation form should be forwarded to the PTA Program by the attending clinician. It is recommended that the applicant obtain a copy to submit along with their application.
6. Personal interviews will be scheduled for those applicants who best meet or exceed the minimum requirements. The number of applicants interviewed will not exceed three times the number of available positions. Interviews will be scheduled by the program director and will be held on the JSCC Jackson campus during early to mid-June.
7. Students who are accepted into the program will be required to have updated documentation by a healthcare provider of physical examination and immunization records (a form for this will be provided by the program after the official notification of acceptance). Students will be required to submit to drug testing and criminal background checks for the clinical portion of the program per the clinical affiliates' guidelines and stipulations. Inappropriate findings or results may compromise the student's clinical placement and/or program status.

Applicants whose applications were received by the deadline will be notified in writing of their acceptance status by July 1.

The rubric demonstrating the application criteria point system by which applicants are ranked is attached at the end of this document.

Curriculum and Degree

The curriculum for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant consists of both academic and technical courses leading to the achievement of 66 semester hours.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at JSCC is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE*) of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

*The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education

Department of Accreditation

American Physical Therapy Association

1111 North Fairfax Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone: 703-706-3245

Website: www.apta.org/CAPTE

Upon successful completion of the program, the student will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree from Jackson State Community College.

Technical Standards and Essential Functions

The [Essential Functions](#) document of the program describes the physical, behavior, and cognitive abilities needed to successfully complete the physical therapist assistant curriculum and to competently perform as a PTA upon graduation. These essential functions include but are not limited to: critical thinking abilities, interpersonal abilities, communication skills, physical and motor abilities, and visual, auditory, and tactile abilities. Further information can be found on the program's web site or obtained from the PTA office.

Professional Credentialing and Licensure

Upon successful completion of the PTA Program requirements, graduates are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). Individuals who practice as physical therapist assistants in the state of Tennessee must be licensed by the Board of Physical Therapy, a division of the Tennessee Department of Health. For more specific information regarding licensure, contact the PTA Program director.

For Further Information Contact:

Jane David, PT, DPT, MS

PTA Program Director, Allied Health Department

Jackson State Community College

2046 N. Parkway

Jackson, TN 38301-3797

Phone: (731) 424-3520, ext. 214 or (731) 425-2612, or (800) 355-5722, ext. 214

Website: <http://www.jsc.edu/academics/disciplines/allied-health/physical-therapist-assistant.html>

Jackson State Community College does not discriminate on basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of educational services.

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
(ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE)
PROGRAM OF STUDY**

FIRST SEMESTER (FALL)

| | | | CREDIT HOURS |
|------|------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| BIOL | 2010 | Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 |
| PSCI | 1010 | Physical Science I | 4 |
| PTA | 105 | Introduction to Physical Therapy | 1 |
| PTA | 115 | Physical Therapy Procedures I | 4 |
| PTA | 140 | Functional Anatomy | <u>4</u> |
| | | | 17 |

SECOND SEMESTER (SPRING)

| | | | |
|------|------|--|----------|
| BIOL | 2020 | Anatomy and Physiology II | 4 |
| ENGL | 1010 | English Composition I | 3 |
| PTA | 120 | Physical Therapy Procedures II | 4 |
| PTA | 170 | Seminar I | 2 |
| PTA | 200 | Musculoskeletal Conditions & Treatment | <u>4</u> |
| | | | 17 |

SUMMER TERM

| | | | |
|------|------|------------------------|----------|
| SPCH | 1010 | Fundamentals of Speech | 3 |
| PTA | 190 | Clinical Education I | <u>3</u> |
| | | | 6 |

THIRD SEMESTER (FALL)

| | | | |
|------|------|--|----------|
| PTA | 230 | Neuromuscular Conditions and Treatment | 4 |
| PTA | 250 | Medical/Surgical Conditions and Treatment | 4 |
| PSYC | 1030 | General Psychology (former PSY 102 also meets the requirement) | 3 |
| | | Humanities Elective (MUS, ART, THEA, HUM) | <u>3</u> |
| | | | 14 |

FOURTH SEMESTER (SPRING)

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----------|
| PTA | 270 | Seminar II | 2 |
| PTA | 290 | Clinical Education II | <u>10</u> |
| | | | 12 |

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 66

***Any of the non-PTA courses may be taken prior to applying to the program, and it is recommended that applicants do so in order to be competitive in the program's highly competitive applicant pool. Completion of this coursework does not, however, alter the above PTA specific course schedule once the student is accepted into the program.**

Revised 08/2015 JD

