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 <u>admission requirements</u> because of its limited annual enrollment. Students seeking admission to the PTA Program must submit an application for admission to Jackson State Community College <u>and</u> 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:

- 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. Complete the PTA Program's electronic application and submit all required materials by June 1 of the desired year of entry. The program's application can be accessed on the <u>PTA Program's Admissions Information page</u> or at https://healthsciences.jscc.edu/login.php.
- 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 (Accuplacer score of 250 or higher) <u>OR</u> have completed all required learning support competencies as applicable. ACT scores of 21 or above are preferred but not required.
 - Have a minimum high school GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale if ≤ 9 college credits <u>OR</u> an overall college GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (excluding learning support coursework). <u>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. Grades in repeated courses in PTA degree coursework are averaged.</u>

JSCC PTA Program PTA Program

 Additional college level science coursework*, such as General Biology, is recommended but not required. College level courses in Medical Terminology (HSC 111) and Human Pathophysiology (HSC 190) are also highly recommended but not required.

- It is strongly recommended that students complete some or all the general education courses required for the PTA degree before applying to the program in order for the applicant to be competitive in the applicant pool, including HSC 111. This curriculum should include Anatomy and Physiology I and II*, Principles of Physical Science*, English Composition I, General Psychology, Fundamentals of Communication, and a Humanities elective.

 * Only college level 4 credit hour science coursework with a grade of a "C" or better taken within the last five years will be considered during the application analysis.
- 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 uploaded 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 <u>at least two</u> physical therapy departments/settings and/or documentation of physical therapy technician experience (see the program's <u>Observation Verification Form</u> 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 on the PTA Program's web pages. This experience must have been completed within one year prior to the submission of the current application. This evidence must be uploaded with the PTA Program 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. <u>In addition, the applicant must obtain a signed copy to upload along with their application.</u>
- 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. Interviews are conducted by clinical faculty and other area clinicians. Applicants are judged in relation to the following: 1) knowledge of the physical therapy profession and the PTA career, 2) motivation and commitment for learning, 3) interpersonal and communication skills, 4) critical thinking abilities, and 5) professional behaviors. Poor performance on the interview overall may result in an applicant not being considered for admission despite other application findings.
- 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 70 (effective Fall 2018) semester hours. See page 3 for the purposed program of study.

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 <u>Essential Functions</u> 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: Felicia Ingram, PT, DPT Asst Professor, PTA Program Director 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.jscc.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 EFECTIVE FALL 2018

FIRST SEMESTER (FALL)		CREDIT HOURS
BIOL 2010 PSCI 1010 PTAT 2200 PTAT 2460 PTAT 2410	Anatomy and Physiology I (See note below) Principles of Physical Science Introduction to Physical Therapy Patient Care Skills for the PTA Kinesiology for the PTA	4 4 2 4 4 4 18
SECOND SEMESTER	(SPRING)	
BIOL 2020 ENGL 1010 PTAT 2440 PTAT 2370 PTAT 2510	Anatomy and Physiology II English Composition I Biophysical Agents for the PTA Professional Development for the PTA Musculoskeletal Conditions & Treatment for the PTA	4 3 4 3 <u>5</u> 19
SUMMER TERM		
COMM 2025 PTAT 2492 THIRD SEMESTER (I	Fundamentals of Communication Integrated Clinical Education FALL)	3 4 7
PTAT 2520 PTAT 2530 PSYC 1030 Humanities Elec	Neuromuscular Conditions and Treatment for the PTA Medical Surgical Conditions and Treatment for the PTA General Psychology ctive (MUS, ART, THEA, HUM, PHIL)	5 5 3 <u>3</u> 16
FOURTH SEMESTER	(SPRING)	
PTAT 2280 PTAT 2493 PTAT 2494	Seminar for the PTA Terminal Clinical Education I Terminal Clinical Education II	2 4 <u>4</u> 10
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	70

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. Only college level 4 credit hour science coursework with a grade of a "C" or better taken within the last five years of the application year will be considered. Completion of this coursework does not, however, alter the above PTA specific course schedule once the student is accepted into the program.

Revised 01/2022 JD

JACKSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM APPLICATION CRITERIA POINTS CALCULATION WORKSHEET

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program uses an objective point system to select each class. The following point calculation system is

Criterion	Description	Point Calculation					Points	
PTA Program GPA	The grade point average considered during applicant ranking is that achieved	Course	Grade*	X	Credit Hours	Quality Points	Program GPA Points =	
(Note: Cumulative college GPA must be a minimum of a 2.5 for application consideration.)	with the required program courses only. A minimum grade of "C" is required in all of these courses. Note that remedial coursework must be completed, if applicable, prior to applying to the program. If the applicant does not have college work the high school GPA (overall score) will be considered and this GPA must also be at least a 2.5. Repeated coursework grades are averaged during the analysis process. Only college level 4 credit hour science coursework with a grade of a "C" or better taken within the last five years will	A&P I		Х	4	=	Tonks	
		A&P II		X	4	=		
		PSCI		X	4	=		
		ENG		X	3	=	<u>OR</u>	
		PSYC		X	3	=		
		COMM		X	3	=		
		HUM		X	3	=		
			Total	-		=		
		*A = 1 B =	3 C=2					
		*A = 4, B = 3, C = 2 Total Quality Points / Total Credit Hours = GPA High School Overall Score (Dual Credit must be ≥ 10						
	be considered.	hours to be considered in above:						
2. Science Course	The PTA required science courses are A&P I, A&P II, and PSCI 1010. Two points for each of these completed courses is possible. Two additional	Course Points			Science Course			
Points		A&P I					Points	
**Two points may also be added for successful completion		A&P II				-		
	points are possible for successful completion of college level Medical	PSCI						
of a college level	Terminology and Human Pathophy.	Med Term	n**					
course in Medical	Two points may be added for each	Human Pa	athophy**					
Terminology and/or Human	additional science course beyond those required for the program.	Trainen 1	athophy	_				
Pathophysiology.	Examples include:			_				
	General Biology I and II, General							
	Chemistry I and II, General Physics I and							
	II, Physical Science II, and Microbiology. Only college level 4 credit hour science							
	coursework with a grade of a "C" or							
	better taken within the last five years will be considered.	To	tal					
3. Science GPA	The grade point average for the program required science courses is additionally considered.	Course	Grade*	X	Credit Hours	Quality Points	Science GPA Points	
		A&P I		Х	4	=		
		A&P II		Х	4	=		
		PSCI		Х	4	=		
	<u>OR</u>		Total			=	OR	
	For students with no prior college credit	*A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0						
	the ACT score is considered.	Total Quality Points / Total Credit Hours = GPA No college credit: ACT score						
4. Other Application	Applicants should thoroughly complete	 Full Admission to JSCC (1 point) Transcripts included from ALL HS and/or college work including JSCC (2 points) Observation of 24 hours in at least 2 physical therapy settings ACT score ≥ 21 (10 additional points) Interviews are limited to the top ranking applicants. Applicants are scored on a 1 to 5 scale by the interview team utilizing 					Fully	
Criteria – Additional points may be	the program application and the required						admitted to	
poinis may be achieved through	essay. All other required information (see Application Check List) should be attached to the application upon submission. The application submission deadline is June 1.						JSCC Transcripts	
these criteria items							attached	
(see points as listed							Observation	
in column 3).							forms submitted	
							ACT ≥21	
		the following criteria: Knowledge,				SUBTOTAL:		
		Motivation, Communication, Critical thinking, Composure (35 max points) 6. Essay (3 max points, only top ranking applicants' essays are considered)						
							Essay Interview	
							micerview	
				-		•	TOTAL:	