

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA) ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

Graduates of this accredited program are prepared to perform physical therapy treatments and related duties under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.

This program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Email: accreditation@apta.org; Phone: (703) 706-3245; Website: www.captetonline.org.

To graduate, students must achieve a minimum grade of 75% in all coursework.

Graduates must take the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) to practice as physical therapist assistants in many states, Illinois included. Licensure in Illinois is controlled by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation, 320 West Washington St., Springfield, IL 62786; (217) 785-0800 or (217) 782-8556; www.idfpr.com. Applicants with a conviction for a felony or misdemeanor may have difficulty obtaining a PTA license in Illinois. It is each student's responsibility to determine whether he/she is in compliance with criteria for state licensure. Graduation from this program does not guarantee a passing score on the NPTE for the PTA. Prior to the start of clinical internships students will be required to undergo a background check and physical exam. A social security number is required to comply with the criminal background check.

The deadline for submission of a complete application to the PTA program is February 1st.

Requirements for admission are:

- High school diploma or High School Equivalency (GED/HISET/TASC), official transcripts required. (Foreign transcripts must be evaluated by ECE or WES and show equivalency to a US high school diploma.)
- Completion of 30 hours of observation in two different physical therapy clinical settings with a minimum of 10 hours in each setting (inpatient, outpatient, skilled nursing, pediatrics and/or industrial rehab). One setting MUST be outpatient and one setting MUST be inpatient.
- Completion of MAT 084 or MAT 093 with a grade of "P" or place into MAT 085/095 on the Math Placement Test taken at Morton College.
- Participation in an interview for inclusion and exclusion purposes with the PTA Program Admissions Committee. Interviews will be scheduled after February 1. An essay will be required to be written on the day of the interview.
- Two letters of recommendation are required.
- Completion of preadmission course work, as follows, with a grade of "C" or better within five years of acceptance into the program. All prerequisites are to be completed before the February 1 application deadline:

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- ENG 101. If ENG 101 was taken more than five years prior to admission into the PTA Program, the student may satisfy this requirement by taking the English Placement Test at Morton College and placing into ENG 101.
- BIO 152 or equivalent five credit hour Anatomy and Physiology course. (within 5 years of beginning the program)
- PHY 100 or equivalent 3 hour Fundamentals of Physics course. (Within 5 years of beginning the program)
- PHT 101 or equivalent two credit hour Medical Terminology course. (within 5 years of beginning the program)
- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to be considered for the program.

Applicants to the PTA program must meet with an admissions healthcare advisor before the February 1 deadline to review pre-admission course work.

Admission into the PTA Program is selective. All prerequisite course work and other admission requirements must be met before final acceptance. Preference is given to in-district residents and residents from districts that have a current Joint Agreement with Morton College. Complete applications received and meeting the program requirements by the February 1 deadline will be considered subject to program capacity. Applications do not rollover to the following year.

All General Education courses must be completed with a 'C' or better.

Students will be readmitted only once to the PTA Program. Readmission is not guaranteed.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the program, the graduate will be able to:

- Participate as an effective member of the health care team.
- Carry out technical aspects of clinical work within a plan of care established by a physical therapist, in a safe, ethical and competent manner that reflects entry level performance skills.
- Communicate and interact with patient / client, family members, caregivers, other members of the community and members of a multidisciplinary health care team in an effective, appropriate and capable manner.
- Demonstrate the ability to respond appropriately during patient / client emergencies and untoward events.
- Competently perform data collection to measure a patient/ client's response to treatment interventions and complete timely, accurate and legal documentation of patient care.
- Utilize critical thinking skills and problem solving to progress, modify and /or with hold interventions based on patient status as determined through observation, data collection and problem solving skills.
- Demonstrate actions, approaches and values consistent with the expected roles, responsibilities and duties of a licensed physical therapist assistant practicing under the supervision and direction of a licensed physical therapist.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Assume responsibility for professional judgment and ethics.
- Recognize the need for continued personal and professional growth to ensure competence in current practices of physical therapy.
- Demonstrate achievement of the requirements for the Associate in Applied Science Degree as determined by Morton College.
- Pass the NPTE for licensure within their chosen state.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA)

COURSE SEQUENCE

PRE-ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS			CREDIT HOURS
ENG	101*	Rhetoric I	3
PHT	101*	Medical Terminology for Clinicians	2
PSY	101**	Introduction to Psychology	3
BIO	152*	Anatomy and Physiology (Therapies).....	5
PHY	100*	Fundamentals of Physics	3
**Humanities general education requirement			3
			Total 18

FIRST SEMESTER

PHT	111	Patient Management I: Basic Skills for the PTA.....	2
PHT	112	Principles of Practice I: Introduction to Physical Therapy	2
PHT	113	Introduction to Disease.....	2
PHT	114	Fundamentals of Kinesiology I	4
PHT	105	Therapeutic Modalities I	1
ENG	102**	Rhetoric II	
OR			
SPE	101**	Principles of Public Speaking	3
			Total 14

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SECOND SEMESTER

PHT	115	Fundamentals of Kinesiology II	4
PHT	117	Patient Management II: Tests and Measurements	2
PHT	122	Therapeutic Exercise	2
PHT	123	Systems and Interventions I: Orthopedics	3
PHT	124	Introduction to Clinical Education	2
PHT	125	Therapeutic Modalities II	1

Total 14

THIRD SEMESTER

PSY	210**	Child Growth and Development	
	OR		
PSY	215**	Life Span: Survey of Human Development	3
PHT	212	Systems and Interventions II: Neurology	3
PHT	217	Clinical Internship I	3
PHT	218	Systems and Interventions III: Cardiovascular, Pulmonary and Integumentary Management	2
PHT	219	Special Populations: Pediatrics and Geriatrics	2

Total 13

FOURTH SEMESTER

PHT	220	Advanced Physical Therapy Techniques	3
PHT	222	Seminar in Health Care Literature	2
PHT	224	Principles of Practice II: Professional Issues in PT	2
PHT	225	Clinical Affiliations II & III	5

Total 12

Overall Total 72

NOTES:

*Indicates Program Prerequisites

**These courses fulfill the AAS general education requirements for graduation.

The Health/Fitness general education requirement is met, as the required material is covered in the PTA program.

A fee for malpractice insurance is required.

Students enrolled in the PTA program are subject to the current policies and procedures in the Physical Therapist Assistant Student Handbook.