

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA)

(Wallace Campus)

The associate in applied science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is designed to provide general education and physical therapy courses. Physical Therapist Assistant courses are designed to apply learning acquired in the general education courses and to provide knowledge and skills that fulfill the objectives of the PTA program.

The program is designed to be completed in five terms. Coursework is progressive, requiring a grade of *C* or higher in each PTA and required general education course. The College requires a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all coursework to graduate from any program.

Clinical experiences are a critical part of the PTA curriculum and as such are integrated into the didactic portion of the program. Clinical experiences are provided in a variety of settings, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, private offices, rehabilitation agencies, and schools. Faculty members consider each student's educational needs as well as personal factors in making clinical assignments.

On successful completion of the program, students are awarded an associate in applied science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant and are eligible to apply for the state licensing examination, which must be passed before being eligible to practice. The licensing examination in Alabama and many other states will also include a specific test on jurisprudence issues for that state.

PTA students are required to comply with legal, moral, and legislative standards in accordance with Rule No. 700-X-2-02 of the *Alabama State Board of Physical Therapy Administrative Code*, which states the following:

The Board shall refuse licensure to any applicant who is of other than good moral character. The determination as to what constitutes other than good moral character and reputation shall be solely within the judgment of the Board. Each applicant shall be required to submit references from two professional sources addressing, but not being limited to, moral character. These references shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Board and shall be mailed to the executive director. Grounds for refusal may include, but are not limited to: (1) history of using drugs or intoxicating liquors to an extent that affects professional competency, (2) conviction of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude, (3) attempt to obtain or obtaining a license by fraud or deception, (4) guilty of conduct unbecoming a person registered as a physical therapist or licensed as a physical therapist assistant or of conduct detrimental to the best interest of the public, and (5) conviction of violating any state or federal narcotic law.

It is important for PTA students to be knowledgeable of all Alabama Board of Physical Therapy regulations regarding the review of candidates for eligibility both for initial and continuing licensure. Questions on the application for licensure address these rules. Application to take the examination may be denied on the

basis of this review. Although these policies refer specifically to Alabama, other states have similar stipulations regarding licensure.

Students must comply with the *Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook* section of this catalog and the *PTA Student Handbook*. Failure to comply with any of the stipulations above while enrolled in the PTA program will constitute grounds for dismissal from the program.

ACCREDITATION

The PTA program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education. (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314, (703) 706-3245, accreditation@apta.org, www.capteonline.org. Accreditation was initially granted in May of 1997. Current accreditation extends through June 2024.

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

A student who completes all courses in the curriculum will be awarded an associate in applied science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant.

ADMISSION

Program requirements for health programs offered within the Alabama Community College System may be reviewed and revised between publication deadlines for this and future *College Catalog and Student Handbook* document. Admission requirements below were in effect at the time this document was published and may or may not be current. Prospective students should contact the program office to obtain requirement updates.

Students are admitted to the PTA program without discrimination regarding race, sexual orientation, age, creed, gender, marital status, religion, national origin, or disability. Applicants must meet College and program requirements for admission. Admission packets for the program are available in March of each year on the Wallace Campus in Dothan or accessed online through the program's Web page. Applicants will be ranked for admission based on grades earned in academic courses required for the program and scores earned on the *ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills, Version V* (TEAS-V). The applicant will incur the cost of the TEAS-V. Scores received on the TEAS-V are good for three years from the testing date. Additional points are awarded for previously earned Associates or higher degrees from regionally accredited institutions. Wallace Community College complies with *The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*. Students who have a disability and require accommodation in taking the TEAS-V examination should contact Disability Support Services on the Wallace Campus in Dothan. If accommodation is not requested in advance, on-site availability cannot be guaranteed.

To be eligible for acceptance into the PTA program, applicants must be eligible for enrollment in or have already completed BIO 201, ENG 101, and MTH 100 at the time of application. Applicants

enrolled in courses prerequisite to the above may receive conditional acceptance. Failure to complete prerequisite courses will result in withdrawal of acceptance. All general education courses must be taken in the order outlined by the program or be completed prior to admission.

Applicants must submit a complete application packet by the established deadline in order to be considered for admission to the program. Further information regarding admission is provided in the Physical Therapist Assistant program admission packet.

After conditional admission into the program, students must submit evidence of a physical examination that includes required immunizations and tests and documents their ability to perform all essential functions identified for this program. A copy of the essential functions is available from the PTA program office and published on the College website, www.wallace.edu. Reasonable accommodations will be considered.

Students must meet ALL deadlines for the admission process; otherwise, applications will not be considered.

Contractual agreements between the College and clinical agencies impose additional requirements on students enrolled in health programs. These requirements may include, but are not limited to, the areas of attire, confidentiality, criminal background check, liability insurance, and substance abuse screening. Health insurance coverage is strongly recommended as the expense for treatment of injury suffered during training is the responsibility of the student. Any student denied clinical privileges or having clinical privileges revoked by a healthcare facility due to positive background findings or clinical misconduct is not eligible for program admission or readmission.

PROGRESSION

Students are allowed to progress in the PTA program only if they satisfy the following requirements:

1. Maintain a *C* or higher in all general education, orientation, and field of concentration courses in the PTA degree curriculum.
2. Comply with clinical affiliates and PTA program regulations, policies, and procedures.
3. Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all coursework prior to graduation.

READMISSION

Students who break enrollment in PTA program courses, whether by personal choice or inability to progress per program policy, can reapply for admission the following academic year at the point in the program when the suspension occurred. Written notification of intent to reapply must be received by the Program Director no later than mid-term of the semester prior to the one the student desires to enter. For example, a student who withdraws during Spring Semester 2014 and desires to re-enter the program Spring Semester 2015 must submit a written request prior to mid-term Fall Semester 2014. Program or course remediation may be required depending on the student's GPA and the stage of the program at which the curriculum break occurs. Readmission may be limited by availability of openings. Only one program readmission is allowed.

Students who break enrollment more than once or fail to return to the program within a 12 month timeframe must apply and compete for admission as a new program student. All students applying for readmission must follow admission and progression guidelines in effect at the time of readmission.

AUDIT

Effective September 12, 2012 there shall be no auditing allowed for any Health Science classes.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Transfer students previously enrolled in other PTA programs are evaluated on an individual basis by the PTA faculty and the Office of Admissions and Records to determine appropriate placement. Validation examinations may be required. Transfer students must apply no later than mid-term prior to the term in which they expect to enroll. Acceptance may be limited by availability of openings.

All PTA courses apply only to requirements of the AAS degree in Physical Therapist Assistant, not AA or AS degrees.

GRADING SCALE

PTA-prefix courses will be evaluated using the following grading scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	75-79
D	60-74
F	59 and below

DEGREE CURRICULUM

Before completing this program, students must prove competency in computer applications. Students who fail to demonstrate adequate competency in Computer Science by passing a computer competency exam must successfully complete CIS 146 with a grade of C or higher.

<i>Course</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
Required General Education Courses	26
Area I: Written and Oral Communications	6
ENG 101 English Composition I	3
SPH 106 Fundamentals of Oral Communication OR	
SPH 107 Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
Area II: Humanities and Fine Arts	3
Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3
Area III: Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science	11
BIO 201* Human Anatomy and Physiology	4
BIO 202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
MTH 100 Intermediate College Algebra	3
Area IV: History, Social and Behavioral Sciences	6
PSY 200 General Psychology	3
PSY 210 Human Growth and Development	3

***Prerequisite: BIO 103 or placement in BIO 201 on the Alabama Community College System Biology Placement Exam.**

****All general education courses must be completed by the end of the third term to avoid conflict with clinical coursework.**

Area V: Career and Technical Courses	50
Required Orientation Courses	2
ORI 101 Orientation to College OR	
ORI 105 Orientation and Student Success	1-3
ORI 104 WorkKeys® Assessment and Advisement	1
Required Field of Concentration Courses	48
PTA 100 Introduction to Physical Therapy	2
PTA 180 Medical Terminology	1
PTA 200 PT Issues and Trends	2
PTA 201 PTA Seminar	2
PTA 202 PTA Communication Skills	2
PTA 204 PTA Forum	1
PTA 210 Introduction to Physical Therapy Clinic	1
PTA 220 Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology	3
PTA 222 Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology Lab	2
PTA 230 Neuroscience	2
PTA 231 Rehabilitation Techniques	2
PTA 232 Orthopedics for the PTA	2
PTA 240 Physical Disabilities I	2
PTA 241 Physical Disabilities II	2
PTA 250 Therapeutic Procedures I	4
PTA 251 Therapeutic Procedures II	4
PTA 253 Therapeutic Procedures III	4
PTA 263 Clinical Affiliation I	3
PTA 268 Clinical Practicum	5
PTA 290 Therapeutic Exercise	1
PTA 293 Directed Study for PTA	1
Total Credits for Degree	76

***Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Life Support (BCLS) at the healthcare provider level is required prior to the fourth week of semester one. This may be obtained at the College by enrollment in EMS 100 or at any other approved agency or facility. A copy of successful completion must be presented, and certification must remain current during the entire program of study. Tuberculin skin test requirements must be updated annually. On-line certification without hands-on skills sessions is not acceptable.**

**Physical Therapist Assistant
Associate in Applied Science Degree
Suggested Course Sequence—Year Two**

FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER
PTA 204	PTA 200
PTA 230	PTA 201
PTA 241	PTA 231
PTA 253	PTA 268
PTA 263	PTA 293

***BIO 103 or a satisfactory score on the Alabama Community College System Biology Placement Exam is a prerequisite.**

****Or current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation at the health care provider level.**

*****ORI 101 or ORI 105 or transfer credit for an orientation to college course is required for all students.**

******Or competency in Computer Science by passing a computer competency exam. Students who fail to prove competency must complete CIS 146 with a grade of C or higher.**

**Physical Therapist Assistant
Associate in Applied Science Degree
Suggested Course Sequence—Year One**

FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	THIRD SEMESTER
BIO 201*	BIO 202	CIS 146****
ENG 101	PSY 210	PTA 210
EMS 100**	PSY 200	PTA 232
MTH 100 or higher	PTA 202	PTA 240
ORI 101 or 105***	PTA 222	PTA 251
ORI 104	PTA 250	PTA 290
PTA 100	SPH 106 or 107	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective
PTA 180		
PTA 220		