FSCJ Florida State College at Jacksonville

Additional Admissions Information

# Physical Therapist Assistant (A.S.)

1. For new students, complete an online application to the College by the review deadline. For existing students, complete a Program Plan Change if Physical Therapist Assistant is not your Active Program of study.
2. Submit all official non-FSCJ transcripts to the College when applying and prior to the review deadline date.
3. Complete the Prerequisite Courses.
4. Complete the **HESI A2 Admissions Test**. If the HESI A2 test was taken at FSCJ, no action is required. Your scores will be automatically submitted. Otherwise, ensure official scores are on file with the FSCJ Assessment Center before the review deadline.
5. Submit the signed **Core Performance Standards** form, located at the end of this document.
6. Submit the completed **Clinical Observation Verification Form**, located at the end of this document.
7. Complete the following **after** acceptance into the professional phase of the program:
    - Ten-panel drug screening*
    - Level two background screening with fingerprints
8. The following must be completed **after** the program orientation:
    - Medical physical
    - Immunization records and communicable disease screening
    - Healthcare provider CPR certification (American Heart Association ONLY)

## Health Education Systems Admission Test (HESI A2)

A completed HESI A2 admission test is required, consisting of nine sub-tests that must be completed in one sitting. A minimum score of 60% in Anatomy & Physiology is required for admission. Scores will be considered official if they meet the following:

- Applicant has taken all 9 categories in one sitting
- The test was taken within the last 2 years
- Submitted to the FSCJ Assessment Center before the application deadline

The HESI assessment can only be taken after every 91 days up to three times a year.

* Affiliated clinical agencies follow federal regulations and do not accept students with positive drug screening results of any kind. This includes marijuana, regardless of whether an applicant possesses a valid medical marijuana card. Applicants with a positive drug screening result will be ineligible for admission to the program.

If you have Questions about the HESI A2 and submitting your official scores, please email north_testing@fscj.edu or call 904-713-6014.

## Application Addendums

Submit all supporting documents to the Health Sciences department at HCIC@fscj.edu by the review deadline, with the following information included in the email:

- Student's **program of study**, **term**, and "**Attachment**" in the subject line
- Include the **student's name** and **student ID** in the body of the message
- Documents must be emailed as attachments

1. If you have at least three months of direct patient healthcare-related work experience, submit proof of employment as follows:
    - Completed by a company representative
    - Printed on company letterhead
    - Specify dates of employment
    - Detailed healthcare-related duties performed
    - Indicate the number of hours worked per week
2. If you served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces, submit a copy of your DD214.

## Competitive Review Process

Applicants must earn a grade of C or better in each prerequisite course and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. Completion of General Education coursework will allow applicants to achieve additional points.

Students are ready for review upon completion of all admission criteria. The ranking rubric is included below. Please note that the admission process is highly competitive.

Students will be notified through their FSCJ Student email of their admissions status 4-6 weeks following the review deadline. Information regarding a student's admissions status will not be provided over the telephone.

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<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Physical Therapist Assistant Ranking Rubric</th><th>Max Points</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Minimum Cumulative GPA 2.5</td><td rowspan="5">20</td></tr>
<tr><th>Overall GPA</th><th>Points</th></tr>
<tr><td>2.5-2.99</td><td>10</td></tr>
<tr><td>3.0-3.49</td><td>15</td></tr>
<tr><td>>3.49</td><td>20</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">A grade of C or better in all PTA prerequisite courses</td><td rowspan="10">100</td></tr>
<tr><th>Course Grade</th><th>Points</th></tr>
<tr><td>A</td><td>20</td></tr>
<tr><td>B</td><td>15</td></tr>
<tr><td>C</td><td>10</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Prerequisite Courses:</td></tr>
<tr><th>Course Title</th><th>Course Code</th></tr>
<tr><td>Anatomy & Physiology I</td><td>BSC 2085C</td></tr>
<tr><td>Anatomy & Physiology II</td><td>BSC 2086C</td></tr>
<tr><td>Communications</td><td>ENC 1101, ENC1101C, or ENC 1102</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mathematics</td><td>MAC 1105 or higher, MAP 2302, MGF 1130, or STA 2023</td></tr>
<tr><td>Medical Terminology</td><td>HSC 1531</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">HESI A2</td><td rowspan="2">40</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">A complete HESI A2 administration is required and consists of nine (9) sub-tests that must be completed in one sitting.<br>Must take all 9 categories in one sitting.<br>• A minimum score of 60% in Anatomy & Physiology is required for admission.<br>Points are determined by the following formula: (Cumulative score + Anatomy and Physiology score)/2 = S1. S1 x 0.4 = Points</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Bonus Points</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Healthcare Experience (Direct Patient Care) or Military Experience</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Duration</td><td>Points</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td><3 months</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>3-6 months</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>6-9 months</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>9-12 months</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>>12 months</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Total Possible Points</td><td>170</td></tr>
</table>

## Course Transferability

As a regionally accredited college, FSCJ courses are transferable to many other institutions of higher learning. Numerous bachelor's degree completion programs are available for program graduates who wish to continue their education. Additional course information on transferability is available upon request.

## Transfer Students from Other Physical Therapist Assistant Programs

Due to the sequential nature of the Physical Therapist Assistant program and the pronounced differences that exist between programs at other colleges, Florida State College at Jacksonville discourages students from seeking to transfer to our program after having started their PTA studies at another institution.

## Students Requesting Reinstatement

No guarantee of reinstatement is offered to students who withdraw from the program for academic or personal reasons. Students requesting reinstatement after withdrawal from the Physical Therapist Assistant program will be considered on an individual basis by the Admission Committee. Students who are granted reinstatement will do so only after signing a contract describing the program’s behavioral and academic expectations for the readmitted student and the consequences of noncompliance.

## Reapplication Process

In the event you are not selected for entrance to the Physical Therapist Assistant program, you must reapply for the seat. There are no wait lists.

## Record of Conviction of a Crime

The Florida State Board of Physical Therapy, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Florida Division of Medical Quality Assurance, will determine a Physical Therapist Assistant student’s eligibility for licensure when there is an arrest/conviction record. Students are strongly encouraged to disclose any arrest/conviction record at the time of acceptance into the program.

## Criminal Background Check & Drug Screening Policy

Most clinical agencies require students to undergo drug screens and criminal background checks prior to placement in the agencies for clinical experiences. A student whose drug screening and criminal background checks are deemed unsatisfactory may be denied access to clinical experiences by the clinical agencies. Failure to qualify for and meet clinical requirements at all clinical sites will prevent completion of the program.

Withdrawal from the program will be necessary if students cannot be placed for clinical experiences. Some practice settings may have additional requirements, including health insurance, a volunteer application, references, fingerprinting and background check, drug testing, and/or an interview before the start of the clinical experience. The additional requirements are the responsibility of the student, including expenses. The cost of the background check(s) and drug screen(s) is borne by the student. Additionally, it is the student's responsibility to have all paperwork completed by the program's published deadline. Students who are unable to complete the clinical requirements after acceptance into selective access programs are not eligible for refunds of tuition.

Because of the serious nature of the relationship between students and patients, in which the safety of the patient is greatly influenced by the cognition and behavior of the student; it is the policy of the Physical Therapist Assistant program to request a urine and/or blood test immediately upon suspicion of substance abuse. If the test is positive for substances which can alter cognition, or the student refuses to be tested then the student will be recommended for dismissal. The student may apply for readmission with evidence of rehabilitation.

**Addendum:** Effective July 1, 2009, pursuant to Section 456.0635, Florida Statutes, healthcare review boards shall refuse to renew a license, certificate or registration, issue a license, certificate or registration and shall refuse to admit a candidate for examination if the applicant has been convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendre, regardless of adjudication, to a felony violation of: chapters 409 , 817 , or 893 , Florida Statutes; or 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970 or 42 U.S.C. ss 1395-1396 , unless the sentence and any probation or pleas ended more than 15 years prior to the application, terminated for cause from Florida Medicaid Program (unless the applicant has been in good standing for the most recent 5 years) or terminated for cause by any other State Medicaid Program or the Medicare Program (unless the termination was at least 20 years prior to the date of the application and the applicant has been in good standing with the program for the most recent 5 years). The Florida nursing or allied health licensure or certification application requires disclosure of any criminal history and the disposition of all cases prior to board review. Being convicted of, or having entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, any of the listed felonies in Florida Statute 456.0635 or termination for cause from the statutorily described Medicaid programs will preclude an applicant from obtaining a nursing or allied health license or certification in the state of Florida.

Entry and acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program does not guarantee licensure or certification in the State of Florida. Upon completion of coursework, Florida State College at Jacksonville does not guarantee employment or salary in a given field of study. Any jobs or salaries mentioned are given as examples of potential employment, not a representation of a guaranteed income.

## CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Florida State College at Jacksonville's Physical Therapist Assistant Program complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to qualified applicants.

To successfully complete the program, students must demonstrate the knowledge, psychomotor skills, clinical reasoning, professional behaviors, and clinical competencies necessary to safely and effectively perform the essential functions of an entry-level physical therapist assistant under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Candidates for admission, progression, and graduation must be able to meet these Core Performance Standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, throughout all classroom, laboratory, simulation, and clinical education experiences.

*The examples below are representative and are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all required activities.*

| Core Performance Standard | General Performance Statement | Representative Essential Functions |
|---|---|---|
| **Motor Skills** | Demonstrate the ability to perform the physical tasks necessary to safely provide physical therapist assistant interventions, including patient handling, mobility, and emergency response activities. | • Lift, carry, push, and pull **up to 50 pounds independently**<br>• Assist with heavier patient handling using safe body mechanics, assistive devices, or team assistance.<br>• Transfer, position, and guard patients<br>• Perform therapeutic exercise, gait training, stair training, balance, and functional mobility activities<br>• Perform CPR and emergency response procedures<br>• Perform goniometry, manual muscle testing, wound care, therapeutic taping, and application of physical agents<br>• Frequently bend, squat, kneel, crawl, climb, reach, push, pull, and stand for prolonged periods |

| Core Performance Standard | General Performance Statement | Representative Essential Functions |
|---|---|---|
| **Sensory Skills** | Demonstrate the ability to use visual, auditory, tactile, and proprioceptive abilities necessary to safely assess patient status and provide physical therapist assistant interventions. | • Observe posture, gait, skin integrity, edema, wounds, and movement quality<br>• Monitor equipment settings and alarms<br>• Palpate anatomical structures and tissue changes<br>• Detect changes in muscle tone, swelling, temperature, pulses, and joint movement<br>• Hear patient communication and emergency alarms |
| **Communication** | Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively, respectfully, and professionally with patients, families, caregivers, faculty, classmates, and members of the healthcare team. | • Communicate effectively with patients, families, faculty, classmates, and healthcare professionals<br>• Explain procedures and provide patient education<br>• Document accurately in written and electronic formats<br>• Use appropriate medical terminology<br>• Collaborate effectively with the supervising PT and healthcare team |
| **Clinical Reasoning & Cognitive Skills** | Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking, problem solving, sound clinical judgment, and decision-making necessary to safely implement delegated physical therapist interventions. | • Follow multi-step instructions<br>• Prioritize patient care activities<br>• Recognize changes in patient status<br>• Modify delegated interventions within the PTA scope of practice<br>• Calculate treatment parameters<br>• Interpret documentation<br>• Apply classroom knowledge to clinical situations |

| Core Performance Standard | General Performance Statement | Representative Essential Functions |
|---|---|---|
| **Professional Behaviors** | Demonstrate the ability to consistently exhibit professional, ethical, responsible, and accountable behaviors expected of an entry-level physical therapist assistant student. | • Demonstrate accountability and integrity<br>• Demonstrate personal responsibility and accountability for one's own learning and performance<br>• Accept constructive feedback<br>• Maintain confidentiality<br>• Arrive prepared and on time<br>• Demonstrate sound judgment<br>• Adapt to stressful situations<br>• Demonstrate cultural humility<br>• Function as a member of an interprofessional healthcare team |
| **Behavioral & Emotional Stability** | Demonstrate the ability to maintain the emotional stability, resilience, and interpersonal skills necessary to provide safe patient care and function effectively in academic and clinical environments. | • Maintain composure in stressful situations<br>• Respond appropriately during emergencies<br>• Manage multiple competing demands<br>• Demonstrate empathy and compassion<br>• Establish and maintain professional therapeutic relationships<br>• Work effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds<br>• Demonstrate flexibility and resilience when faced with unexpected situations<br>• Regulate emotions and behaviors in challenging academic and clinical environments |
| **Environmental Tolerance** | Demonstrate the ability to function safely and effectively in a variety of healthcare environments and working conditions. | • Tolerate prolonged standing, walking, lifting, and repetitive movement<br>• Work in environments with temperature variations, odors, and cleaning agents<br>• Tolerate exposure to blood and body fluids using appropriate precautions<br>• Function effectively in noisy, fast-paced clinical environments<br>• Wear required personal protective equipment (PPE) |

| Core Performance Standard | General Performance Statement | Representative Essential Functions |
|---|---|---|
| **Infection Prevention & Safety** | Demonstrate the ability to consistently apply infection prevention practices and safety principles necessary to protect patients, peers, faculty, clinical instructors, and oneself. | • Perform appropriate hand hygiene<br>• Use PPE appropriately<br>• Follow standard and transmission-based precautions<br>• Safely handle equipment and contaminated materials<br>• Dispose of biohazardous waste appropriately<br>• Maintain a safe treatment environment<br>• Recognize and respond to unsafe conditions |
| **Technology & Information Management** | Demonstrate the ability to competently use technology and information systems required for contemporary physical therapist assistant education and practice. | • Use electronic medical records and documentation software<br>• Use learning management systems and electronic communication platforms<br>• Operate therapeutic equipment safely<br>• Utilize telehealth technologies when appropriate<br>• Retrieve, manage, and safeguard electronic information while maintaining confidentiality |

## Student Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that I have read and understand **the Core Performance Standards for the Florida State College at Jacksonville Physical Therapist Assistant Program.** I understand that I must be able to meet these standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, to successfully complete the program.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

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## Physical Therapist Assistant Program

# Clinical Observation Verification Form

Applicants to the Florida State College at Jacksonville Physical Therapist Assistant Program must complete **a minimum of twenty (20) hours** of observation, volunteer service, and/or work experience in physical therapy.

Observation hours must include:

- **A minimum of two (2) different practice settings**
- **At least one (1) inpatient setting**
- **At least one (1) outpatient setting**
- **A minimum of ten (10) hours in each setting**

A separate verification form must be completed for each practice setting.

## Student Information *(Completed by Applicant)*

**Applicant Name:** _____ **Email:** _____

**Address:** _____

**City:** _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone**:** _____

## Facility Information *(Completed by Applicant)*

**Facility Name:**

_____

**Facility Address:** _____City: _____ State: _____

## Clinical Experience Verification *(Completed by Licensed PT or PTA)*

This certifies that the above-named applicant completed observation or volunteer Service within the Physical Therapy Department at this facility.

### Dates of Experience

| Date | Start Time | Stop Time | Total Daily Hours |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | Total Hours | |

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## Practice Setting (Check one)

☐ Acute Care Hospital

☐ Inpatient Rehabilitation

☐ Skilled Nursing Facility

☐ Long-Term Acute Care

☐ Home Health

☐ Other: _____

☐ Outpatient Orthopedic

☐ Outpatient Neurologic

☐ Pediatrics

☐ Sports Medicine

☐ Aquatic Therapy

**For Admissions Purposes**

☐ Inpatient

☐ Outpatient

## Applicant Evaluation *(Optional)*

Please comment on the applicant's professionalism, communication skills, motivation, dependability, or overall suitability for the profession.

## Verification

My signature below certifies that the applicant named above completed the hours indicated on this form within our Physical Therapy Department.

**Printed Name:** _____

**License Number:** _____ **State:** _____

**Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____