

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Associate in Science (A.S.) degree prepares students for rewarding careers helping patients return to optimal health under the direction of a physical therapist. The curriculum combines coursework and hands-on learning, focusing on kinesiology, patient care, therapeutic exercise, and the leading trends in physical therapy.

The PTA associate degree prepares students to become skilled in compassionate and ethical patient care, supporting their journey managing pain and gaining back mobility. With this, graduates from the PTA program are eligible to apply to sit for a state-administered national examination in order to become a licensed physical therapy assistant.

Beginning in Summer 2022, students will enter the prerequisite phase of the program (conditional offer) until they complete all admissions requirements.

Please note that admission to the professional-level Physical Therapist Assistant courses/program is highly competitive.

Program Requirements

Prerequisites

The following courses must be completed with a grade of C or better before the application deadline.

- BSC 2085C - Human Anatomy and Physiology I 4
- BSC 2086C - Human Anatomy and Physiology II 4
- HSC 1531- Medical Terminology (for the Health Professional) 3
- ENC 1101 - English Composition I 3
 - or ENC 1101C - English Composition I Enhanced 4
 - or ENC 1102 - Writing About Texts 3
- MAC 1105 - College Algebra 3
 - or higher-level MAC prefix course
 - or MAP 2302 - Differential Equations 3
 - or MGF 1106 - Topics in College Mathematics 3
 - or MGF 1107 - Explorations in Mathematics 3

- or STA 2023 - Elementary Statistics 3
- HESI A2 (Health Education Systems, Inc Admission Test)

The following general education courses can be completed before or during the professional phase of the PTA program but must be completed with a “C” or higher to fulfill the remaining general education requirements for a A.S. in PTA.

- POS 2041 – American Federal Government 3
 - or AMH 2020 – United States History From 1877 to the Present 3
- Humanities Credit Hours: 3
 - ARH 2000-Art in the Humanities 3
 - or PHI 2010-Philosophy in the Humanities 3
 - or MUL 2019-Music in the Humanities 3
 - or LIT 2000 Literature in the Humanities 3
 - or HUM 2020-Topics in the Humanities 3
 - or THE 2000-Theatre in the Humanities 3

Please review this checklist. If you answer yes to every item and have submitted transcripts to support your course completions, you could be ready for review and ranking for consideration for admittance to the professional phase of the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

CHECKLIST

- Submit official non-FSCJ transcripts to the College before the published application deadline for the term you wish to begin, if applicable.
- Submit official A.P., I.B., AICE, CLEP and/or DSST score reports to the College before the published application deadline for the term you wish to begin, if applicable. (A.P. – Advanced Placement, I.B. – International Baccalaureate, AICE – University of Cambridge)
- Ensure official [HESI A2 \(Health Education Systems, Inc Admission Test\)](#) scores have been submitted to the [FSCJ Assessment Center](#) before the published application deadline for the term you wish to be reviewed for admittance to the professional phase of the Physical Therapist Assistant program. Scores will be considered official if they meet the following:
 - Applicant has completed the 9-subtest administration in one sitting

- Applicant has taken within the last 2 years
- Scores have been submitted to the FSCJ Assessment Center before the published deadline
- Applicant has achieved a minimum average score of 75% for the 9-subtest areas to be eligible to apply for the Professional Phase.
- Applicant has achieved a minimum score of 75% in each of the three listed HESI A2 subtests to be considered for the program.
 - Anatomy & Physiology
 - Grammar
 - Vocabulary

If the HESI test was taken at FSCJ, no action is required. Your scores will be automatically submitted. If you have Questions pertaining to the HESI and submitting your official scores please email north_testing@fscj.edu or call 904.713.4529. **The HESI assessment can only be taken once every 90 days.**

- Complete the following courses with a grade of "C" or better by the published program deadline for the term you wish to begin. An overall minimum prerequisite GPA of 2.0 must be maintained.
 - BSC 2085C - Human Anatomy and Physiology I 4
 - BSC 2086C - Human Anatomy and Physiology II 4
 - ENC 1101 - English Composition I 3
 - or ENC 1101C - English Composition I Enhanced 4
 - or ENC 1102 - Writing About Texts 3
 - MAC 1105 - College Algebra 3
 - or higher-level MAC prefix course
 - or MAP 2302 - Differential Equations 3
 - or MGF 1106 - Topics in College Mathematics 3
 - or MGF 1107 - Explorations in Mathematics 3
 - or STA 2023 - Elementary Statistics 3
 - HSC 1531- Medical Terminology (for the Health Professional) 3
- Submit any additional documents to support your application the HCIC at HCIC@FSCJ.edu by the application deadline.
 - Work Verification letters should include the following
 - Typed on company letterhead
 - Dates of employment
 - Health related duties

- Number of hours worked per week
- Submit observation hours verification form
 - 10 hours inpatient observation
 - 10 hours outpatient observation
 - Or observation hours replacement paper
- Submit signed Core Performance Standards
- Emails containing supporting documents should be sent to the HCIC@FSCJ.edu email address and contain the following:
 - Program of study, term, and application attachment in the subject line
 - Student name and ID number in the body of the message
 - Documents included as attachments

If you answered no to any of the above checklist items, please meet with an academic advisor to discuss your education plan and next steps.

COMPETITIVE REVIEW PROCESS

Students are ready for review by the admissions committee upon completion of all checklist requirements. The committee uses the Associate in Science in Physical Therapist Assistant Ranking Criteria below to review and rank candidates for admittance consideration. Please note that the admission process is highly competitive.

Grade Point Average: Applicants must earn a grade of C or better in each prerequisite course and have an overall minimum prerequisite GPA of 2.0.

Physical Therapist Assistant Ranking Rubric	Max Points
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Overall Cumulative GPA (minimum requirement 2.5)		20
Overall GPA	Points	
2.5-2.99	10	
3.0-3.49	15	
>3.49	20	
A grade of 'C' or better in all PTA prerequisite courses		100
Course Grade	Points	
A	20 pts	
B	15 pts	
C	10 pts	
Required Prerequisite Courses:		
Course Title	Course Code	
Anatomy & Physiology I	BSC 2085C	
Anatomy & Physiology II	BSC 2086C	
English Composition I, English Composition I Enhanced, or Writing About Texts	ENC 1101, ENC1101C, or ENC 1102	
Mathematics	General Education Requirements	
Medical Terminology for Health Professionals	HSC 1531	
HESI A2		50
A complete HESI/A2 administration is required and consists of nine (9) sub-tests that must be completed in one sitting. The Average Combined Score of the 9 categories must be 75% minimum for consideration of the application. A minimum score of 75% for each of the following sub-tests is required: <i>Anatomy & Physiology, Vocabulary, Grammar.</i>		
Points are determined by adding the scores of the 3 Categories and dividing by 2.		
Bonus Points		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	10	10
Health Care Experience (Direct Patient Care) or Military Experience		10
Duration	Points	
1 month	.25 pt	
2 months	.50 pt	
3 months	1.0 pt	
4 months	2.0 pts	
5 months	3 pts	
6 months	4 pts	

7 months	5 pts	
8 months	6 pts	
9 months	7 pts	
10 months	8 pts	
11 months	9 pts	
12 months or >	10 pts	
Total Possible Points		190

PTA A.S. PROGRAM

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE VERIFICATION FORM

Form must be signed by PT/PTA

Criteria: Prospective students must complete a **minimum of 20 hours** of observation, volunteer service, and/or work experience in physical therapy in a minimum of **two practice settings (one in-patient and one outpatient)** with **no less than 10 hours** in each setting.

Directions: Use one form for each setting. You may make copies of this form as needed.

STUDENT INFORMATION (completed by student)

Name of Student (Printed): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

FACILITY INFORMATION (completed by student)

Name of Facility: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

VERIFICATION BY THERAPIST (completed by PT or PTA)

This student has either observed, volunteered or worked in the PT department at our facility for _____ hours.

This facility is primarily: Inpatient Outpatient

PT/PTA: Comments:(optional)

PT/PTA Name (printed) _____

PT/ PTA Name (signed) _____

PT/PTA License # _____

CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) rates the strength demands of a PTA at the medium level. This translates into lifting or exerting a force of 20 to 50 pounds occasionally, 10 to 25 pounds frequently, and 10 pounds or less constantly. In addition, the physical demand ratings of several local employers' state that the PTA is required to lift 100+ pounds on an occasional basis. According to the DOT, other physical demands required of the PTA

on an occasional basis are climbing, crawling, and ability to see within a field of vision, and identify and distinguish colors. Physical demands required on a frequent basis are stooping, kneeling, crouching, reaching, handling, manipulation with fingers, feeling, talking, hearing, near visual acuity and visual accommodation. The PTA is not typically exposed to any unusual or extreme environmental conditions.

NOTE: Students accepted to the program are provided with a list of essential job functions. Applicants may request the list of essential job functions from the program manager.

Signature _____

Date _____