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

Revision: August 14, 2023
• 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
  o or AMH 2020 – United States History From 1877 to the Present 3
• Humanities Credit Hours: 3
  o ARH 2000-Art in the Humanities 3
  o or PHI 2010-Philosophy in the Humanities 3
  o or MUL 2019-Music in the Humanities 3
  o or LIT 2000 Literature in the Humanities 3
  o or HUM 2020-Topics in the Humanities 3
  o 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% on the listed HESI A2 subtest to be considered for the program.
  - Anatomy & Physiology

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 2.5 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
  o Submit observation hours verification form
    • 10 hours inpatient observation
    • 10 hours outpatient observation
  o Submit signed Core Performance Standards
  o 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 2.5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Therapist Assistant Ranking Rubric</th>
<th>Max Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Cumulative GPA (minimum requirement 2.5)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall GPA</td>
<td>Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5-2.99</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0-3.49</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;3.49</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A grade of ‘C’ or better in all PTA prerequisite courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revision: August 14, 2023
### Required Prerequisite Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</td>
<td>BSC 2085C</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology II</td>
<td>BSC 2086C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Composition I, English Composition I Enhanced, or Writing About Texts</td>
<td>ENC 1101, ENC1101C, or ENC 1102</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology for Health Professionals</td>
<td>HSC 1531</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HESI A2

A complete HESI/A2 administration is required and consists of nine (9) sub-tests that must be completed in one sitting. **Must take all 9 categories at one sitting.**

*Exam can be taken up to 3 times per year to meet these criteria.*

1. **The Average Combined Score (cumulative score) of the 9 categories must be 75% minimum for consideration of the application for admissions.**
2. **A minimum score of 75 in Anatomy & Physiology is required for admission.**

Points are determined by multiplying the Anatomy and Physiology score by: 0.4.

### Bonus Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Experience (Direct Patient Care) or Military Experience</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;3 months</td>
<td>1pt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6 months</td>
<td>2pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9 months</td>
<td>3 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12 months</td>
<td>4 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;12 months</td>
<td>5 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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PTA A.S. PROGRAM

Revision: August 14, 2023
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.

Revision: August 14, 2023
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 __________