

## **Physical Therapist Assistant (A.S.)**

### **Program Overview**

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is a competitive selective access program that consists of two phases. In the pre-professional phase, students complete general education coursework in preparation for the next phase. The professional phase of the program includes lecture, laboratory, and clinical education components.

### **Prerequisites**

The following courses must be completed with a grade of C or better before an individual can be considered for the Professional phase.

- 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)

### **General Education Requirements**

Students may complete the following general education courses with a grade of "C" or higher before or during the professional phase of the PTA program 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 2010-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

## **Procedure for Acceptance into Professional Phase**

Acceptance into the professional phase of the PTA program is limited and is based on academic performance and other criteria. A minimum grade of C or higher must be achieved in all professional coursework. A new cohort is admitted each Spring and each Summer term. To be considered, individuals must complete the following by the review deadline:

1. Complete an application for Florida State College at Jacksonville with Physical Therapist Assistant as the Program Plan.
2. Complete the required prerequisites with a minimum grade of C and minimum combined grade point average of 2.5.
3. Complete the Health Education Systems, Inc. Admission Test (HESI-A2).
4. Complete a minimum of 10 hours of outpatient and 10 hours of inpatient observation, volunteer service, and/or work experience in physical therapy.
5. Submit official transcripts from both high school/GED® and any postsecondary education. Transcripts must be officially sealed and sent directly from the awarding institution via electronic delivery to [studentrecords@fscj.edu](mailto:studentrecords@fscj.edu) or via mail to FSCJ Admissions Office, PO Box 40515, Jacksonville, FL 32203.

## **Admission Documents Submission**

The following documents should be sent to the Health Career Advising Center at [HCIC@FSCJ.edu](mailto:HCIC@FSCJ.edu). The subject line of the email should include Program of study, term, and type of attachment. In the body of the email, include the student's name and ID number.

- Physical Therapy Clinical Observation Verification Forms
- HESI-A2 test scores
- Military Experience verification
- Core Performance Standards Form
- Verification of Employment in Healthcare
  - Completed by employer. The letter should be typed on company letterhead and include the dates of employment, health related duties, and number of hours worked per week.

## **Submission Deadline(s)**

The priority review deadline is February 15 each year for the cohort starting in the Summer term and September 15th each year for the cohort starting in the Spring term.

## **Additional Admission Requirements**

These additional admission requirements are to be completed after acceptance into the program before classes begin:

1. Complete a medical physical.
2. Submit signed Core Performance Standards form.
3. Submit immunization records and communicable disease screening.
4. Complete ten-panel drug screening.
5. Complete Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) background check.

## 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.

Physical Therapist Assistant Ranking Rubric		Max Points
<b>Overall Cumulative GPA (minimum requirement 2.5)</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>Overall GPA</b>	<b>Points</b>	
2.5-2.99	5	
3.0-3.49	15	
>3.49	20	
<b>A grade of 'C' or better in all PTA prerequisite courses</b>		
<b>Course Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>40</b>
A	10	
B	8	
C	6	
<b>Required Prerequisite Courses:</b>		
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Course Code</b>	
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	
Medical Terminology for Health Professionals	HSC 1531	
<b>HESI A2</b>		

<p>A complete HESI/A2 administration is required and consists of nine (9) sub-tests that must be completed in one sitting.  <b>Must take all 9 categories at one sitting.</b>  <i>Exam can be taken up to 3 times per year to meet these criteria.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Average Combined Score (cumulative score) of the 9 categories must be 75%</b> minimum for consideration of the application for admissions.</li> <li><b>A minimum score of 75 in Anatomy &amp; Physiology is required for admission.</b></li> </ol> <p>Points are determined by multiplying the Anatomy and Physiology score by: 0.4.</p>		<b>40</b>
<b>Bonus Points</b>		
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Health Care Experience (Direct Patient Care) or Military Experience</b>		
<b>Duration</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>5</b>
<3 months	1pt	
3-6 months	2pts	
6-9 months	3 pts	
9-12 months	4 pts	
>12 months	5 pts	
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>110</b>



**PTA A.S. PROGRAM**

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE/OBSERVATION 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.**

**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:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PT/PTA Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Therapist Signature \_\_\_\_\_ 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** \_\_\_\_\_