

Physical Therapist Assistant: Associate of Science Degree

Mission Statement

The Physical Therapist Assistant program provides educational experiences in a learner-centered environment to develop competent physical therapist assistants who are prepared for entry-level employment. Our graduates enter the workforce as educated citizens dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of the individuals and communities that they serve.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Associate Degree Program for the Physical Therapist Assistant is reflective of the values and beliefs from which the NMC Mission and Core Values were formulated. The NMC Physical Therapist Assistant program is dedicated to providing dynamic, high quality, and integrative learning opportunities utilizing educational technology, didactic, laboratory and clinical experiences. The foundation for the education of the PTA students is based on criteria and performance expectations set forth by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The PTA program promotes opportunities for lifelong intellectual, professional, career, and personal development.

Goals and Objectives

The Goals of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program are to:

1. Develop competent physical therapist assistants who are prepared for entry level employment, prepared to pass the national certification exam, and prepared to uphold professional ideals.
2. Develop an educated citizen with skills as Reflective Individual, Effective Communicator, and Change Agent.

Graduates of the PTA program will

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the role and scope of practice of the physical therapist assistant.
2. Explain and demonstrate the use of all modalities as practiced by the physical therapist assistant.
3. Demonstrate professional verbal and written communication skills when interacting with colleagues, patients and peers.
4. Implement treatment planning techniques under the supervision of a Physical Therapist.
5. Be sensitive to cultural, ethnic, gender, and life style differences among patient populations.
6. Respect patient confidentiality at all times

Description

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. PTAs help people of all ages who have medical problems, or other health-related conditions that limit their ability to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. PTAs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health, nursing homes, schools, sports facilities, and more. PTAs must complete an 18-month associate's degree and are licensed, certified, or registered in most states. Care provided by a PTA may include teaching patients/clients exercise for mobility, strength and coordination; training for activities such as walking with crutches, canes, or walkers; massage; and the use of physical agents and electrotherapy such as ultrasound and electrical stimulation. (American Physical Therapist Association, www.apta.org)

Students who successfully complete the curriculum as outlined will earn an Associate of Science Degree. Graduates are prepared for an entry-level physical therapist assistant position and to sit for the national certification examination through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Graduates are also required to pass a state licensure exam in most states. An individual who works as a physical therapist assistant in a jurisdiction where licensure or regulation is presently unavailable is required to be a graduate of a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by CAPTE.

Accreditation

The Nebraska Methodist College Physical Therapist Assistant Program has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidacy is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation. Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program is progressing toward accreditation.

Licensure

Graduates are prepared for an entry-level physical therapist assistant position and to sit for the national certification examination through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Graduates are also required to pass a state licensure exam in most states. All physical therapist assistants must work under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist. An individual who works as a physical therapist assistant in a jurisdiction where licensure or regulation is presently unavailable is required to be a graduate of a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by CAPTE.

Admission Criteria/Prerequisites

In addition to the general admission requirements described in the Admission Information section of this catalog, students applying to the Associate of Science Degree Physical Therapist Assistant Program must also provide documentation of 20 hours shadowing experience in a Physical Therapy Department. A documentation form is available on the College website under the Physical Therapist Assistant Program page.

Additional program information including technical standards of performance, program policies, and occupational information can be accessed on the College website.

The following courses are strongly recommended prior to enrollment: Physics, English Composition and Medical Terminology.

*this criteria was revised 11/09/09; [click here for the current description](#).

Curriculum:

First Year - Fall Semester

		Credit Hours
SC 116	Medical Terminology*	1
SC 200	Human Anatomy and Physiology	5
HU 150	The World of Ideas: Critical Reasoning and Rhetoric	3
PT 115	Basic Skills in Patient Care Lab	2
PT 100	Introduction to Physical Therapy and Clinical	2
PT 105	Functional Anatomy (with lab)	3

First Year - Spring Semester

SC 206	Pathophysiology/ Pharmacology	4
HU __	Humanities Elective (HU 210, 220, 255, or 270)	3
PT 120	Therapeutic Exercise (with lab)	3
CM 101	English Composition*	3
PT 130	Therapeutic Modalities (with lab)	4
PT 180	PTA Clinical I	1

First Year - Summer Session

CM __	Language and Culture in Health Care (CM 230 or 245)	3
SS 215	Life-Span Psychology	3
PT 200	PTA Clinical II	4
PT 260	Medical Ethics & Law	1

Second Year - Fall Semester

SS 235	The Sociology of Culture	3
PT 210	Orthopedic Issues (with lab)	4
PT 215	Pediatric & Neurologic Disorders (with lab)	4
PT 228	Special Topics (with lab)	3
PT 220	Therapeutic Exercise II (with lab)	3

Second Year - Spring Semester

PT 238	Issues in Health Care Adm., Billing, & Prof. Communication	2
PT 240	PTA Clinical III	5
PT 250	PTA Clinical IV	5
PT 280	PTA Seminar	1
CM 290	Portfolio Synthesis	0

Program Total Hours: 75

*Students are strongly encouraged to complete English Composition and Medical Terminology prior to enrollment.