Physical Therapist Assistant

Program
Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA) are skilled technical health personnel who provide physical therapy services under the supervision and direction of a physical therapist. Physical therapist assistants enhance the delivery of physical therapy services by providing delegated interventions such as therapeutic exercise, training in assistive devices, developmental activities, balance and gait training, application of thermal agents, postural training and instruction in body mechanics. Physical therapist assistants help with data collection and must demonstrate the ability to modify intervention techniques as indicated in the plan of care designated by the physical therapist. Excellent communication skills are also necessary for the physical therapist assistant. The PTA must be able to interact with patients and families in a manner that provides the desired psychosocial support and effectively teach them to perform selected intervention procedures. PTAs also participate in discharge planning, document relevant aspects of the patient treatment, and promote effective interpersonal relationships.

The Associate Degree program at Rhodes State College provides the student with an excellent physical therapist assistant education encouraging personal and professional growth. The curriculum is a combination of general education, applied physical therapy sciences, technical skills and clinical education courses. The clinical rotations provide students with supervised clinical learning experiences in a variety of settings and with different patient populations.

After successful completion of both the didactic and clinical components of the PTA curriculum, and attainment of the Associate in Applied Science degree from Rhodes State College, students seeking licensure as a PTA must submit an application to register for the National Physical Therapy Examination for PTAs administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Additionally, the student must submit a separate application to the licensing authority of the jurisdiction (state) in which the applicant is seeking licensure. In the state of Ohio, the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board is the jurisdiction licensing authority. The state of Ohio requires licensure to practice physical therapy. Licensure enables the PTA to seek employment as a part of a dynamic health care team in a variety of health care settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, sports medicine clinics and outpatient treatment centers.

Curriculum

First Year
Summer
SDE 1010  First Year Experience 1
BIO 1110  Anatomy and Physiology I 4
COM 1110  English Composition 3
BHS 1390  Medical Terminology 2
PTA 1100  Introduction to Physical Therapy 3
Term Hours 13

Fall
BIO 1120  Anatomy and Physiology II 4
MTH 1260  Statistics 3
PTA 1120  Functional Anatomy 4
PTA 1140  Therapeutic Procedures 4
Term Hours 15

Spring
PTA 1200  Therapeutic Exercise 4
COM 2213  Verbal Judo 3
PSY 1010  General Psychology 3
PTA 1220  Kinesiology 4
Term Hours 14

Second Year
Summer
PTA 1300  PTA Seminar 1
PTA 1320  Clinical Application I 2
Term Hours 3

Fall
PSY 2150  Lifespan Psychology 3
PTA 2100  Rehabilitation for Specific PT Populations 4
PTA 2120  Functional Neurorehabilitation 4
Term Hours 11

Spring
PTA 2200  Clinical Application II 3
PTA 2220  Clinical Application III 3
PTA 2230  Capstone Course 1
PTA 2240  Seminar II 1
Term Hours 8
Total Hours 64

= Portfolio Course  = Capstone Course

The "C" grade policy applies to all PTA courses, BIO 1110 Anatomy and Physiology I and BIO 1120 Anatomy and Physiology II. Courses are sequential and must be completed with a "C" or better to continue in the program.
Requirements
All students who apply for acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant program have their name placed on a qualified list after they meet the program qualifications listed below.

Please contact the Office of Advising and Counseling for the application packet. Students seeking admission are encouraged to review the qualification requirements early due to the amount of time required to complete the process. The application deadline is the second Friday of February for the application year.

In addition to the general admission requirements for all students, the following specific requirements must be completed before being added to qualified list:

1. Attend a mandatory program specific orientation.
2. Complete and score a minimum of 60 on the Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) assessment exam.
3. Achieve an overall college GPA and program-related GPA of 2.75 or higher. (Program-related GPA is defined as the average GPA of program specific coursework excluding SDE 1010). For high school senior applicants without college level course work, high school grades through the first nine weeks of the senior year will be used to calculate the GPA.
4. Complete 40 hours of observation in a clinical setting with a licensed Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant using the Observation Form in the application packet.
5. Complete all required college level or developmental level math, writing and reading courses and/or prerequisites with a grade of C or higher; or equivalent placement.

If more than 30 applicants are qualified, students will be offered a seat based on the qualifying criteria (aggregate of calculated GPA, ATI TEAS score, the number of program specific courses completed with a C or better, and the two observation rubrics). If the qualifying criteria aggregate score of two applicants is equal then the college application date will be used to rank order those applicants.

Qualified students not in the top 30 will be admitted in a following cohort year. This acceptance is contingent upon re-application prior to the deadline of the offered cohort year to verify continued interest in pursuing the degree. These students will be encouraged to attend an informational meeting with programmatic faculty to discuss strategies for persistence within the program or opportunities for other health care majors with seats available for immediate entry and/or other career directions offered at the College.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program accepts students once a year in Summer Semester.

Technical Standards
All applicants for the Health Sciences programs and certificates must possess the essential skills and abilities necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the curriculum either with or without reasonable accommodations for any disabilities the individual may have. * Note: The use of an intermediary that in effect requires a student to rely on someone else's power of selection and observation will not be permitted.

Accreditation
This PTA Program at Rhodes State College is accredited by the:

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 706-3245
email: accreditation@apta.org
website: www.capteonline.org

The program has been accredited since its inception in May 1993.

Program Mission Statement
The Rhodes State College Physical Therapist Assistant Program prepares students to be competent, professional physical therapist assistants.

Notice to Current or Prospective Physical Therapist Assistant Students
You are at risk if you have been convicted of a prior felony and/or some misdemeanors. You may not be able to participate in clinical education experiences at some hospitals or other clinical sites; therefore preventing you from completing the program. A criminal record may also prevent you from obtaining a license or certificate in your chosen healthcare profession.

For More Information, Contact:
Admissions Office
Rhodes State College
4240 Campus Drive
Lima, OH 45804
Email: enroll@RhodesState.edu
(419) 995-8320

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Information is subject to change without notice