

Program Information

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT



San Diego, CA

Program Overview

Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist. The PTA implements the Physical Therapist's plan of care, assessing patient status and modifying selected interventions to progress and protect the safety and comfort of the patient. The PTA helps people of all ages who have impairments that limit movement, function, work and recreational activities. The PTA works in a variety of settings, including hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health, skilled nursing facilities, schools, sports facilities, and more. The PTA provides a variety of physical therapy techniques as they carry out the Physical Therapist's plan of care for the patient, including therapeutic exercise, functional training, soft tissue mobilization, and physical modalities, such as electrotherapy and ultrasound. The PTA may also assist the Physical Therapist in injury prevention, fitness, and wellness-oriented programs for a healthier and a more active lifestyle. To work as a PTA, an individual must graduate from a PTA program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), must apply and be accepted as a licensed/certified PTA applicant, and must pass the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination (NPTAE) and, if required by the state, the state jurisprudence examination. Other requirements vary from state to state, according to physical therapy practice acts or state regulations governing physical therapy.

Program Objectives

The objective of the program is to graduate PTAs who are knowledgeable, competent, and service-oriented care providers. The PTA curriculum will reflect current practice and include real-world clinical experiences, preparing the graduate to perform selected interventions and data collection, as well as assess the patient's/client's safety and response to interventions. These skills will be performed by the assistant under the direction and supervision of the Physical Therapist in an ethical, legal, safe, and effective manner. In all work activities, program graduates will recognize, respect, and act with consideration for individual differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs. Additionally, PTA graduates will effectively communicate with other members of the healthcare delivery team, interact with members of the patient's/client's family and caregivers, and work cooperatively with other healthcare providers. In collaboration with the Physical Therapist, PTA graduates will participate in the education of other healthcare providers, patients/clients and their families or primary caregivers, as well as the community.

Course List

BIOL1310*	Anatomy & Physiology I	PTAP1320	Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation
BIOL1320*	Anatomy & Physiology II	PTAP1350	Pathology for the Physical Therapist Assistant
COMM1310*	Elements of Human Communication	PTAP1400	Functional & Applied Anatomy
ENGL1310*	English Composition I	PTAP2121	Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Lab
MATH Elective*	MATH1310: Contemporary Mathematics or MATH1320: College Algebra	PTAP2131	Rehabilitation for Specialized Disorders Lab
PSYC1310*	General Psychology	PTAP2201	Neuromuscular Rehabilitation Lab
PSYC1320*	Human Growth & Development	PTAP2210	Rehabilitation Through the Lifespan
PTAP1201	Functional & Applied Anatomy Lab	PTAP2220	Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation
PTAP1210	Patient Care Skills	PTAP2230	Rehabilitation for Specialized Disorders
PTAP1211	Patient Care Skills Lab	PTAP2340	Special Topics for the Physical Therapist Assistant
PTAP1221	Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation Lab	PTAP2400	Neuromuscular Rehabilitation
PTAP1240	Modalities	PTAP2525	Clinical Experience I
PTAP1241	Modalities Lab	PTAP2535	Clinical Experience II
PTAP1300	Introduction to Physical Therapy	PTAP2545	Clinical Experience III

**These courses are offered online*

For course descriptions, a breakdown of credit hours and other program-specific information, please review the Campus Catalog on concorde.edu. To learn about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed programs, and other important information, visit concorde.edu/disclosures.