

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Program Mission

The Mission of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is to prepare students to enter the field of Physical Therapy by educating skilled, compassionate and confident entry-level Physical Therapist Assistants who are culturally competent, forward thinking and life long learners so they may capably assist physical therapists to successfully address the rehabilitation needs of the patients of the community. The program embraces the mission of the university maintaining the highest standard of education and providing students with the tools, instruction and guidance necessary to succeed as a physical therapist assistant in a continually evolving healthcare system.

The Program specifically supports the mission of the university by imparting the necessary knowledge, critical thinking and clinical skills to the students as required for them to thrive in the field of Physical Therapy along with promoting service learning and preparing them for successful licensure.

Expected Program Learning Outcomes

- Graduates will interpret and successfully carry out a plan of care as designed by the supervising Physical Therapist using foundational knowledge, appropriate procedural interventions and effective documentation skills.
- Graduates will exhibit cultural competency through effective and culturally sensitive verbal and non-verbal communication skills in all settings.
- Graduates will provide physical therapy services and interventions, as directed by the supervising PT, in a safe, legal, ethical and compassionate manner; including appropriate resource management, accurate documentation and billing, and performing PTA duties always maintaining integrity and accountability.
- Graduates will demonstrate commitment to life-long learning by participating in the American Physical Therapy Association or other professional organizations and through self-analysis create a career development plan.
- Graduates will conduct themselves in a manner that reflects; respect for their colleagues, commitment to patient advocacy, an obligation to meet the needs of the patients and community they serve and a desire to continually improve themselves and their organization.

- Graduates will accurately perform data collection, utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills, within the scope of the PT plan of care, to promote patient progression and address patient needs as they arise to foster a successful PT-PTA team approach to patient centered care.

- Graduates will provide education as directed by the PT to patients, colleagues or other healthcare providers regarding the field of physical therapy, the role of the PTA along with health and wellness promotion using a variety of teaching strategies to reach the intended audience.