

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

This is a 69-credit Associate in Applied Science degree program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. It is designed to prepare individuals for employment in physical therapy settings under the supervision of a Physical Therapist. Graduates are eligible to take the national licensure examination necessary for practice as a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA).

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The art and science of Physical Therapy focuses on the health needs of individuals across the life span. Learning is a dynamic process in which the student and instructor develop a professional association that facilitates student success in both didactic and clinical experiences. Based on specialized knowledge and skills related to movement of the human body, the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Union County College will produce altruistic, culturally sensitive graduates who strive for lifelong learning opportunities. Ultimately a highly qualified and professional practitioner will emerge.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program transforms our community by preparing highly qualified, entry-level professionals who promote safe and ethical professional practices within the scope of Physical Therapy. The Program is committed to excellence in providing an evidence based Physical Therapy education, encouraging graduates to continue the pursuits of lifelong learning and relevant professional contributions.

PROGRAM GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program curriculum is therefore designed to prepare highly qualified entry level licensed physical therapist assistants who:

1. Demonstrate the ability to deliver safe, appropriate and effective interventions to the population they serve under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist within the scope of PTA practice.
2. Demonstrate the ability to deliver appropriate communication and educate populations they interact and serve.
3. Contribute to the continuous improvement of the profession by actively pursuing career development activities.
4. Utilize human, fiscal and system resources appropriately to provide efficient, ethical physical therapy service.
5. Demonstrate professionalism, accountability, integrity and cultural competence in all duties associated with being a physical therapist assistant.

PTA PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The PTA program of Union County College is composed of a comprehensive curriculum consisting of a combination of didactic and clinical learning experiences for the physical therapist assistant that are reflective of contemporary physical therapy practice. The program demands that students attend classes full-time during the day. Hours for clinical practice may vary and travel to the clinical setting is the responsibility of the student. Students enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program are required to complete a criminal background check, health clearance, CPR certification, and drug screen at their own expense. Adverse results may disqualify students from clinical participation in which case the student will be unable to complete program requirements.

Curriculum Sequence

Preclinical Phase/Prerequisite Course Work

ENG 101	English Composition I	3 credits
BIO 105	Anatomy and Physiology I	4 credits
MATH 119	Algebra	4 credits
PSY 101	General Psychology	3 credits

Clinical Phase Spring Semester

PTA 115	Functional Anatomy	3 credits
PTA 130	PT Procedures I	6 credits
PTA 251	Independent Living	2 credits
ENG 102	English Composition II	3 credits
PSY 204 Or PSY 212	Lifespan Development Or Psychology of Adulthood and	3 credits

Clinical Phase Summer Session One

PTA 140	PT Procedures II	3 credits
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Clinical Phase Summer Session Two

BIO 106	Anatomy and Physiology II	4 credits
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Clinical Phase Fall Semester

PTA 217	Clinical Seminar and Practice I	7 credits
PTA 220	PT Procedures III	6 credits
PTA 221	PT Procedures IV	4 credits

Clinical Phase Spring Semester

PTA 223	Clinical Seminar	2 credits
PTA 224	Clinical Practice II	12 credits

Total 69 credits

Prerequisite (pre-clinical phase) course work must be passed with a grade of "C" or higher.
Students will require to pass BIO 106 with a "C" or better to continue in the PTA program
All course work in the clinical phase of the PTA program must be passed with a grade of "C+" or better.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Program Acceptance Rates:

Admission cohort	# of	% of acceptance rate
Class of 2021	96	35%
Class of 2022	101	43%
Average (2021-2022)	98	32%

The program accepts 32 students each admission cycle

Graduation Rates:

Graduation Rates	Percent
Class of 2021	96%
Class of 2022	93%
Average (2021-2022)	94.5%

Licensure Rates: Ultimate Pass Rate

Licensure Rate	Percent
Class of 2021	77.8%
Class of 2022	61.5%
Average (2021-2022)	69.65%

Employment Rates: Based on available completed surveys or telephone surveys

Employment Rate	Percent
Class of 2021	100%**
Class of 2022	100%**
Average (2021-2022)	100%

Based on the number of students who have passed the licensure examination until January 13, 2023, and not on the number of students who have graduated from the program



The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Union County College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 303 Potomac Avenue, Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program directly, please call 908.791.4917 or email Monique.blackmon-joh@ucc.edu

Union County College is #1 among New Jersey community colleges in non-credit Continuing Education enrollments, serving more than 26,000 learners aged 4 to 94 with certificate programs, and courses in professional development, health, fitness, leisure and personal enrichment. Accredited by The Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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