

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

**GUIDE TO ADMISSIONS
AND
ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2020 - 2021**

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The information contained in this Guide to Admissions and Academic Policies is subject to change without notice. Every attempt will be made to keep this Guide current and accurate.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT DEFINITION

Phys-i-cal (fiz'l k'l) *adj.* Defined as "Of the body as opposed to the mind".

Physical therapy is a hands-on profession that deals with natural forces - water, heat, cold and others. The "physical" in physical therapy is not restricted to treatment methods, however, it is often physically demanding work.

Ther-a-pist (ther-'a pist) *noun.* Defined as "A specialist in a certain form of therapy".

Physical therapy is a health profession whose primary purpose is the promotion of optimal human health and function through the use of the application of scientific principles to prevent, identify, assess, correct, or alleviate acute or prolonged movement dysfunction.

As-sis-tant (a-sis'-tant) *noun.* Defined as, "To make stand, to help".

By definition and by law, physical therapist assistants work under the supervision of a physical therapist. Their duties include assisting the therapist in implementing treatment programs according to the treatment specified, training patients in exercises and activities of daily living, conducting treatments, administering modalities and other treatment procedures and reporting the patient's responses to the physical therapist.

Licensure or certification is required in all states, including Indiana.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program prepares students for assistant roles within the profession of physical therapy. It has been designed to give the student a well rounded education, in addition to the technical skills required for a career as a physical therapist assistant.

The PTA curriculum consists of 69.5 required credit hours. Students must be enrolled in or have successfully completed Anatomy and Physiology I, Anatomy and Physiology II, Physical Science, English Composition, and Introduction to the Physical Therapist Assistant prior to making application to the PTA program. **If testing determines that the student must take zero level academic courses, these courses must be taken prior to enrolling in PTAS 101, APHY 101, APHY 102, ENGL 111, and SCIN 111. Please refer to the curriculum of record of each course for specific requirements.**

Students are encouraged to contact the PTA Program office directly for advising purposes to ensure they are placed in all required courses prior to application. Students are encouraged to register VERY early for PTAS 101, ENGL 111, APHY 101, APHY 102 and SCIN 111 as these classes have limited seating and fill quickly.

Day classes are available to students throughout the first four semesters. The 3 week full-time clinical at the end of the Spring term, and the final semester of full time clinicals are full-time commitments, as these clinical internships require regular eight-hour days, five days per week. Exact hours will correspond to the clinical instructor's work schedule.

The Associate of Science degree is awarded upon successful completion of the required 25 general education credits and 44.5 technical course credits. The College has been accredited by the North Central Association of College and Schools.

In order for graduates to be able to sit for any state certification or licensure examinations, the Program must be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) by the time of graduation. **The Muncie Ivy Tech PTA Program is fully accredited by CAPTE.**

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

MISSION

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Ivy Tech Community College is an accredited, affordable quality program to prepare students in an Associates degree curriculum leading to a successful career as a Physical Therapist Assistant. The program seeks to develop ethical members of the healthcare community who demonstrate excellence in interpersonal skills, lifelong learning, and professional behavior while providing compassionate quality care to diverse populations.

VISION

Graduates of the Ivy Tech Physical Therapist Assistant Program will provide the highest level of therapy services to the community and be the employees of choice of healthcare providers.

PHILOSOPHY

The program philosophy of curriculum development includes a commitment to coordinated, sequential learning; delineation of the roles and responsibilities of the physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, and the physical therapy aide; an understanding of the changing nature of the profession and health care in general; and an opportunity for exploration of areas of student interest. Additionally, the program philosophy incorporates a commitment to academic and clinical faculty development, with the purpose of enhancing effectiveness of instruction, refine leadership, teaching effectiveness, and interpersonal skills so that the students are prepared to take their place in the field of physical therapy.

EXPECTATIONS OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

Physical therapy is a hands-on profession that deals with natural forces - water, heat, cold, and others. The “physical” in physical therapy is not restricted to treatment methods, however. It is often physically demanding work.

Typical Skills Needed to Complete Essential Tasks:

- Students typically attend class 12 or more hours per week during each academic semester. Classes consist of a combination of lecture, discussion, and laboratory activities. When on clinical rotation, students are typically present at the clinic 40 or more hours per week on a schedule that corresponds to the operating hours of the clinic.
- Students typically sit for 2 to 10 hours daily, stand 1 to 2 hours daily, and walk or travel for 2 hours daily.
- Students may be required to relocate outside of the Muncie area to complete one or more clinical rotations of 7 weeks duration each.
- Students frequently lift less than 10 pounds and occasionally lift weights up to 50 pounds.
- Students frequently exert 25 pounds of push/pull forces to objects up to 50 feet and occasionally exert 50 pounds of push/pull forces for this distance.
- Students frequently twist, bend and stoop.
- Students occasionally squat, crawl, climb stools, reach above shoulder level, and kneel.
- Students frequently move from place to place and position to position and must do so at a speed that permits safe handling of classmates and patients.
- Students frequently stand and walk while providing support to a classmate simulating a disability or while supporting patient with a disability.
- Students occasionally climb stairs or negotiate uneven terrain.
- Students continuously use their hands repetitively with a simple grasp and frequently use a firm grasp and manual dexterity skills.
- Students frequently coordinate verbal and manual activities with gross motor activities.
- Students use auditory, tactile, and visual senses to receive classroom instruction and to assess and treat patients.

*This is not a comprehensive listing of essential functions. Please refer to the “Essential Functions of a PTA” packet. Accommodations to the essential functions of a PTA will be considered to the degree or extent the nature of the task and essential components inherent to the task are not changed.

Professional Expectations:

- Commitment to learning
- Interpersonal skills
- Communication skills
- Effective use of time and resources
- Use of constructive feedback
- Problem-solving
- Professionalism
- Responsibility
- Critical thinking
- Stress management

The field of physical therapy includes the professional physical therapist or PT, and the physical therapist assistant, or PTA. PT's evaluate patients, and assisted by PTA's, treat patients with health problems resulting from injury or disease. They work to minimize deficits and solve problems patients may be having in performing daily activities under the plan of care delineated by the physical therapist.

Physical therapy promotes health and function through the application of scientific principles to prevent, identify, assess, correct or alleviate acute or prolonged movement dysfunction and accompanying pain. This work involves extensive and intimate contact with many different types of people, including patients, families and other health care professionals. Physical therapy also provides the opportunity to make a positive difference in the quality of people's lives.

PTA's administer various treatment procedures, and train patients in exercise and activities of daily living. They focus on posture, locomotion, endurance, cardiopulmonary function, strength, balance, coordination, joint mobility, flexibility, pain and healing. By definition and under the law, physical therapist assistants work under the supervision of a physical therapist. They assist in implementing treatment programs. PTA's also document and report the patient's responses to the physical therapist.

PREREQUISITES

Each prospective PTA student must be enrolled in, or have completed the following five courses before applying to the PTA Program:

| | | |
|----------|--|-------------|
| APHY 101 | Anatomy and Physiology I | (3 credits) |
| APHY 102 | Anatomy and Physiology II | (3 credits) |
| PTAS 101 | Introduction to the Physical Therapist Assistant | (3 credits) |
| ENGL 111 | English Composition | (3 credits) |
| SCIN 111 | Physical Science | (3 credits) |

As mentioned previously, if testing determines that the students must take zero level academic courses, these courses must be taken prior to enrolling in PTAS 101, APHY 101, APHY 102, ENGL 111, and SCIN 111. Please refer to the curriculum of record for each course for specific requirements. Students are encouraged to register VERY early for PTAS 101, ENGL 111, APHY 101, APHY 102, and SCIN 111 as these classes have limited enrollment and fill quickly.

TEST-OUT PROCEDURES

Policies regarding testing out of courses vary from program to program. A student who wishes to test out of a course should contact the Office of Student Services. A fee is charged for the tests. Unless a student is transferring in good standing (See Transfer Students) as a current PTA student from another APTA and CAPTE accredited PTA program, no PTA courses will be eligible for test-out procedures.(See Transfer Students)

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Ivy Tech Community College provides open admission, degree credit programs, courses and community service offerings, and student support services for all persons regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, age or veteran status. The College also provides opportunities to students on the same non-discriminatory opportunity basis. Persons who believe they may have been discriminated against should contact the campus affirmative action officer, Human Resources Administrator, or Dean of Student Affairs. Ivy Tech Community College is an accredited, equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A form describing essential functions performed by physical therapist assistants is available by request from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program office at 289-2291, ext. 1776. Students are required to demonstrate proof of performance of these essential functions or demonstrate ability to perform with reasonable accommodations prior to making application to the PTA program. This will be addressed in the PTAS 101 course.

Support Services will aid students with disabilities with career planning, financial aid, personal counseling, and placement. The College staff works with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and other service agencies to assist physically and psychologically challenged students through available local community resources.

DUE PROCESS / COMPLAINTS

Student grievances are subject to the College's due process procedure. See Ivy Tech Community College Student Handbook. The PTA Program will follow PTA Program Policy and the Ivy Tech Student Grievance Policy.

Complaints or concerns may be communicated from outside parties who are not normally covered under the college grievance policy or normal channels of due process. Such outside parties may include, but are not limited to, clinical affiliates, employers, former graduates, and the general public.

For complaints outside normal due process, the complainant must submit the concern to the PTA Program Chair in writing within 30 days of the event. The Program Chair will be responsible for investigating the concern, including gathering necessary information from involved parties. Upon completion of the investigation, the Program Chair will communicate the results to the complainant and implement any actions, if any, which occur as a result of the investigation. Confidentiality of involved parties will be maintained at all times per Federal law, Ivy Tech, and PTA Program policy.

The Program Chair will maintain records of the complaint, investigation, and resulting actions for a minimum of 3 years following the written submission of the original complaint.

INFORMED CONSENT

Education in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program will include classroom and laboratory sessions as well as clinical affiliations in various health care facilities. During the course of the PTA Program you will be subject to the known and unknown risks that members of the profession experience in preparation for and the provision of physical therapy and health care in general. These may include exposure to various modalities and techniques, infectious and communicable diseases, chronic and degenerative diseases, mental illness, and risks attendant to the work environment and the academic preparation of the Physical Therapist Assistant. Students will be expected to perform physical therapy modalities and skill/techniques on each other and you will need to inform the instructor of any condition which may be considered a precaution or contraindication for a particular procedure and will thereby be excused according to the instructor's directions. You may stop participation in the classroom, laboratory, or clinical affiliation anytime you think your personal safety or that of the patients you treat is in jeopardy.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

A transfer student is defined as a PTA student in good standing, (see program policy), desiring a transfer from an APTA recognized CAPTE accredited program. A student wishing to transfer who is not in good standing with their current educational institution, as defined by Ivy Tech PTA Program policy, will not be considered. Transfer eligibility will be determined on a case by case basis. Due to varying course sequencing and semester content between PTA programs, this may require the student repeat content. Additionally, the student will be required to demonstrate competency and safety of all content within transferable courses, commensurate with Ivy Tech PTA Program criteria prior to a final transfer decision.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

All applicants will submit application material through the college's online application system. The components of the application are assigned a numerical score. Scoring is standardized and nondiscriminatory. Admission decisions will be based on the following criteria:

1. Grade in Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting
2. Grade in Anatomy and Physiology I
3. Grade in Anatomy and Physiology II
4. Grade in English Composition
5. Grade in Physical Science

** The TEAS is no longer a required component to apply to the PTA Program.

The new online system is currently under construction. More detailed information will be available early Spring '21. Please contact the program for additional information.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS AND DRUG SCREEN

The Ivy Tech Community College School of Health Sciences requires Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screens for all School of Health Science students who will participate in clinical education.

All students accepted into the PTA program will be required to complete a Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen, provided by an outside vendor, at the student's expense, within 30 days from the date of the letter of acceptance into the PTA program. Completion of the screen is a condition of acceptance into the program. Screens must also be completed every year thereafter as a condition of continuing in the program. Failure to do so, by the assigned deadline each year will result in forfeiture of the students spot in the program.

The PTA Program Chair, the ACCE, and/or designated personnel at the clinical facility may request a copy of the background check records. The facility may also require a student to complete an additional background check. The Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen will be conducted once per calendar year, at a minimum. The college, PTA program, and clinical agencies reserve the right to request more frequent testing, in accordance with college policy.

Before you seek employment as a physical therapist assistant in Indiana, you must take and pass the certification exam administered under the direction of the Indiana Health Professions Bureau. The possibility exists that a person who has been convicted of a crime may not be certified as a health practitioner in the State of Indiana. The Indiana Health Professions Bureau may choose to deny a person convicted of a crime the opportunity to sit for the certification examination even if they have satisfactorily completed the Ivy Tech Community College Associate of Science degree.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

The Indiana Public Licensing Agency (IPLA) has recently taken a position that may preclude visa holding or otherwise undocumented students from sitting for certification/licensure within Indiana. Students should seek their own legal counsel in these matters.

The expectations U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act are found in the Federal Regulation 8 of the U.S.C.; Section 1641:

Federal Regulation: 8 U.S.C. Section 1641: The U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act 2018 Amendment

(A) IN GENERAL

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the terms used in this chapter have the same meaning given such terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1101(a)].

(b) Qualified alien:

For purposes of this chapter, the term “qualified alien” means an alien who, at the time the alien applies for, receives, or attempts to receive a Federal public benefit, is—

- (1) an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act [[8 U.S.C. 1101](#) et seq.],
- (2) an alien who is granted asylum under section 208 of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1158](#)],
- (3) a refugee who is admitted to the United States under section 207 of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1157](#)],
- (4) an alien who is paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1182\(d\)\(5\)](#)] for a period of at least 1 year,
- (5) an alien whose deportation is being withheld under section 243(h) of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1253](#)] (as in effect immediately before the effective date of section 307 of division C of [Public Law 104–208](#)) or section 241(b)(3) of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1231\(b\)\(3\)](#)] (as amended by section 305(a) of division C of [Public Law 104–208](#)),
- (6) an alien who is granted conditional entry pursuant to section 203(a)(7) of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1153\(a\)\(7\)](#)] as in effect prior to April 1, 1980; [[1](#)] or
- (7) an alien who is a Cuban and Haitian entrant (as defined in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980).

TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS

Students are required to take three clinical rotations to graduate from the program. Clinic I is three weeks in duration. Clinics II and III are seven weeks each. The PTA Program has clinical education sites located throughout the state of Indiana and several out of state. The Program attempts to place a student close to their home if possible, but this cannot be guaranteed. Sometimes a student must be placed in a facility that requires the student to travel. The student is responsible for all travel costs and commitments.

ACCREDITATION STATUS DISCLOSURE

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Ivy Tech Community College - Muncie is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call (765)289-2291 ext.1773 or email mwise@ivytech.edu

PROGRAM VITAL STATISTICS

First attempt Licensure exam pass rate – 2 year average (2018-2019) = 86.5%*

Ultimate Licensure exam pass rate – 2 year average (2018 – 2019) = 95.7%*

Graduation rate of students admitted into the program – 2 year average (2018 – 2019) = 89.2%*

Percentage of graduates employed in physical therapy within 6 months of passing licensure exam - 2 year average (2018 – 2019) = 95% (per available data).*

Ivy Tech Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

* Data Updated 10/19/20

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

For information regarding the PTA program, please contact:

Mark Wise, PT, DPT, MA
mwise@ivytech.edu
765-289-2291, ext. 1773

CURRICULUM PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

PREREQUISITES: - 15 CREDITS

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| PTAS 101 | Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting | 3 |
| APHY 101 | Anatomy and Physiology I | 3 |
| APHY 102 | Anatomy and Physiology II | 3 |
| SCIN 111 | Physical Science | 3 |
| ENGL 111 | English Composition | 3 |

INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING (PTAS 101), ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I (APHY 101), ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II (APHY 102), PHYSICAL SCIENCE (SCIN 111), AND ENGLISH COMPOSITION (ENGL 111) ARE PREREQUISITES. THE REMAINING GENERAL EDUCATION CORE CLASSES ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION, BUT NOT FOR APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM.

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE - 25 CREDITS (INCLUDES APHY 101, APHY 102, SCIN 111, AND ENGL 111)

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| COMM 102 | Intro to Interpersonal Communications | 3 |
| | OR | |
| COMM 101 | Fundamentals of Public Speaking | |
| MATH 136 | College Algebra | 3 |
| PSYC 101 | Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
| SOCI 111 | Introduction to Sociology | 3 |
| IVYT 112 | Student Success in Healthcare | 1 |

TECHNICAL CORE – 44.5 CREDITS (INCLUDES PTAS 101)

| | | |
|----------|---|-----|
| PTAS 102 | Disease, Trauma and Terminology | 3 |
| PTAS 103 | Administrative Aspects of PTA | 3 |
| PTAS 106 | PTA Treatment Modalities I | 5 |
| PTAS 107 | Kinesiology | 5 |
| PTAS 115 | Clinical I | 2.5 |
| PTAS 201 | PTA Treatment Modalities II | 3 |
| PTAS 202 | Treatment Interventions for Special Populations | 2 |
| PTAS 205 | Clinical II | 6 |
| PTAS 215 | Clinical III | 6 |
| PTAS 217 | PTA Treatment Modalities III | 5 |
| PTAS 224 | Current Issues and Review | 1 |

In addition to the above listed required courses, students may enroll in elective courses as offered.

Portfolio: All PTA students are required to complete a portfolio during their academic experience as a method of establishing outcomes for their future education and career. The portfolio must be completed prior to successful completion of, and graduation from, the PTA program. Information will be made available to students during PTAS 103. The portfolio is assessed in PTAS 224.

The College and PTA Program reserve the right to revise these requirements at any time.

PTA PROGRAM TECHNICAL CORE CURRICULUM SCHEMA

PREREQUISITES – 15 CREDITS

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| APHY 101 | Anatomy and Physiology I | 3 |
| APHY 102 | Anatomy and Physiology II | 3 |
| PTAS 101 | Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting | 3 |
| ENGL 111 | English Composition | 3 |
| SCIN 111 | Physical Science | 3 |

The following courses are the Technical Core Courses required by the PTA Program in the sequence they must be taken. Any General Education Courses required by the Program that are not completed prior to entering the program will need to be added to this schedule.

FALL SEMESTER FIRST YEAR

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|---|
| PTAS 107 | Kinesiology | 5 |
| PTAS 106 | Treatment Modalities I | 5 |

SPRING SEMESTER FIRST YEAR

| | | |
|----------|--|-----|
| PTAS 102 | Disease, Trauma & Terminology | 3 |
| PTAS 103 | Administrative Aspects of Physical Therapist Assisting | 3 |
| PTAS 201 | Treatment Modalities II | 3 |
| PTAS 115 | Clinical I (3 weeks) | 2.5 |

FALL SEMESTER SECOND YEAR

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| PTAS 202 | Treatment Interventions for Special Populations | 2 |
| PTAS 217 | Treatment Modalities III | 5 |

SPRING SEMESTER SECOND YEAR

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|---|
| PTAS 205 | Clinical II (7 weeks) | 6 |
| PTAS 215 | Clinical III (7 weeks) | 6 |
| PTAS 224 | Review Course (1 week) | 1 |

GENERAL EDUCATION

COMM 101 – FUNDAMENTALS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduces fundamental concepts and skills for effective public speaking, including audience analysis, outlining, research, delivery, critical listening and evaluation, presentational aids, and use of appropriate technology.

OR

COMM 102 – INTRODUCTION TO INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Focuses on the process of interpersonal communication as a dynamic and complex system of interactions. Provides theory, actual practice, and criticism for examining and changing human interactions in work, family, and social contexts. Includes topics such as perception, self-concept, language, message encoding and decoding, feedback, listening skills, conflict management, and other elements affecting interpersonal communication in various world contexts.

ENGL 111 ENGLISH COMPOSITION: STRATEGIES FOR INQUIRY

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: English Composition is designed to develop students' abilities to think, organize, and express their ideas clearly and effectively in writing. This course incorporates reading, research, and critical thinking. Emphasis is placed on the various forms of expository writing such as process, description, narration, comparison, analysis, persuasion, and argumentation. A research paper is required. Numerous in-class writing activities are required in addition to extended essays written outside of class.

MATH 136 – COLLEGE ALGEBRA

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Presents an in-depth study of functions, quadratic, polynomial, radical, and rational equations, radicals, complex numbers, absolute value equations and inequalities, rational fractions and exponential and logarithmic functions. MATH 136 and MATH 137 together comprise a standard two-semester college algebra and trigonometry course.

PSYC 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Surveys behavior and cognitive processes as they affect the individual. The course focuses on biological foundations, learning processes, research methodologies, personality, human development and abnormal and social psychology.

SOCI 111 - INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduces students to the major theoretical paradigms of the science of human society, including fundamental concepts, descriptions, and analyses of society, culture, socialization processes, social institutions, social change, social stratification and the application of this understanding to everyday living.

IVYT 112 – STUDENT SUCCESS IN HEALTHCARE

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course provides students with an overview of skills and strategies necessary to reach their educational, career, and life objectives. Topics include time management, study skills, learning styles, campus and community resources, critical thinking, utilization of technology, career skills, and diversity in society.

LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

APHY 101 - ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Develops a comprehensive understanding of the close inter-relationship between anatomy and physiology as seen in the human organism. Introduces students to the cell, which is the basic structural and functional unit of all organisms, and covers tissues, integument, skeleton, muscular and nervous systems as an integrated unit.

APHY 102 - ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Continues the study of the inter-relationships of the systems of the human body. Introduces students to the study of the endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary and reproductive systems.

SCIN 111 - PHYSICAL SCIENCE

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduces physical concepts and theories pertaining to current applications and trends in physics. Basic concepts in chemistry, earth science and astronomy will also be illustrated. Emphasizes concepts and applications. Includes lab.

PTA PROGRAM COURSES

PTAS 101 – INTRODUCTION TO THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT 3 credits
CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Explores the history and concepts of physical therapy, physical therapist assisting and rehabilitative medicine. Introduces fundamentals of patient care including standard precautions; body substance isolation; OSHA guidelines, patient assessment including vital signs; body mechanics; and patient handling with applications of physics principles. Includes preparation of patients, treatment areas and equipment.

PTAS 102 - DISEASE, TRAUMA AND TERMINOLOGY 3 credits
CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Explores diseases and trauma which necessitate physical therapy for the client. Medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, psychology, disabilities and physics related to these conditions are discussed along with instrumentation, implants and fixation devices. Provides students with the opportunity to explore their own reactions to illness and disability and to discuss how to recognize patients' and families' reactions to illness and disability.

PTAS 103 - ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING 3 credits
CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Addresses the legal and ethical aspects of physical therapist assistant and patient care along with charting, documentation, report writing, patient history procurement, record keeping, charges, insurance information including diagnostic and procedure coding, third party reimbursement, Medicare, Medicaid, electronic claims and patient rights including American Disabilities Act policy and architectural barriers identification. Discusses current issues in health care provision. Explores patient, family, and professional communication techniques, body language and electronic communication as well as techniques in patient teaching. Includes performing within the limitations of scope of skills, basic principles of levels of authority and responsibility, planning, time management, supervisory process, performance evaluations, policies and procedures.

PTAS 106 - PTA TREATMENT MODALITIES I 5 credits
CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Continues concentration on the fundamentals of patient care including universal precautions, assessment of vital signs, body mechanics and patient positioning. Includes lectures, demonstrations and simulated patient problems in the laboratory portion of the course. Studies new techniques in depth, such as gait training, gait device selection, goniometry range of motion exercises and measuring. Introduces various modalities including hydrotherapy, thermotherapy, massage, traction and intermittent compression techniques. Safety factors are emphasized in both the lectures and the laboratories. The laboratory provides the setting for the practice and implementation of theories and techniques of PTAS 106. Students practice assessments and treatment methods on themselves and one another under the guidance and supervision of the laboratory instructor.

PTAS 107- KINESIOLOGY 5 credits
CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduces the physical therapist assistant student to the science of kinesiology. By definition, kinesiology is the study of movement. Studies human movement and brings together the fields of anatomy, physiology, physics and geometry. Prerequisite knowledge of skeletal and muscular anatomy and physiology is necessary. Class will consist of equal parts of lectures, demonstration and student participation in locating, observing and palpating various bony prominences and musculatures. Much of kinesiology requires independent study to memorize origin, insertion, action and innervation of all muscles. The knowledge gained in this course is an integral part of the students' background preparation for the practice of physical therapy.

PTA PROGRAM COURSES (continued)

PTAS 115 - PTA CLINICAL I

2.5 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Requires the student to perform in a clinical environment with patients, using applications of theory and techniques of PTAS 106, under the guidance of a registered physical therapist.

PTAS 201 - PTA TREATMENT MODALITIES II

3 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Reviews joint structure, muscle origins, insertions, innervations, actions and physiology. Covers normal and abnormal gait, joint replacement, and postural correcting exercise along with treatment principles and therapeutic exercises for the neck, back, and peripheral joints. Discusses general exercise principles and progression of the orthopedic patient through an exercise program. Addresses appropriate applications of principles of physics and kinesiology.

PTAS 202 – TREATMENT INTERVENTIONS FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

2 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Reviews musculoskeletal, integumentary, and vascular systems and diseases and disorders including anatomy, physiology, data collection strategies, and treatment implementation. Covers normal and abnormal gait with review of orthotic recommendation, fit, and training and prostheses recommendation, fit, and training following vascular and/or traumatic amputation. Reviews the application of therapeutic exercise for special populations related to vascular and integumentary system disorders. Discusses general exercise principles and progression for special populations.

PTAS 205 - PTA CLINICAL II

6 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Requires the student to perform in a clinical environment with patients using applications of theories and techniques of PTAS 201, PTAS 202, and PTAS 217 under the guidance of a registered physical therapist

PTAS 215 - PTAS 215 - PTA CLINICAL III

6 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Requires the student to perform in a clinical environment with patients using applications of theory and techniques of PTAS 202 and PTAS 217 under the guidance of a registered physical therapist.

PTAS 217 - PTA TREATMENT MODALITIES III

5 credits

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Provides an in-depth approach to therapeutic exercise as performed by the physical therapy assistant. Covers basic anatomy and physiology of the central and peripheral nervous systems and activities of daily living. Includes exercise physiology and neurophysiology and advanced principles and procedures of therapeutic exercise appropriate for cardiopulmonary, cardiovascular, orthopedic and neurologic conditions, stroke, spinal cord and peripheral nerve injuries. Discusses prevention measures, specialized techniques and the utilization of specialized therapeutic equipment and correlates them to exercise applications. Addresses appropriate applications of kinesiology and principles of physics. Provides practice and implementation of theories and techniques of PTAS 106 and PTAS 202 in the lab setting.

PTAS 224 - CURRENT ISSUES AND REVIEW

1 credit

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Teaches the sources of physical therapy research and discusses the recognition of the roles and responsibilities of physical therapy assisting. Requires completion and presentation of an independent project. Includes a comprehensive review of the course to prepare the student for licensure exam.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
AT IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE MUNCIE CAMPUS**

**1. START AT THE MUNCIE CAMPUS
OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES**

**Admission to the College / Counseling /
Basic Skills Evaluation / Prerequisites**

I have just received a letter from Student Services that I have been admitted to College. How soon will my PTA classes start?

The letter you received was to notify you of admission to Ivy Tech Community College at Muncie. All candidates for admission to the PTA Program must follow the steps outlined in the PTA Program Application Packet. Please note that admission to the College does **not** constitute acceptance to the PTA Program, nor will it guarantee such acceptance in the future.

I think I want to be a PTA. What is the first step I should take to be more certain?

Your decision to be a physical therapist assistant may have occurred after helping a family member at home or after assisting patients within a health care setting, either on a voluntary or professional basis. Whatever your motivation, make certain that you are well informed about physical therapy, the job responsibilities, the physical and personal requirements, as well as understanding something about the difficulty of the curriculum and mandatory licensure exam. You should obtain the Muncie campus' PTA program brochure describing the role of the physical therapist assistant and other brochures or materials published by the American Physical Therapy Association (apta.org). Of course, you may be able to hear a lot about the field if you are acquainted with physical therapy professionals or other health care workers. If you have considered well your motivation and ability, then start by signing up for the required five prerequisite courses, PTAS 101, ENGL 111, APHY 101, APHY 102, and SCIN 111.

If I am interested in being a PTA, what do I need to consider before applying to the PTA Program?

Consider what you want out of your life and whether this is currently a good time to make an investment in yourself and your education. Also consider that a PTA student-clinician has important responsibilities when working within a health care setting, and occasionally some incremental risks. Becoming a physical therapist assistant takes a lot of time and hard work, which you may find burdensome if you have many additional work or family responsibilities. Good planning and honest self-appraisal are essential for you to make the right decision.

Why do I have to take Basic Skills classes?

Ivy Tech Community College is committed to helping students succeed. Ivy Tech has found that individuals who have no deficiencies in basic skills areas are far more effective at achieving their educational and work objectives. If you are interested in the PTA Program, take the time to address any problems you may have in reading, writing and mathematics. Students who need additional work in these areas will have a difficult time managing the course load required by the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Even a well prepared student is likely to be overwhelmed by the breadth and difficulty of the material covered by the Program. A student poorly prepared in Basic Skills may not be capable of successfully completing the required course work to enter the PTA Program. **Basic Skills courses must be taken prior to enrolling in PTAS 101, APHY 101, APHY 102, ENGL 111, and SCIN 111.**

I'm concerned about financial aid. What should I do?

Contact the Financial Aid Office. The staff is available to advise and assist all students with application procedures.

Can I continue to work and be in the Program?

Yes, however, some students find it difficult to work and complete the necessary course work. During the last semester, students are involved in clinicals for 40 hours per week, and will not be able to work, except perhaps during the weekends.

This sounds like what I want. Do I have a good chance of starting the PTA Program next semester?

No, not unless you have completed the required five courses. You must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA in these courses to apply to the PTA Program, and often a much higher academic performance is needed for acceptance, depending on the current applicant pool. Note finally that the limited class size makes this much sought-after program competitive. As a result, no student can be guaranteed admission to the PTA Program, and all applications are subject to deadlines.

I have taken Anatomy and Physiology I (APHY 101) and Anatomy and Physiology II (APHY 102). Will those courses apply for the PTA Program?

Yes. Not only are these part of the core curriculum, but APHY 101 and APHY 102 are prerequisites for the PTA Program. Other courses which transfer include Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 101), Introduction to Interpersonal Communication (COMM 102), Fundamentals of Public Speaking (COMM 101) College Algebra (MATH 136), Introduction to Sociology (SOC 111) and English Composition (ENGL 111). Many programs in the College include these as well as other General Education courses for completion of degree requirements. If you have taken these courses at other colleges, it is important to submit an official transcript to Student Services so they may evaluate your course for transfer.

How do I find out about acceptance rates and licensure exam pass rates?

Information regarding acceptance and matriculation rates, graduation rates, employment rates of program graduates, and pass rates of program graduates on the state licensure exam is available upon request at the PTA Program office and the PTA lab.

Why was PTAS 101, Introduction to PTA, moved from the regular curriculum to become one of the five prerequisite courses?

There were several reasons to change our introductory course to a prerequisite. The first reason was to enable potential PTA students to become more familiar with the demands of our curriculum and the field of PTA to decide if it is a good career choice. The second reason was to provide the PTA faculty the opportunity to observe the student in a hands-on lab situation, and to assess the applicant's aptitude, demeanor, initiative, ability to be a team player, dependability and communication skills, all of which are essential to a successful PTA..

Should I be concerned if I receive a poor grade in the prerequisites?

For a number of reasons, you should be concerned: (1) A bad grade will be reflected in the increased weighting of the grades in the admission process. (2) There is a need for a strong basic knowledge of this material for all the subsequent technical courses in the PTA Program, so a weakness in this area can affect comprehension throughout the curriculum. (3) Students generally do better in areas they enjoy, so a poor grade in these subjects may indicate a lack of interest or aptitude. Again, self-evaluation is a critical tool in assessing your career decision

Can I take the General Education classes without being admitted to the PTA Program?

Yes. Any student may enroll in these classes and transfer them later after acceptance into the PTA Program.

Is there anything I can do if my GPA is below a 2.5?

You might consider taking enough courses to bring up your GPA. Only students with a GPA of 2.5 or above may be admitted to the PTA Program.

What is the admission process if I want to be in the PTA Program?

Students are admitted to the PTA Program after completing all the steps in the admissions process. The first step is to be admitted to Ivy Tech Community College. Second, the student needs to meet with a PTA advisor and sign up for prerequisite courses APHY 101, APHY 102, SCIN 111, ENGL 111, and PTAS 101. Third, a completed application with all required supporting documents must be submitted through the online application system by the appropriate application deadline. The process of making application to the PTA program will be discussed in detail in the PTAS 101 course.

When are students selected for the PTA Program?

Applications for the PTA Program are due each May 15th for the new PTA class beginning each fall. Applicants are notified of the admission status in June.

Is there a waiting list?

No. A waiting list for admission is not maintained.

2. COMPLETE THE PROGRAM APPLICATION PACKET

Transcript GPA / Performance Essentials

What must be done to be considered for the PTA Program?

(1) The applicant must have a transcript documenting completion of the required courses sent directly to Student Services. (2) The applicant must have maintained a 2.5 GPA to be considered. (3) The applicant must either transfer equivalent courses, have completed, or be currently enrolled in the three hours of required Anatomy and Physiology I, three hours of required Anatomy and Physiology II, three hours of required Physical Science, and three hours of required English Composition at Ivy Tech. (4) The student must have completed PTAS 101, or be currently enrolled. (5) There should be documentation that the applicant has no basic skills deficiencies or that any such deficiencies have been satisfactorily addressed. (6) The application must be completed by the deadline through the online application system.

How important is a student's grade point average in the selection process?

Grades are important, since they are one measure of a student's foundational knowledge. A concern for people and a genuine love of learning are also primary considerations, along with professionalism, good collaborative and communication skills, and self-discipline.

I lift weights. Will that strengthen my application when you score my performance essentials form?

No, the performance essentials form is not scored. The form is designed to acquaint you with the fact that there are actual physical requirements to effectively perform the job duties of a physical therapist assistant. You need to assess your ability to meet the standards which will be applied in the clinical phase of the Program and throughout your working career. Perfect health, while desirable, is not expected. Nevertheless, documentation that you have made an honest appraisal of your physical abilities is reflected by your signature on the form.

My doctor advised me that I have a disability. Can I still be a PTA?

Your working as a PTA will depend upon the nature and severity of your disability. Your disability may not interfere with your performance of the physical tasks outlined in the performance essentials form. Every PTA applicant must demonstrate proof of performance of the essential tasks listed in the "Essential Functions of a PTA" form. If there is difficulty in performing these tasks, you may request **in writing** that the PTA Program Chairperson consider making reasonable accommodations for your limitations. Additional reasonable accommodations may be made for individuals who require assistance for their learning or sensory-related disabilities with documentation of formal diagnosis and treatment for the disability. Accommodations must not delete or change the nature of fundamental components of the task. All accommodations will be made in conjunction with the office of Disability Services within Ivy Tech policy.

3. OTHER STEPS REQUIRED TO FINALIZE APPLICATION

What if I'm admitted to the Program and then can't start? Can I delay my admissions?

Students are expected to matriculate into the program the year that they are accepted.

What if I'm not admitted to the PTA Program?

The first thing you should do is spend time in self-reflection, evaluating your abilities and career decision. If you feel strongly about pursuing a PTA career, you may apply the subsequent year. In this case, it would be advisable to contact the PTA Program chair about strengthening your application.

4. PTA PROGRAM CURRICULUM: ACADEMIC AND CLINICAL ASPECTS

Classroom Instruction / Role-Playing and Clinical Simulations / Clinical Assignments

Why do I have to take a communication class to be a physical therapist assistant?

Strengthening your oral and written communication skills is extremely important for your future interactions with patients, families and various health care professionals. Lectures and demonstrations on communication styles and strategies, individual and cultural diversity, conflict management, and assertiveness skills are presented. Participation in patient interviews, community work groups, and case studies deepens the student's understanding of the role played by interpersonal and communication skills in the workplace.

Why is there an emphasis on students actively instructing peers? Why do we discuss various teaching techniques?

Proper instruction regarding patient exercises and other therapeutic procedures represents such an important aspect of physical therapy that efforts must be made to scrupulously assess and develop each PTA student's skills in patient-related training. Students should be able to explain and discuss a patient's condition, treatment, and return to the community, whether on a one-on-one basis or as part of a group. It should be noted that the competencies which enable someone to be a good teacher can be taught and reinforced over a period of time. Required basic competencies include: good interpersonal skills; clarity of self-expression; appropriate nonverbal expression; and the ability to critically analyze and verbalize pertinent objective data. These and related competencies are explored through multi-dimensional assessments of students (self-assessments and evaluations from faculty).

How will the classroom phase of the Program prepare me to deal with patients?

There will be discussions of various issues of professional conduct and patient confidentiality. Subsequently, there will be presentations of clinical cases in class, usually ex-patients who have chronic conditions or who exemplify certain clinical conditions. Students will also be trained through role-playing and other mock clinical situations on the correct procedures for interacting with patients and writing documentation.

Will the classroom phase of the Program prepare me for the role of student-clinician?

Yes, in addition to role-playing of clinical situations and practice in interacting with actual patients, a series of class projects and clinical problems will reinforce skills in effectively collaborating with peers in the classroom. The ability of clinicians to work well as teams is critical to the delivery of physical therapy services in the health care setting. The Program prepares students as entry level clinicians to work in a variety of settings including inpatient, outpatient, orthopedic and neurological settings.

I have heard that I will have to wear shorts and a halter top (for females) for some of the labs. Is there some way that I can be exempted from this requirement?

No, this requirement is absolute for two reasons. First, you need to be able to see and/or feel the anatomical region that you are studying. Second, you must learn to be at ease with the human body to work effectively with patients. If you feel or show shame, this will make patients uncomfortable and lessen your effectiveness as a PTA. Professional conduct regarding lab attire is essential.

5. ACADEMIC POLICIES OF THE PTA PROGRAM

Honor Code / Attendance

Is there an honor code?

Yes, there is an honor code. The honor system requires a student to be honest throughout their education and report any knowledge of cheating by others. Cheating will subject the student to disciplinary action as outlined by College policy and can result in dismissal. Although honor codes work best when they have had a long tradition behind them, we are putting forth a special effort to establish this system. Learning to live with these principles will be necessary not only as a student, but throughout a subsequent career as a clinical professional. This difficult obligation is a necessity for a self-regulating professional who must inspire public confidence and trust. In addition, the proof of the Program's quality will be measured in the clinics. Any breach of ethics, willful failure to comply with policies and procedures, marked indifference to the welfare of others, or blatantly unprofessional conduct may result in disciplinary action, which may result in dismissal from the program.

Do I have to join in the student APTA organization or participate in activities such as journal club or student recruiting?

No, however, you will be encouraged to be active in such endeavors. Just as the PTA course work helps develop your clinical skills, these activities help develop your professionalism and your communication skills with peers and other health care personnel. Opportunities to join the APTA as a student PTA will be presented during the program orientation prior to the first semester.

How important is attendance?

Attendance is vitally important and is expected of each student. In accordance with the statewide PTA Program's attendance policy, each class absence will result in the loss of one percentage point from the final grade. If lecture and lab are missed on the same day, the student loses only one percentage point. There will be NO exceptions to this policy. If classes are missed, it is the responsibility of the student to make up and review the missed information with classmates. Note that students will be given one free absence per course. This does not apply to clinical attendance. (See the clinical education manual.)

Tardiness of 10 minutes at the start of class, or leaving early from class or lab without permission of the instructor will count as an unexcused absence.

Missed examinations must be made up before the next class session. Any extra credit offered to the class during the scheduled exam will be forfeited. A 10% penalty will be assessed from the final grade earned on the exam for taking the exam later than originally scheduled. Requests for taking an exam early must be made directly to the course instructor in a timely manner prior to an absence. The 10% penalty off the exam grade will not be assessed if the student arranges to take the exam early. The previously stated 1% penalty off the final course grade will still apply, if applicable. Exams taken on a date other than that originally scheduled are subject to being administered in an alternative format (i.e. essay, oral, or other).

Any assignment turned in late will receive an automatic five percent penalty. Any late assignment not received prior to the next scheduled class session will receive a zero, but must be completed as part of the course requirement.

Promptness and good attendance are signs of professionalism. Extended absence due to sickness, family death or illness, or other unforeseen situations will be considered on an individual basis by the Program Chair. Typically, a medical leave ordered by a physician is required. A remedial project may be required to make up the missed work, or a leave of absence may be contemplated. Because the curriculum is sequential in nature, the student would need to complete the interrupted course before continuing in subsequent PTAS-prefixed courses.

In such a small group, won't everyone know if I fail a test?

Student confidentiality is of prime importance in the PTA Program. Test scores or other confidential items placed in your mailbox will be face-down and in sealed envelopes. Hopefully, however, you will feel comfortable about seeking out help from others when you are having serious difficulties, since study groups and tutoring of one another could ensure academic success for everyone. A tight-knit group should work together. You all must learn to trust one another in the same way that your patients will need to trust you.

What if I do poorly in a required class?

A grade of 78% or better must be achieved in each of the technical core courses required for the Associate in Science in Physical Therapist Assistant courses. 78 percent and above must be earned in both lecture and laboratory components of the course, not an average of the two.

What if I'm admitted and then receive an "F" in a course?

You will be required to repeat the course. A student may repeat a PTA course only one time. Additionally, any withdrawal made at a time the student is not considered in good standing (passing every PTA course the student is currently enrolled in with a 78 percent or above) is considered an "F" for PTA program purposes. The student will receive a "W" on their report card, but will be unable to continue in the PTA program until the course has been successfully completed. Therefore, the student must wait until the course is offered again, which is the next academic year, before taking any PTA courses.

If I think a teacher is unfair, is there anything I can do?

Yes, first you should discuss any problems or issues with that teacher. Your issue will be addressed promptly if it is presented in a professional, respectful manner. None of us likes criticism, but most of us will make an effort to correct a problem if it is brought to our attention. If no corrective action is taken or if insufficient changes are made, you can take your problem to your faculty advisor and/or the Chairperson of the Program. If no solution is reached, the student should follow the student grievance policy procedures/steps outlined in the College's Policy and Procedure Manual.

6. PRACTICE AS A PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Certification / Outcomes Assessment

Someone told me there was a test you have to take after you finished the Program. Is that true?

Yes. Before you may seek employment as a physical therapist assistant in Indiana, you must take and pass the certification exam administered under the direction of the Indiana Health Professions Bureau. Similar provisions for passing state certification or licensure examinations exist in most states.

The possibility exists that a person who has been convicted of a crime may not be certified as a health practitioner in the State of Indiana. The Indiana Health Professions Bureau may choose to deny a person convicted of a crime the opportunity to sit for the certification examination even if they have satisfactorily completed the Ivy Tech Community College Associate of Science degree.

Ivy Tech Community College cannot guarantee that any student will pass a certification or licensing exam. Your success will be determined by several factors beyond the instruction you are given in the classroom including your test-taking skills, your willingness to study outside of class, and your satisfactory completion of appropriate practice exams. Certification and licensure exam questions are drawn from databases of hundreds of possible questions; therefore, a thorough understanding of the subject matter is required. The goal of Ivy Tech in providing a certification/licensure exam studies class is to assist you in understanding the material sufficiently to provide a firm foundation for your studies as you prepare for the exam.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

PROJECTED DIRECT EXPENSES*

| | |
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| Tuition (69.5 hours at 149.55** per credit hour) | \$10,078.20 |
| Approximate book cost (Technical Core). | 1,370.00 |
| PTAS 101 Course Supply Fee | 25.00 |
| PTAS 106 Course Supply Fee | 25.00 |
| PTAS 205 Fee | 25.00 |
| PTAS 215 Fee | 25.00 |
| PTAS 224 Scorebuilders Exam | 35.00 |
| Miscellaneous Clinical Education Costs | <u>varies</u> |
| Total | \$12,273.73 |

* This is an **estimation** of costs. The College reserves the right to revise fees at any time.

There is an additional charge of \$20 per credit hour for internet based courses.

** Out of state tuition fees are \$292.57 per credit hour, making tuition total \$20, 333.62, and raising the projected expenses to \$22,213.62.

The College assesses a \$75.00 Technology Fee for all students per semester.

Book fees listed above are an estimate for the Technical Core only. General Education Courses require varied books and fees.

Board Exam and Licensing Fees***

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Application Fee for License | \$100.00 |
| FSBPTA Exam | \$485.00 |
| Prometric Computerized Testing Fee | \$ 82.60 |

*** These fees are charged by the Indiana Health Professions Bureau and the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, not Ivy Tech Community College, and are subject to change.