

Program Level Learning Outcomes for Physical Therapist Assistant Programs  
Representative programs: Gary (Crown Point Merrillville Center), Muncie, Sellersburg  
Developed 2014-2015

With regard to students completing the PTA Program, students are expected to achieve abilities related to knowledge and skills of a Physical Therapist Assistant to achieve licensure, to successfully and safely manage and treat patients in a variety of healthcare settings, to communicate effectively with laypersons and medical professionals, and to exemplify ethical and legal professional standards of the field of physical therapy.

**MAJOR COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of the PTA Program, the graduate will:

- I. Communication (3.3.2.1)
  - Devise a formal presentations for professional in-service, family and patient education in a clinical care setting under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist
  - Display effective with necessary individuals in a clinical setting
  - Relate to constructive feedback and demonstrate progression in clinical skills
  - Display conflict resolution
  - Relate to nonverbal communication in patient care
- II. Individual and Cultural Differences (3.3.2.2)
  - Illustrate the effect of individual and cultural difference on the delivery of patient care in physical therapy
  - Discriminate between cultural and medical/physical needs in the provision of physical therapy services under the plan of care within a clinical setting
- III. Behavior and Conduct (3.3.2.3 – 5)
  - Relate the ethical and legal role of the Physical Therapist Assistant in physical therapy in formal and informal presentation in various clinical settings
  - Display clinical setting professional appearance and demeanor standards
  - Display punctual and consistent attendance
  - Display responsibility of professional behaviors specific to a clinical setting
- IV. Plan of Care – Understanding [toward goals and intended outcomes] (3.3.2.6)
  - Apply relevant anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology knowledge to encountered pathophysiologies in a clinical setting
  - Examine necessary patient characteristics in medical and physical therapy documentation
  - Differentiate available strategies to meet the intended goals and outcomes of the physical therapy plan of care
  - Devise a treatment strategy meeting the Physical Therapist developed plan of care components including interventions, goals, and outcomes of a patient in clinical care under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist

- V. Plan of Care - Implementation [under the direction and supervision of a Physical Therapist] (3.3.2.7+)  
Distinguish contraindication, indications, procedural parameters and safety issues concerning the below intervention strategies in physical therapy and demonstrate effective and safe psychomotor skills acquired in didactic and clinical training in the areas listed below related to various clinical settings under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist.
- Functional training
  - Infection control procedures
  - Manual therapy techniques
  - Physical agents and mechanical agents
  - Therapeutic exercise
  - Wound management
- VI. Plan of Care - Competency in Data Collection [under the direction and supervision of a Physical Therapist] (3.3.2.8+)  
Distinguish methods of data collection with regard to patient demographics, procedural parameters, safety issues, and comparison norms for the below areas of physical therapy intervention and demonstrate the psychomotor skills acquired in didactic and clinical training in below areas to provide data and clinical judgment to progress a patient/client within the Physical Therapist developed plan of care.
- Aerobic capacity and endurance
  - Anthropometric characteristics
  - Arousal, mentation, and cognition
  - Assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, supportive, and prosthetic
  - Gait, locomotion, balance
  - Integumentary integrity
  - Joint integrity and mobility
  - Muscle performance
  - Neuromotor development
  - Pain
  - Posture
  - Range of motion
  - Self-care/home management; Community/work reintegration
  - Ventilation, respiration, circulation examination
- VII. Scope of Practice – Plan of Care: adjusts, recognizes, reports, clarifies with supervising Physical Therapist (3.3.2.9 - 12)
- Differentiate potential for recommendations for patient progression within the physical therapy plan of care
  - Appraise patient progression and/or regression requiring update and/or revision of the physical therapy plan of care and consult accordingly with the supervising Physical Therapist
- VIII. Plan of Care - education of patient, caregiver and non-healthcare others with supervising PT (3.3.2.13 – 14)
- Choose appropriate components of the physical therapy plan of care for the education of patients and other relevant individuals for understanding and best outcomes
  - Use effective teaching methods for patients and other relevant individuals according to the physical therapy plan of care

- IX. Emergency Response (3.3.2.15)
  - Distinguish emergency situations potential to physical therapy intervention and the appropriate response required by the Physical Therapist Assistant
  - Employ safety and emergency situations in physical therapy interventions in a clinical setting
  - Employ immediate emergency situations in medical status in a clinical setting
- X. Documentation and Discharge Planning [with supervising Physical Therapist] (3.3.2.16 – 17)
  - Distinguish appropriate roles and components for the required documentation in physical therapy delivery
  - Demonstrate effective physical therapy documentation in a patient care setting
- XI. Healthcare Literature (3.3.2.18)
  - Differentiate appropriate professional scientific literature relevant to physical therapy
  - Analyze professional scientific literature relevant to physical therapy in order to prepare a written and/or oral presentation and/or provide effective patient care under the physical therapist developed plan of care
  - Collect evidence to support conclusions based on best practice in field of physical therapy within the context of the written and/or oral presentation and /or the provision of effective patient care under the physical therapist developed plan of care
  - Use accurate referencing strategies in the written and/or oral presentation
- XII. Education – other healthcare members; role of Physical Therapist Assistant (3.3.2.19 – 20)
  - Practice effective teaching techniques in oral presentation regarding the role of the Physical Therapist Assistant
  - Defend the responsibilities of the PTA in the physical therapy plan of care in the clinical setting
- XIII. Administration (3.3.2.21 – 24):
  - Demonstrate the ethical and legal standards of the Physical Therapist Assistant
  - Demonstrate fiscal responsibility as a Physical Therapist Assistant
  - Demonstrate compliance with positions, policies, and procedures of APTA and clinical setting
- XIV. Social Responsibility (3.3.2.25-26)
  - Value the responsibility of a Physical Therapist Assistant in educating patients in available alternative methods of care, other than physical therapy, with the support of the supervising Physical Therapist
- XV. Career Development (3.3.2. 27 – 28) – lifelong learning; Physical Therapist Assistant in clinical
  - Identify procedures for state licensure acquisition and National PTA Examination completion
  - Identify effective job search strategies
  - Develop a plan for continued learning, career development, and success in the field of physical therapy and healthcare