

**Affective Domain**—The student must demonstrate:

- Ability to handle stresses of competency testing, lab practicals and clinical affiliations
- Empathy—being sensitive and responding to the feelings and behaviors of others
- Ability to engage in a face-to-face verbal conversation, making eye-contact and using appropriate body language
- Ability to cooperate and work effectively with other individuals
- Ability to initiate or self-start projects, tasks and communication, searching out answers using appropriate resources
- The organizational and time management skills necessary to coordinate class, study and clinical responsibilities
- Ability to give and receive constructive feedback and to modify behavior accordingly
- Ability to present oneself in a manner (dress, body language, personal hygiene, verbal style) that is accepted by peers, clients, and employers
- Students must possess the emotional health required to complete all academic and clinical requirements and to follow appropriate classroom, testing and clinical protocols.
- Ability to express self clearly in English, and be easily understood when using the English language

## ACCREDITATION

The PTA Program at Harcum College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone 703-706-3245; email [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: [www.capteonline.org](http://www.capteonline.org)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Contact Harcum's Admissions Office at:  
610.526.6050 | [enroll@harcum.edu](mailto:enroll@harcum.edu).

Contact the PTA Program Director:  
**Jacki Klaczak Kopack, PT, DPT**  
610-526-6059 | [jkopack@harcum.edu](mailto:jkopack@harcum.edu)

*Harcum College is an equal opportunity institution and, as such, does not discriminate in its educational and employment practices with regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, sexual orientation, applicable veteran status or any other legally protected classification.*

*The College also complies with all federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders and regulations.*

Revised 5-19-2023 RB



HARCUM COLLEGE



## PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT HARCUM COLLEGE

Physical Therapy is a field of healthcare that uses the application of physical agents, therapeutic exercise and activities in the treatment and restoration of human bodily function.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program prepares students to provide direct patient care, using physical therapy treatments in a variety of departmental settings under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the state licensure examination. PTA students can be accepted into the College in the Fall, Spring, or Summer semesters; PTA course sequencing begins only in the Fall for the full time course sequence (day classes) and January for the part time course sequence (evening classes).



## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed Harcum College application
- Official copy of high school transcript and official copies of all college transcripts, if applicable
- Completion of Algebra I and II, Geometry, biology (with lab) with earned grades of C or higher
- For high school students, a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Minimum SAT: (Old) 900 Critical Reading/Math (New) 980 Evidence-Based Reading/Writing & Math. Minimum Composite ACT: 19
- For students with college credits, a minimum college GPA of 2.5
- A written essay describing how the applicant would define physical therapy, how the applicant decided to become a physical therapist assistant and how the applicant sees her/himself practicing in the field of physical therapy in the future.
- TOEFL/IELTS/DET (Duolingo English Test) scores (for students for whom English is a second language)

- It is strongly recommended that applicants complete a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer or work experience in a physical therapy department.
- All application documents must be submitted to the Admissions Office. The Admissions Committee will review only completed application files.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- A maximum of 30 credits of general education coursework may be transferred from another institution.
- No prior PTA courses will be accepted from another institution (exceptions are granted on a case-by-case basis per PTA program policy).
- Prior to or during the student's first semester, a child abuse clearance and criminal history background check must be completed successfully (both should show a clear record). Clearances must be successfully completed in order to proceed to site visits and clinical affiliations.
- Students may be unable to complete requirements for graduation and/or obtain a license to practice based on results of these background checks.
- Accepted students must demonstrate math proficiency and complete the college placement examination in English and reading above the developmental level.
- Students without the prerequisites are required to complete preparatory coursework before admission to the program. This will increase the number of semesters required to complete the program.
- Once accepted to the program, students are required to have a physical examination, chest x-ray, Quantiferon Gold blood test (annually), hepatitis B vaccine, provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, proof of current CPR certification, and proof of medical insurance. There is a fee for obtaining the required clearances and tracking the medical and required documents for clinical education. Each student will be required to obtain an account with the college's contracted database company, for a fee, prior to any clinical placement.
- PTA students are required to comply with PTA dress code and professional behavior standards.
- PTA students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 throughout the program. PTA students must earn a grade of C or higher in MTH 113, AHS 101, BIO 103, BIO 104 and a C or higher in all PTA courses to proceed in the PTA course sequence.
- Failure (grade of C - or lower) of any two PTA courses will result in dismissal from the program.

**Program Requirements continued...**

- Students must take all PTA courses in the sequence in which they are offered. Failure to do so will result in an increase in the number of semesters required to complete the program.
- Class attendance is mandatory for all PTA lectures, labs and clinical affiliations.
- PTA Policies and Procedures (per PTA Policy and Procedure Manual) are binding.

**COURSE SEQUENCE**

**Full-Time (Day) Division**

**\*Required Pre-Requisite Courses** *(The courses highlighted in bold must be completed prior to initiating the PTA course sequence. The other three can be completed the prior summer)*

AHS 101	Basic Medical Terminology (or AHS 102)	1 cr. (3 cr.)
<b>BIO 103</b>	<b>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</b>	<b>4 cr.</b>
<b>ENG 101</b>	<b>Composition I</b>	<b>3 cr.</b>
<b>MTH 111</b>	<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>	<b>3 cr.</b>
PSY 111	Intro to Psychology	3 cr.
HUM	Humanities Elective	<u>3 cr.</u>
		<b>17 cr./19 cr.</b>

**First Semester**

BIO 104	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4 cr.
ENG 102	English Composition II	3 cr.
PTA 109	Functional Anatomy	2 cr.
PTA 110	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2 cr.
PTA 111	Foundation/Principles of P.T.	3 cr.
PTA 116	Principles of Therapeutic Exercise	<u>2 cr.</u>
		<b>16 cr.</b>

**Second Semester**

DIV	Diversity Elective	3 cr.
PTA 112	Physical Therapy/ Electrophysiology	4 cr.
PTA 114	Applied Kinesiology	4 cr.
PTA 130	Introduction to Rehabilitation	3 cr.
PTA 218	Pathophysiology	<u>4 cr.</u>
		<b>18 cr.</b>

**Summer Session**

PTA 150	Clinical Affiliation I	3 cr.
PTA 212	Selected Topics	2 cr.
PTA 222	Advanced Orthopedics	3 cr.
PTA 231	Rehabilitation Applications	<u>4 cr.</u>
		<b>12 cr.</b>

**Fourth Semester**

PTA 240	Clinical Seminar	2 cr.
PTA 250	Clinical Affiliation II	6 cr.
PTA 251	Clinical Affiliation III	<u>6 cr.</u>
		<b>14 cr.</b>

**Total: 77/ 79 Credits**

**Part-Time (Evening) Division**

**\*Required Pre-Requisite Courses** *(These courses must be completed prior to initiating the PTA course sequence and can be completed the prior summer)*

AHS 101	Medical Terminology * (or AHS 102)	1 cr. (3 cr.)
BIO 103	Anatomy & Physiology I *	4 cr.
BIO 104	Anatomy & Physiology II *	4 cr.
ENG 101	English Composition I *	3 cr.
MTH 111	Quantitative Reasoning *	<u>3 cr.</u>
		<b>15 cr./17 cr.</b>

**Spring (January) Semester I**

PSY 111	Intro Psychology	3 cr.
PTA 109	Functional Anatomy	2 cr.
PTA 110	Introduction to PT	2 cr.
PTA 111	Foundation/Principles of PT	<u>3 cr.</u>
		<b>10 cr.</b>

**Summer (May) I**

PTA 112	PT I/Electrophysiology	4 cr.
PTA 116	Principles of Therapeutic Exercise	<u>2 cr.</u>
		<b>6 cr.</b>

**Fall (August) Semester I**

ENG 102	English Composition II	3 cr.
PTA 114	Applied Kinesiology	4 cr.
PTA 130	Introduction to Rehabilitation	<u>3 cr.</u>
		<b>10 cr.</b>

**Winter Semester I (Jan. 2-30 approx.)**

PTA 150	Clinical Affiliation I (full-time day)	<u>3 cr.</u>
		<b>3 cr.</b>

**Spring Semester II**

PTA 218	Pathophysiology	4 cr.
DIV	Diversity Elective	<u>3 cr.</u>
		<b>7 cr.</b>

**Summer (May) II**

PTA 222	Advanced Orthopedics	3 cr.
HUM	Humanities Elective	<u>3 cr.</u>
		<b>6 cr.</b>

**Fall (August) Semester II**

PTA 212	Selected Topics in PT	2 cr.
PTA 231	Rehabilitation Applications	<u>4 cr.</u>
		<b>6 cr.</b>

**Spring (January) III**

PTA 240	Clinical Seminar	2 cr.
PTA 250	Clinical Affiliation II (full-time day)	6 cr.
PTA 251	Clinical Affiliation III (full-time day)	<u>6 cr.</u>
		<b>14 cr.</b>

**Total: 77/79 Credits**

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

For students to be successful in the PTA Program, they must possess the following qualities:

- 1) Academic ability to earn a grade of C or higher in all PTA courses
- 2) Ability to achieve competency level performance in all physical therapy procedures which include, but are not limited to, the following:

**Cognitive Domain**—The student must demonstrate the ability to:

- Reason with abstract and concrete variables, define problems, collect data, establish facts and draw valid conclusions
- Master information presented in course work in the form of lectures, demonstrations, independent study, clinical experiences, written material, material presented through computer imaging and projected images
- Interpret instructions furnished in oral, written, or schedule form
- Problem solve and deal with unexpected situations
- Carry out written and oral, one, two, or three-step instructions
- Remember instructions and carry out tasks over time
- Generalize instructions from one situation to another
- Read and comprehend physical therapy evaluations, educational and medical charts, manuals and instruction for maintenance of equipment, safety rules and procedures
- Document entries into medical charts
- Prepare and write educational reports using appropriate grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Manage his/her time effectively and ability to maintain a work pace appropriate to a given caseload, including regular and punctual attendance at the clinical affiliation sites as well as all classes
- Recall coursework materials and integrate appropriately in problem solving scenarios
- Demonstrate an entry-level knowledge of clinical and didactic materials
- Understand spoken and written English and utilize the English language appropriately in written assignments and documents

**Psychomotor Domain**—The student must demonstrate:

- Functional vision, hearing, motor and tactile sensation which must be adequate to monitor and assess a patient's health needs and to perform duties as noted in a PT plan of care
- Adequate ability to guard patients safely during ambulation activities on level surfaces and stair climbing when the patient is using a cane, walker, crutches, or other assistive devices
- Ability to transfer patients safely from bed to chair or mat and from table to chair using minimum, moderate, maximum or dependent-lift techniques
- Ability to perform the full range of motion to a patient
- Ability to apply graded manual resistance to patients' individual muscle groups for the purpose of determining the patient's strength or applying exercise techniques for strengthening or stretching all muscle groups
- Ability to safely and competently apply modalities and electrical stimulation, including contraindication/precaution review, using appropriate parameters and set-up techniques. These treatments include, but are not limited to: moist heat, cold packs, cryocuff, intermittent compression, paraffin, galvanic stimulation and neuromuscular stimulation
- Ability to apply ultrasound safely, includes manipulating dials at the same time that the sound head is kept moving on the patient's treatment site
- Ability to complete wound care techniques on open wounds
- Ability to perform cleaning procedures for sterile techniques with all size whirlpools
- Ability to utilize good body mechanics in the process of all patient treatment techniques
- Ability to communicate effectively with patients by explaining procedures to patients; obtaining consent from patients to proceed with treatment; receiving information from patients, their charts, other healthcare providers and/or their physician; introducing self while confirming patient's identity and documenting clear, concise and accurate notes in the patient's chart
- Ability to set up treatment sessions using laboratory or clinic equipment within the time restraints of the treatment requirements to provide safe and effective treatments to the patient
- Ability to perform CPR
- Ability to apply standard precautions when indicated for patients with potential bloodborne pathogens
- Ability to monitor vital signs and respond to emergencies