

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Faculty: Lynn McKelvey, chair; Tom McKelvey, academic coordinator of clinical education; Tana Pipes, paraprofessional.

The physical therapist assistant program leads to an associate in applied science degree and encompasses a two-year course of study. The program is designed to prepare educated health workers to perform certain physical therapy procedures and related tasks under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The physical therapist assistant performs treatment procedures that involve the therapeutic use of heat, cold, electromagnetic radiations, traction, compression, water, massage, ultrasound and therapeutic exercise, and assists the physical therapist with evaluative procedures.

The curriculum balances general educational and technical courses and includes supervised clinicals at hospitals and private clinics. These combined experiences provide students with an opportunity for educational development as well as occupational competence. Licensure of physical therapist assistants is required in the State of Texas and graduates are eligible to take the licensure examination.

Because clinical space is limited, students are admitted selectively. To be considered for admission to the program, prospective students must be high school graduates or equivalent, achieve a satisfactory score on a selected entrance examination, have good character references, complete a specified number of volunteer or observation hours in a physical therapy clinic, and be approved by the program admissions committee. BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I and BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology II are prerequisites to beginning the physical therapist assistant courses but do not have to be completed before applying to the program. Applicants must achieve a minimum grade of "C" in both BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402. After being accepted, students must maintain a grade of "C" in all physical therapist assistant courses. An average of "C" or better must be maintained in all other courses. Students failing to meet these scholastic requirements will be dropped from the program. The physical therapist assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Note: Students must comply with all school and physical therapist assistant program policies. Program policies are delineated in the Student Handbook. Liability insurance is required and is part of the college fee schedule. Students must present proof of required immunizations and of health and accident insurance. After admission to the program, new students will authorize the physical therapist assistant department to conduct a criminal background check. This procedure is required for students to go to the various hospitals and agencies for clinical education. If the background check is positive for certain offenses, the student may not be able to participate in clinical education and, therefore, will not be able to complete program requirements and will be dismissed from the program.

Applicants or other interested persons seeking additional information should contact the OC Help Center or the physical therapist assistant department; additional information can be obtained from the physical therapist assistant department's Web site at www.odessa.edu/dept/pta. Testing deadline is February 28 and application deadline is March 31.

COURSE OF STUDY FOR ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

| | Semester Hrs |
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| Prerequisite Courses | |
| BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 |
| BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II | 4 |
| First Year | |
| Summer Session | |
| ENGL 1301 Composition and Rhetoric | 3 |
| MATH 1332 Structures of College Math | 3 |
| First Semester | |
| Humanities/Fine Arts: At least three hours from art, Bible, mass communication (COMM 1316, COMM 1318 or COMM 1319), English (except ENGL 1301, ENGL 1312 or ENGL 2311), history, any foreign language (except SPAN 1300), music, philosophy or photography | 3 |
| HPRS 1106 Medical Terminology | 1 |
| ITSC 1191 Special Topics in Computer Informational Sciences | 1 |
| PSYC 2301 Introduction to Psychology <u>or</u> PSYC 2302 Applied Psychology | 3 |
| PTHA 1201 The Profession of Physical Therapy | 2 |
| PTHA 1305 Basic Patient Care Skills | 3 |

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| Second Semester | |
| SPCH 1321 Business and Professional Speech | 3 |
| PHED 1166 CPR for Allied Health | 1 |
| PTHA 1321 Clinical Pathophysiology | 3 |
| PTHA 1325 Communication in Health Care | 3 |
| PTHA 1431 Physical Agents | 4 |
| Summer Session | |
| PTHA 2460 Clinical I | 4 |

Second Year

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| First Semester | |
| PTHA 1413 Functional Anatomy | 4 |
| PTHA 2409 Therapeutic Exercise | 4 |
| PTHA 2201 Assessment Skills | 2 |
| PTHA 2435 Rehabilitation Techniques | 4 |
| Second Semester | |
| PTHA 2431 Management of Neurological Disorders | 4 |
| PTHA 2461 Clinical II | 4 |
| PTHA 2462 Clinical III | 4 |
| Total Hours | 71 |

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT COURSES

PTHA 1201 The Profession of Physical Therapy (2-0) 2 hours
Introduction to the profession of physical therapy including the historical and current scope of physical therapy. Legal concepts and public policies related to physical therapy, the role of professional organizations in defining and defending physical therapy, ethical principles that guide physical therapy practice, roles of other members of the health care team, and terminology used in the profession are studied. (SCANS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11)
Corequisites: PTHA 1305 and PTHA 1321.

PTHA 1305 Basic Patient Care Skills (1-6) 3 hours
Introduction to the theory and application of basic patient handling, functional skills, assessment techniques, and measurement techniques. Vital signs, medical asepsis, body mechanics, bed mobility and transfers, normal sensorimotor development, developmentally-based preambulation activities, and progressive gait training are studied. (SCANS 1, 2, 6, 9, 11) Corequisites: PTHA 1201 and PTHA 1321.

PTHA 1321 Clinical Pathophysiology (3-0) 3 hours
Study of the pathogenesis, prognosis, and therapeutic management of diseases/ conditions commonly encountered in physical therapy. The ability to acquire information specific to diagnoses that affect the physical therapy treatment setting, diseases and injuries involving the musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems, and the need for physical therapy intervention are stressed. (SCANS 1, 2, 5, 6, 11) Corequisites: PTHA 1201 and PTHA 1305.

PTHA 1325 Communication in Health Care (3-0) 3 hours
Integration of communication theories and principles for optimal delivery of health care. Encompasses psychosocial aspects of health care; verbal, nonverbal and written communication skills; patient-practitioner interaction, including working with diverse patient populations throughout the life span; and concepts of the practitioner's self-esteem and self-management and their impact on the health care setting. (SCANS 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11) Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305 and PTHA 1321. Corequisite: PTHA 1431.

PTHA 1413 Functional Anatomy (3-3) 4 hours
Study of human anatomy and its application to the motion of the musculoskeletal system as it relates to normal activities and dysfunctions. Integration of skills related to the kinesiological assessment of the human body. Provides the student with a working knowledge of the human musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems and an understanding of how these systems interact to produce efficient human movement. (SCANS 1, 2, 6, 11)
Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305, PTHA 1321, PTHA 1325, PTHA 1431, and PTHA 2460. Corequisites: PTHA 2409, PTHA 2201, and PTHA 2435.

PTHA 1431 Physical Agents (2-6) 4 hours
Study of the biophysical principles, assessment and application of therapeutic physical agents with specific emphasis on indications, contraindications, medical efficacy and physiological effects. Thermal agents, hydrotherapy, wound care, ultrasound, electromagnetic radiations, electrical current, biofeedback, traction,

... at Odesa College!

intermittent compression, continuous passive motion and therapeutic massage are studied. (SCANS 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11) Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305 and PTHA 1321. Corequisite: PTHA 1325.

PTHA 2201 Assessment Skills

(1-3) 2 hours

Study of assessment techniques used in physical therapy to prepare the physical therapist assistant to assist physical therapy management. The acquisition of muscle function information by use of manual muscle testing; joint range of motion information by use of goniometry; gait information by use of rudimentary gait assessment; and sensory, balance, and postural assessments are included. (SCANS 1, 2, 3, 6, 9) Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305, PTHA 1321, PTHA 1325, PTHA 1431, and PTHA 2460. Corequisites: PTHA 1413, PTHA 2409, and PTHA 2435.

PTHA 2409 Therapeutic Exercise

(2-6) 4 hours

Critical examination of concepts and application of techniques related to therapeutic exercise and functional training. Elements of normal and abnormal function and facilitation of responses desired in the performance of exercise; monitoring and correcting patient performance; and decision-making, problem-solving and reasoning skills as they relate to therapeutic exercise from a diagnosis/symptom-related perspective are studied and integrated with functional anatomy. Emphasis is on orthopedic conditions. (SCANS 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11) Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305, PTHA 1321, PTHA 1325, PTHA 1431, and PTHA 2460. Corequisites: PTHA 1413, PTHA 2201 and PTHA 2435.

PTHA 2431 Management of Neurological Disorders

(3-3) 4 hours

Advanced course integrating previously learned and new skills/techniques into the comprehensive rehabilitation of selected neurological disorders. Time management, creative thinking, decision-making, problem-solving and reasoning abilities as they relate to progressing the plan of care are emphasized. Sections of study include selected progressive disabilities,

traumatic brain injury, cerebral vascular accident, spinal cord injury, and pediatrics. This course is completed during the first part of the semester to allow for the final full-time clinicals. (SCANS 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11) Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305, PTHA 1321, PTHA 1325, PTHA 1431, PTHA 2460, PTHA 1413, PTHA 2409, PTHA 2201, and PTHA 2435. Corequisites: PTHA 2461 and PTHA 2462.

PTHA 2435 Rehabilitation Techniques (3-3) 4 hours

Advanced course integrating previously learned and new skills/techniques into the comprehensive rehabilitation of selected long-term pathologies. Time management, creative thinking, decision-making, problem-solving and reasoning abilities as they relate to progressing the plan of care are emphasized. Sections of study include selected progressive disabilities, prosthetics/orthotics and amputee care, cardiac rehabilitation, respiratory care, sports medicine, work hardening, geriatrics and burn care. (SCANS 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11) Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305, PTHA 1321, PTHA 1325, PTHA 1431, and PTHA 2460. Corequisites: PTHA 2409, PTHA 2201 and PTHA 1413.

PTHA 2460 Clinical I - Physical Therapist Assistant (0-40) [6 weeks]

4 hours

A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional. This basic clinical provides the initial exposure to the clinical environment. Students observe and utilize skills obtained in the classroom and laboratory. Provides opportunities for selecting and applying procedures and equipment, improving decision-making, problem-solving and reasoning abilities. Consists of six weeks full-time experience under close supervision by a licensed physical therapist or licensed physical therapist assistant. (SCANS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305, PTHA 1321, PTHA 1325 and PTHA 1431.

PTHA 2461 Clinical II - Physical Therapist Assistant (0-40) [6 weeks]

4 hours

A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional. This intermediate clinical provides continued exposure to the clinical environment. Students observe and utilize skills obtained in the classroom and laboratory. Provides opportunities for selecting and applying procedures and equipment, improving decision-making, problem-solving and reasoning abilities. Consists of a six week, full-time experience under close supervision by a licensed physical therapist or licensed physical therapist assistant. (SCANS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305, PTHA 1321, PTHA 1325, PTHA 1431, PTHA 2460, PTHA 1413, PTHA 2409, PTHA 2201, and PTHA 2435. Corequisites: PTHA 2431 and PTHA 2462.

PTHA 2462 Clinical III - Physical Therapist Assistant (0-40) [6 weeks]

4 hours

A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional. This advanced clinical provides the final clinical experience. Students observe and utilize skills obtained in the classroom and laboratory. Provides opportunities for selecting and applying procedures and equipment, improving decision-making, problem-solving and reasoning abilities. Consists of a six-week, full-time experience under close supervision by a licensed physical therapist or licensed physical therapist assistant. Upon completion of this internship, a capstone experience in the form of a mock state board exam is required. (SCANS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) Prerequisites: PTHA 1201, PTHA 1305, PTHA 1321, PTHA 1325, PTHA 1431, PTHA 2460, PTHA 1413, PTHA 2409, PTHA 2201, and PTHA 2435. Corequisites: PTHA 2431 and PTHA 2461.