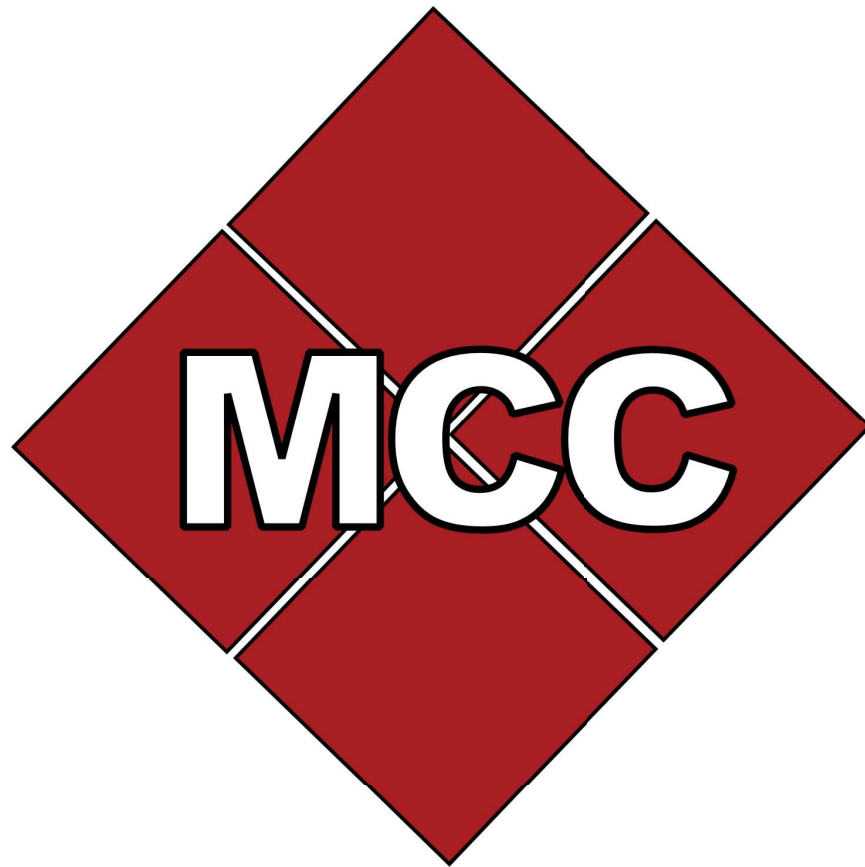


Martin Community College



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2021 - 2022
College Catalog

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

The Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum prepares graduates to work in direct patient care settings under supervision of physical therapists. Assistants work to improve or restore function by alleviation or prevention of physical impairment and perform other essential activities in a physical therapy department.

Course work includes normal human anatomy and physiology, the consequences of disease or injury, and physical therapy treatment of a variety of patient conditions affecting humans throughout the life-span.

Graduates may be eligible to take the licensure examination administered by the NC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Employment is available in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, extended care facilities, specialty hospitals, home health agencies, private clinics, and public school systems.

Students entering clinical externships (usually in their last two semesters) may be required by the clinical site to provide a criminal background check and a drug screening test before or during each rotation. A criminal history or positive drug screen may preclude the student from being placed for clinical rotation and therefore prevent the student from finishing the degree or diploma. A positive drug screen during the rotation will result in a failing grade for that clinical and will prevent the student from continuing in the program.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- ◆ Perform duties and patient care activities appropriate for a skilled PTA.
- ◆ Apply the knowledge, skills and techniques learned in the PTA didactic courses to safe and effective patient care.
- ◆ Recognize the needs of the patient, family and caregivers as well as document changes in the patient's condition and communicate these changes to the PT.
- ◆ Effectively and accurately communicate information relevant to patient status, progress, and safety in the patient's record, to the supervising physical therapist and with the patient's health care team.
- ◆ Demonstrate ethical, legal, safe and professional conduct appropriate in a health care setting.

Admission to the program is ultimately at the discretion of the Program Director.

PHASE 1

1. Complete an Application for Admission and submit it to the Admissions Counselor's Office at the College. All applications MUST BE received by March 15. Applications must be complete.
2. Request that their high school transcripts and post-secondary transcripts, if applicable, be mailed to the Registrar's Office at the College at the time of application. (High school seniors and students enrolled at other colleges for the Spring Semester must submit their final transcripts no later than June 15.) Applicants must at least be a high school graduate or equivalent prior to the beginning of the class in which the applicant is applying for admission.
3. Take the Martin Community College placement tests to determine placement. Placement tests MUST be completed before an interview will be scheduled. Placement tests scores are valid for three years. Applicants must make at least the minimum score to place out of all developmental courses (English, math, and reading), present evidence of successful completion of similar college-level courses, or subsequently complete the recommended developmental course(s) with a grade of "C" or better prior to being considered for admission into the program.
4. Submit two character reference letters.
5. The applicant must have a minimum grade point average of 2.6 to be considered for admission. The Registrar's office will receive information from the applicants, compile a list of applicants with **complete** application packets, and forward this information to the PTA program faculty for evaluation for admission.
6. Submit verified record of 40 hours or more of observation time in a physical therapy clinical setting.

PHASE II

Applicants who meet the above criteria will participate in an individual interview with a three-member interview team as scheduled by the PTA program director or a faculty member with teaching responsibilities in the program. Interviews will be scheduled beginning in mid-March as applicants become eligible. The PTA faculty will contact applicants to schedule the interview. Applicants who do not meet the above criteria WILL NOT be scheduled for an interview and will not be considered for acceptance into the upcoming PTA class.

Eligibility for acceptance into the program will be determined by using the following scoring system:

Academic Points

Post-secondary applicants are given points for completion of general education courses required in the current PTA program using the following scale. Credit earned through advanced placement exams, CLEP, or on a pass/fail grading system will be awarded one point for each course-hour equivalent.

- .4 points per credit hour for a grade of A
- .3 points per credit hour for a grade of B
- .2 points per credit hour for a grade of C

Although not a requirement, it is recommended that applicants complete BIO 168 and BIO 169 prior to application to the program. Students who have completed BIO 168 and/or BIO 169 will receive points for these courses using the following scale:

- .8 points per credit hour for a grade of A
- .6 points per credit hour for a grade of B
- .4 points per credit hour for a grade of C

High school graduates must have earned grades of 80 or better on the following courses: Algebra I, Geometry, English IV, Biology, and Chemistry. The numerical grade received will be converted to its decimal equivalent for points awarded for any grade of an 80 or better (example 80 = .80). Additional points will be given for a numerical grade of 80 or better for the following courses: Algebra II, Trigonometry, Advanced Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Advanced Biology, Advanced Chemistry, and Physics. The numerical grade received will be converted to its decimal equivalent for points awarded for any grade of an 80 or better (example 80 = .80).

Interview Point

The interview is worth a possible 15 points.

In addition to academic scoring and interview scoring, points are awarded for the following areas:

- ◆ Highest educational level completed
- ◆ Number of observation hours completed and verified
- ◆ Character reference letters (maximum of two)

PHASE III

Averages and total points will be computed and applicants will be ranked in descending order by their overall scores.

- ◆ Applicants may be placed on the waiting list pending review of end-of-semester transcripts or other reasons to be determined by the program faculty and will be reevaluated for admission by fall registration with this process on-going as needed.
- ◆ If two or more applicants are tied and sufficient positions are not available to admit all of those applicants to the program, the Admissions/Retention Committee will make the final decision as to the ranking and acceptance. The Physical Therapist Assistant Program will admit up to a maximum of 24 applicants each Fall Semester.

PHASE IV

Students who are selected for admission into the program will contact the PTA program faculty (within 14 days of being notified of acceptance) to confirm their seat or to decline acceptance into the program. Specific instructions will be provided in the acceptance letter.

PHASE V

ALL accepted students must have a physical examination and submit the required medical form to the PTA Coordinator of Clinical Education before registering for any PTA classes. Students WILL NOT be allowed to register for any classes until ALL medical information required by the PTA program is submitted and verified. The specific medical information required for the PTA program and the time required to submit information will be included in the acceptance letter along with a copy of the form. An applicant not returning the medical form within the time frame will be removed from the list of admitted applicants, and the position will be awarded to the next ranked applicant.

ACADEMIC STANDING AND GRADING

Part of any competency-based educational program is the establishment of minimum levels of achievement. The course materials distributed for each PTA course will include a list of competencies, how each will be evaluated, and a minimum level of achievement for each one. The lowest level of acceptable achievement in any core curriculum course (courses beginning with the prefix PTA) in the PTA program is 77 percent. The 77 percent minimum is the lowest “C” range in the program’s scale. If a student receives a “D” in any core curriculum course, that student will be dismissed from the PTA program.

One of the roles of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is protection of the public by setting high standards and providing educated, qualified, and competent graduates. It is for this reason that the program demands a 77 percent minimum level of competence and utilizes a seven point grading scale.

The grading scale for this program is as follows:

A	=	93 - 100
B	=	85 - 92
C	=	77 - 84
D	=	70 - 76
F	=	69 and below

If a student receives a “D” in **ANY** general education course while in the PTA program including but not limited to: BIO 168, BIO 169, ENG 110, ENG 111, ENG 115, MAT 115, CIS 111, the Humanities/Fine Arts Elective, and/or the Behavioral/Social Sciences Elective, he/she will be dismissed from the PTA program.

If an accepted student receives a “D” or lower in any course prior to beginning classes with their cohort, and that course is required for the curriculum, the student must re-take the course and receive a “C” or better to be eligible for graduation.

Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor of the course if he/she receives a grade considered to be inappropriate.

An “Incomplete” course grade indicates that only 85% of the course work has been completed. The manner in which completion will be accomplished will be decided by the program director or the instructor. The student is responsible for meeting with the program director and the instructor to discuss the situation as soon as possible.

Students must take courses in the designated sequence.

As a physical therapist assistant program student, he/she should not presume he/she has the privilege of withdrawing from any required course, especially should that course be required for a specific semester. To withdraw from **ANY** course without first discussing such action with the program director will result in the student being withdrawn from the program. If a student withdraws from a PTA course, the student must withdraw from the program and will need to reapply to the program.

In order to avoid conflicts with Clinical Education, all students must complete general education requirements for the program in the first year of the program or in the summer between the first and second years of the program.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

The President or any other authorized college official may dismiss, suspend, or expel any student who disrupts the legal mission, educational processes or function of the college, (see Student Governance and Conduct Code). Deliberately cheating or knowingly and intentionally engaging in acts of plagiarism is a violation of the Student Governance and Conduct Code (see Student Governance Conduct). Cheating will result in a failing grade for the course and possible expulsion.

PTA PROGRAM STUDENT PROTECTION AGAINST RETALIATION

The PTA Program will not, in any way, retaliate against a student who files a complaint in good faith or who assists in an investigation. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, disciplinary action, reprisal, or harassment. Retaliation is a serious violation and should be reported immediately. The PTA Program will take appropriate action against anyone found to have retaliated against another in violation of these procedures. This policy is in addition to Title IX protections already established within college documents.

GRADING OF CLINICAL EVALUATIONS

The short-term and long-term clinical experiences are graded using a 4-point New England Scale as outlined below. PTA 182 (Clinical Education I) and PTA 210 (Clinical Education II) have 100 percent of the grade coming from the clinical performance evaluation. PTA 260 (Advanced Clinical Education) is evaluated using the New England Scale as well, with the average of each clinical evaluation of the two six-week blocks comprising 100 percent of the final grade. Both blocks of PTA 260 require the student to complete an in-service experience.

Clinical Grading Scale:

A	=	4.00 - 3.72
B	=	3.71 - 3.40
C	=	3.39 - 3.08
D	=	3.07 - 2.76
F	=	2.75 and below

Overall Final Grades are based upon the average of each clinical evaluation category. Performance on PTA 182 and PTA 210 is evaluated at the end of the two-weeks, two-days experience. PTA 260 is evaluated at the midterm point of the clinical and again at the conclusion. A grade of “D” or less in any clinical education course constitutes failure of the course.

RE-APPLYING TO THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

A student may enter the Physical Therapist Assistant program a maximum of two times (initial admission is counted as the first entrance). Any student desiring to re-apply to the program must:

1. Meet the current admission criteria required of all applicants to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.
2. Students not actively enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program in the 12 months prior to the first day of the semester (elapsed time out of program > 12 months) must apply for **READMISSION** to the program. This may be done by notifying the program director in writing of your intent to re-apply, including the reasons for withdrawal or dismissal, reasons for re-application, and detailing the change of circumstances that will lead to a better result this time, and updating your application in the Registrar’s Office. Because information in any allied health field changes so quickly, students absent from the program for more than 12 months will be required to re-take all program specific courses (PTA prefixes). Readmission into the program is competitive, not guaranteed, and is limited by

the number of slots available. Students should be aware that no financial aid will be available to pay for re-taking courses in which the student has previously earned a grade of “A”, “B”, or “C.” In addition, students must submit transcripts of work completed in the interim, and submit an updated medical history form. Students should be aware that they may need to update their CPR certification and/or TB test. This should be done before re-application as this information is required for placement in clinical rotations.

3. Students dismissed or withdrawn from the program within the previous 12 months (elapsed time out of program < 12 months) must apply for **RE-ENTRY** to the program. This may be done by notifying the program director in writing of your intent to re-apply, including the reasons for withdrawal or dismissal, reasons for re-application, and detailing the change of circumstances that will lead to a better result this time, and updating the application in the Registrar’s Office. Re-entry into the program is competitive, not guaranteed, and is limited by the number of slots available. If selected for re-entry to the program the student will start with the classes in which the withdrawal or academic deficiency occurred and any required remediation of courses taken previously. Remediation of any deficiency, including deficiencies noted by clinical instructors in clinical rotations, must be completed for graduation from the program. In order to clearly define these requirements a written plan of remediation will be drawn up for the student which may include any of the following: self-directed study, practical examinations, and/or re-taking specific courses. This plan will be signed by the student and the program director and will be kept in the student’s program file, with a copy sent to the Registrar’s office to be kept in the student’s permanent file. Re-entry students who left the program as a result of unsatisfactory academic/clinical performance will re-enter the program if admitted on probation and will remain on probation for the following semester. In addition, students must submit transcripts of work completed in the interim and submit an updated medical history form. Students should be aware that they may need to update their CPR certification and/or TB test. This should be done before re-application as this information is required for placement in clinical rotations.
4. Having met all the pertinent requirements as stated above, the readmission or re-entry student will be scheduled for an interview with the program director. Because of restricted space in the incoming class for each year, the number of readmission or re-entry students will be limited to no more than 10 percent of the students starting each fall.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

A.A.S. Degree (A45620)

Suggested Sequence of Courses

Prefix	Course Title	Class	Lab	Clinic	Work	Credit	Prefix	Course Title	Class	Lab	Clinic	Work	Credit
FALL SEMESTER 1							SUMMER SEMESTER						
ACA 115	Success and Study Skills <i>or</i>						ENG 110	Freshman Composition <i>or</i>					
ACA 122	College Transfer Success	0	2	0	0	1	ENG 111	Writing and Inquiry	3	0	0	0	3
BIO 168	Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	0	0	4	PTA 160	Physical Therapy Procedures III	2	3	0	0	3
MAT 110	MathMeasurement and Literacy <i>or</i>	2	2	0	0	3		Social/Behavioral Sciences Elective	3	0	0	0	3
MAT 171	Precalculus Algebra	3	2	0	0	4	TOTALS		8	3	0	0	9
PTA 110	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2	3	0	0	3	FALL SEMESTER 2						
PTA 130	Physical Therapy Procedures I	1	6	0	0	3	PTA 182	PTA Clinical Education I	0	0	6	0	2
PTA 150	Physical Therapy Procedures II	1	6	0	0	3	PTA 210	PTA Clinical Education II	0	0	6	0	2
	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3	0	0	0	3	PTA 222	Professional Interactions	2	0	0	0	2
TOTALS		12/13	22	0	0	20/21	PTA 240	Physical Therapy Procedures IV	3	6	0	0	5
SPRING SEMESTER 1							PTA 280	PTA Issues I	1	0	0	0	1
BIO 169	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	0	0	4	TOTALS		6	6	12	0	12
CIS 111	Basic PC Literacy <i>or</i>	1	2	0	0	2	SPRING SEMESTER 2						
CIS 110	Introduction to Computers	2	2	0	0	3	PTA 212	Health Care/Resources	2	0	0	0	2
COM 231	Public Speaking <i>or</i>						PTA 254	Pediatrics for the PTA	0	3	0	0	1
ENG 115	Oral Communication	3	0	0	0	3	PTA 260	Advanced PTA Clinical Education	0	0	30	0	10
PTA 120	Functional Anatomy	1	6	0	0	3	PTA 270	PTA Topics	1	0	0	0	1
PTA 140	Therapeutic Exercise	2	6	0	0	4	TOTALS		3	3	30	0	14
PTA 170	Pathophysiology	3	0	0	0	3	PROGRAM TOTAL						
TOTALS		13/14	17	0	0	19/20							74/75/76