PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
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Program Description
A physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a health care provider who works under the supervision of a physical therapist (PT). They do hands-on care for people who need to recover from injuries to the bones and joints, brain and nerves, problems with pain, developmental complications, and other movement problems. Their main purpose is to assist people with reaching their maximum level of health and function. They help people to recover their ability to walk, to heal from wounds, and to learn to work and live with the effects of injuries and other health problems.

Physical therapists (PTs) are responsible for evaluating and treating people who need physical therapy care. They identify problems that physical therapy can address, create goals, and decide what treatment the person will receive. PTs supervise all care given by the PTA. PTAs usually work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, schools, home health – actually, anywhere that physical therapists work. They only work with physical therapists – this is exclusive and required by professional ethics, codes of conduct, and by law.

Licensure
As of July 1, 2009 PTA licensure is required for all practicing assistants in Utah. In order to receive a license to practice, an individual must graduate from an accredited PTA program and pass the State license examination.

Accreditation
The Dixie State College of Utah Physical Therapist Assistant Program has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), a division of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Candidacy is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation. Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the CAPTE that indicates the DSC program is progressing toward accreditation. CAPTE may be contacted at:
Admission
Application information, including deadlines, is available at http://www.dixie.edu/health/physical_therapist_assistant/admissions.php. Each cohort is limited to 16 students; therefore, admission is competitive. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Students are accepted into a “cohort” — a group of students who start the program at the same time, enroll and complete the same program courses, perform clinical education at the same time, and graduate together as a group. The program cannot be taken part-time; it is a full time commitment. Admission requirements include:

- Be admitted to Dixie State College
- Minimum GPA of 2.7 in prerequisite courses (no grade below “C”):
  - PTA 1010 Intro to Physical Therapy (2.0)
  - BIOL 2320/2325 Human Anatomy / Lab (3.0/2.0)
  - BIOL 2420/2425 Human Physiology / Lab (3.0/1.0)
- Minimum “C” grade in each required General Education course
- Observation or work experience (40 hours minimum)
- Official college transcripts
- PSB Health Occupations Aptitude Exam
- Health Care Provider CPR certification
- Background screen
- Drug screen
- Immunization requirements

Degrees & Certificates
- Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

### Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant 78-79 credits

The Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant degree has three basic components:

1. Lower-division, General Education Requirements (15-16 credits).
2. Program Prerequisites (11 credits).
3. Discipline Core Requirements (52 credits).

#### General Education Requirements
Complete the following:

- ENGL 1010 Intro to Writing 3.0
- ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing 3.0

Complete one of the following: 3.0-4.0

- MATH 1030 Quantitative Reasoning (3.0)
- MATH 1040 Introduction to Statistics (3.0)
- MATH 1050 College Algebra/Pre-Calculus (4.0)

Complete one of the following: 3.0

- FCS 1500 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)
- PSY 1100 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)

Complete one of the following: 3.0

- COMM 1020 Public Speaking (3.0)
- COMM 2110 Interpersonal Communication(3.0)
Program Prerequisites
Complete all of the following:

- PTA 1010 Intro to Physical Therapy 2.0
- BIOL 2320/2325 Human Anatomy / Lab 3.0/2.0
- BIOL 2420/2425 Human Physiology / Lab 3.0/1.0

Discipline Core Requirements
Complete all of the following:

Semester I

- PTA 1020 Practice Issues 2.0
- PTA 2010 Kinesiology 2.0
- PTA 2011 Kinesiology Lab 2.0
- PTA 2110 Fundamentals of Physical Therapy 2.0
- PTA 2111 Fundamentals of Phys Therapy Lab 2.0

Semester II

- PTA 2200 Physical Agents 2.0
- PTA 2201 Physical Agents Lab 2.0
- PTS 2210 Observation & Measurement 2.0
- PTA 2211 Observation & Measurement Lab 2.0
- PTA 2300 Orthopedic Rehabilitation 2.0
- PTA 2301 Orthopedic Rehabilitation Lab 2.0
- PTA 2400 Clinical Pathology 2.0

Semester III

- PTA 2605 Clinical Practicum 4.0

Semester IV

- PTA 2410 Special Clientele 2.0
- PTA 2411 Special Clientele Lab 1.0
- PTA 2520 Neuromuscular Rehabilitation 2.0
- PTA 2521 Neuromuscular Rehabilitation Lab 2.0
- PTA 2530 Seminar 3.0
- PTA 2550 Rehabilitation Psychology 2.0

Semester V

- PTA 2705 Clinical Affiliation I 6.0
- PTA 2805 Clinical Affiliation II 6.0

Graduation Requirements
1. Complete a minimum of 78 college-level credits (1000 and above).
2. Complete at least 20 lower-division credits at DSC for institutional residency.
3. Cumulative GPA 2.0 or higher.
4. Minimum 2.7 GPA in Program Prerequisite courses.
5. Minimum cumulative GPA 2.75 in Discipline Core Requirements.