

**SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT
Revision Date: 10/2025**

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number:	PTAS 1112
Course Title:	Intro to Physical Therapy & Patient Care Tech Techniques
Prerequisite(s):	Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Catalog Description:	This course introduces the student to the profession of physical therapy, the role of the physical therapist assistant with the healthcare team and patient observation time. Basic patient care, assistive devices and adaptive equipment, patient positioning and transfers, safety, body mechanics, communication and documentation will be discussed.
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Credit Hours:	4
Class Hours:	45
Lab Hours:	45
Total Contact Hours:	90

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

1. Summarize the professions of physical therapy and the role of the physical therapist assistant.
2. Review basic patient care, assistive devices, adaptive equipment, orthoses, patient positioning, transfers, safety, body mechanics and communication.
3. Introduce physical therapy documentation, the components of a SOAP note, and physical therapy billing.
4. Illustrate the value of vital signs in patient assessment.
5. Introduce the role of evidence-based medicine in contemporary physical therapy practice.
6. Provide foundational instruction on the gout cycle.

Note: Unit objectives are located in the learning management system within each unit of study.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: *The student will be able to:*

1. Describe the history of the physical therapy profession and physical therapist assistant.
2. Compare the roles of the PT, PTA, physical therapy technician/aide and other members of the healthcare team.
3. Justify the elements of the patient/client management model that can be directed to the PTA.
4. Defend the importance of the APTA to the profession of physical therapy.
5. Identify differing patient perspectives through self-reflection.
6. Introduce themselves correctly including explaining the physical therapy procedure and receiving informed consent.
7. Choose the correct infection control technique for patient care.
8. Compare normal alignment of the trunk and extremities during rest and activity with abnormal posture.

9. Relate the role of correct body mechanics with safe patient handling (pushing, pulling, lifting, reaching, carrying, transfers and bed mobility) and injury prevention.
10. Demonstrate safe transfers, bed mobility, and positioning for a simulated patient using correct body mechanics.
11. Estimate accurately the levels of assistance provided with ADLs, IADLs, and weight-bearing status when working with a simulated patient.
12. Identify the primary components of a standard wheelchair.
13. Identify adaptive equipment and assistive devices used to reduce activity limitations and participation restrictions.
14. Analyze the components of a normal and abnormal gait pattern.
15. Explain common gait patterns with the use of assistive devices.
16. Instruct a simulated patient on safe techniques with gait training and assistive devices.
17. Relate the components of the International Classification of Disease and Functioning Model to physical therapy care and documentation.
18. Compose the "S" and "O" portions of a SOAP note in the care of a simulated patient.
19. Decide which information goes in the S, O, A, P portions of the SOAP note when given a written patient scenario.
20. Demonstrate accurate billing in the treatment of a simulated patient.
21. Differentiate when vital sign is normal vs. abnormal across the lifespan.
22. Demonstrate accurate data collection of height, weight, and vital signs.
23. Develop a PICO question.
24. Explain research terms including reliability, validity, and statistical significance.

B. GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. GELO 3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

Outcome: Collect, identify, interpret and analyze data.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

A. Basic Patient Care

1. Infection control
2. Transfers and bed mobility
3. Positioning and draping
4. Vital signs
5. Cardiopulmonary system
6. Assistive devices and adaptive equipment
7. Wheelchair components

B. Physical Therapy Profession

1. History of the Profession
2. American Physical Therapy Association
3. Role of the Physical Therapist Assistant
4. Role of the Physical Therapist and other Members of Healthcare Team
5. Practice Settings for Physical Therapy Services
6. Evidence-based Medicine
7. Documentation

C. Legal Aspects of Physical Therapy

1. HIPAA/Confidentiality

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS REQUIRED

A. Required Text(s):

Clynch, H., *The Role of the Physical Therapist Assistant*, (current edition)

B. Other Materials:

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:

1. Lecture
2. Laboratory
3. Demonstration
4. Handout Materials
5. Class Participation/Presentations
6. Case Studies and Group Work
7. Guest Presenters
8. Websites
9. Power Point slides and videos
10. Pretests and worksheets
11. Interprofessional Simulation

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of assignments, quizzes, exam, projects, skill checkoffs, etc. For grading expectation, please see the course information document.

SCC STANDARD GRADING SCALE POLICY:

A+	95-100	C+	75-79
A	90-94	C	70-74
B+	85-89	D+	65-69
B	80-84	D	60-64
		F	Below 60

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. ATTENDANCE

Attendance is crucial to the success of this course. Any class missed could mean valuable missed information, which is difficult to obtain. Please notify the instructor of any pending absences or if you will be late. Absences in excess of four hours may result in failing the course.

B. Must pass all program courses with a C+ to progress to the next term. Courses with a classroom and lab portion must have a C+ or better in both.

Please see course information document for course policies related to grading, expectations, assignments, assessments, and participation.