

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

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: PTAS 1305
Course Title: Contemporary Trends in Physical Therapy
Prerequisite(s): PTAS 1208, PTAS 1209, PTAS 1210, PTAS 1301

Catalog Description: This course focuses on various topics related to the clinical practice of a physical therapist assistant including data collection and therapeutic intervention employed, equipment utilized, reimbursement considerations and members of the healthcare team.

Credit Hours: 3
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

1. Examine the role of the PTA in the occupational medicine, women's health, cancer treatment, and home health setting with regard to types of health conditions observed, data collection and therapeutic interventions employed, equipment utilized, and reimbursement considerations.
2. Examine the role of the PTA in treatment of patients with vestibular dysfunction and impaired balance with regard to health conditions observed, data collection and therapeutic interventions employed, and equipment utilized.
3. Summarize how other disciplines contribute to the care of the patient in the occupational medicine, women's health, cancer treatment, and home health setting.
4. Examine the role of manual therapy in the treatment of patients with musculoskeletal conditions.
5. Review the effect of common medications and their considerations in physical therapy.
6. Review the function, indication, and reimbursement considerations for specific wheelchair types, features, components, and pressure relieving cushions.
7. Describe the measurements and alignment of the trunk and extremities required for correct fitting of a prescriptive wheelchair.
8. Explore functional, safe, and appropriate wheelchair training and management strategies.
9. Review the psychological and physiological effects of pain on a physical therapy patient.
10. Examine considerations in the physical therapy treatment of the geriatric patient.
11. Examine the considerations for treating a patient diagnosed with dementia.
12. Review manual therapy techniques frequently found in physical therapy practice.

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. Explain the role of the PTA in the occupational medicine, women's health, cancer treatment, and home health setting with regard to types of health conditions observed, data collection and therapeutic interventions employed, and equipment utilized.
2. Explain the role of the PTA in treatment of patients with vestibular dysfunction and impaired balance with regard to health conditions observed, data collection and therapeutic interventions employed, and equipment utilized.
3. Provide examples of how other disciplines contribute to the care of the patient in the occupational medicine, women's health, cancer treatment, and home health setting.
4. Recognize the effects of prescribed medications and side effects as related to physical therapy.
5. Identify appropriate wheelchair measurements to ensure proper fit of a patient post physical therapist evaluation.
6. Develop a safe and effective program to train a patient on proper use of a wheelchair.
7. Demonstrate safe manual therapy techniques and data collection with appropriate body mechanics for the improvement in activity and participation limitations related to musculoskeletal and orthopedic health conditions.
8. Recognize when the complexity and acuity of the patient or data collection and therapeutic interventions within the PT POC are beyond either the scope of work for a PTA or the PTA's education, training and/or experience.

B. GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

GELO 6: Career and Life Skills

Outcome: Develop knowledge and habits that will foster physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, and environmental wellness.

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

A. UNITS

1. Pharmacy
2. Home health
3. Wheelchairs
4. Occupational medicine
5. Pain
6. Geriatrics
7. Women's health
8. Balance, Falls and Vestibular
9. Dementia
10. Cancer Treatment

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. Required Text(s):

Goodman, Fuller, *Pathology for the Physical Therapist Assistant* (current edition)

B. Other Resources:

Textbooks and lecture notes from prior PTA courses
Supplemental handouts supplied by Instructor
PhysioU App

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

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

1. Lecture
2. Demonstration
3. Handout materials
4. Laboratory
5. Case studies
6. Guest presenters
7. Websites
8. Power Point slides and videos
9. Pretests and worksheets
10. Field trip

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of assignments, quizzes, exam, projects, skill checkoffs, etc. For grading expectations 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.