

NORTH·SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2020 APPLICANT INFORMATION **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

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Physical Therapist Assistant Program Overview

North Shore Community College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program has been accredited by the Commission on Education for Physical Therapy Education since 1975. The program consists of a student body comprising of various cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Over the past years, the program has successfully graduated many individuals who are currently seasoned clinicians and clinical instructors practicing and educating our students in surrounding communities of the North Shore. On average, the program graduates approximately 25 students per year and the passing rate for the licensing exam is between 90 to 100 percent. Our employment rate is approximately 95-100 percent within the first 6 months of graduation.

The Physical Therapist Assistant department's educational philosophy places emphasis on offering a variety of learning experiences, where newly learned material is applied through lab practice case scenarios, patient/client examples, field trips and service learning. This is believed to foster critical thinking and promotes the development of problem solving skills, which is necessary to become a competent entry-level Physical Therapist Assistant practitioner.

Students admitted to the Physical Therapist Assistant program take Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2, Composition 1 and 2, an elective in Humanities and General Psychology. These general education courses are considered foundational in preparation for physical therapy courses and are offered sequentially in the curriculum based on pre-requisite and co-requisite requirements. During the first semester of study, Physical Therapy courses are offered at the introductory level, however application of the knowledge is expected through coinciding laboratory and clinical experiences.

Following the first semester of study, physical therapy courses become more focused and require that the student build upon previously learned information. This helps develop understanding and safe application of advanced physical therapy concepts to follow.

At the beginning of the final semester, prior to our twelve-week clinical experience/internship, students enroll in a final four-week comprehensive course which has been designed to review all material presented within the program. The course has been implemented at the end of the program in order to prepare students for final clinical experience/internship. Students enrolled in the course have the opportunity to perform advanced analysis of a complex case study where integration and application of previously mastered material is re-evaluated by their peers, course instructor and program faculty.

Overall, our program seeks to offer a curriculum, which is based on the patient/client care management models with emphasis on professional behavior, active learning and critical thinking/problem solving. It may be either completed in either 2 or 3 years of study. Upon completion, students graduate with an Associates Degree in Science and are eligible to apply and take the national licensing exam administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. (FSBPT)

Each fall, approximately 30 students are accepted to the program and 10 students are accepted to the waitlist, which guarantees acceptance to the program the following year. Additional information regarding the program's admission process and the application packet may be located at:

http://www.northshore.edu/academics/programs/pta/admission_requirements_and_application_packet

PTA Program Faculty

The PTA Program academic faculty comprises of the following members:

Dr. Mary Meng- Lee, DPT, MPH, PT, Program Director/ Dept Chair

Professors Micheal Fritz MS, ATC, LPTA; Paul McGovern BA, LPTA; Denise Sargent DPT, PT, MS, ATC, LAT; Roxanne Rochna ATC, LPTA, Cecelia Sibley MHA, PT and Sarah Player MSPT and Diane Parker LPTA

Diane Caruso, MSc Ed., LPTA, Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education

Full Time and Part Time Curricular Sequence

Full-Time Curriculum Sequence (66 credits)

YEAR 1		CREDITS
Fall	BIO 211, Anatomy & Physiology 1	4
	CMP 101, Composition 1	3
	PTA 101, Introduction to Physical Therapy	4
	PTA 103, Therapeutic Massage	1
	PTA 108, Kinesiology Lab	1
	PTA 109, Kinesiology	1
	PTA 113, Pathophysiological Conditions 1	2
	PTA 104 Procedures Lab	1
	PTA 105, Procedures	2
	Total	19
Spring	BIO 212, Anatomy & Physiology 2	4
	PTA 201, Physical Agents Lab	1
	PTA 202, Physical Agents	2
	PTA 114, Pathophysiological Conditions 2	2
	PTA 117, Therapeutic Exercise 1 Lab	1
	PTA 118, Therapeutic Exercise 1	2
	PTA 203, Neurology for Physical Therapist Assistant	2
	PTA 204, Clinical Anatomy 1 Lab	1
	PTA 205, Clinical Anatomy 1	1
	Total	16
Summer	PTA 112, Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Experience 1	2
	Total	2

YEAR 2		CREDITS
Fall	CMP104/146, Composition 2 Elective	3
	HUM-ELECTIVE, Humanities Elective(s)	3
	PSY 102, General Psychology	3
	PTA 212, Therapeutic Exercise 2 Lab	1
	PTA 213, Therapeutic Exercise 2	2
	PTA 214, Clinical Anatomy 2 Lab	1
	PTA 215, Clinical Anatomy 2	1
	PTA 220, Current Topics in Physical Therapy	3
	PTA 217 Pediatric Physical Therapy	1
	Total	18
Spring	PTA 206, Physical Therapist Assistant Seminar	1
	PTA 208, Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Experience 2A and 2B	8
	PTA 210, Case Studies in Physical Therapy	2
	Total	11

Part-Time Curriculum Sequence (66 credits)

YEAR 1		CREDITS
<i>Fall</i>	PTA103, Therapeutic Massage	1
	PTA108, Kinesiology Lab	1
	PTA109, Kinesiology	1
	CMP101, Composition 1	3
	BIO211, Anatomy & Physiology 1	4
	PTA101, Introduction to PT	4
	Total	14
<i>Spring</i>	BIO 212, Anatomy & Physiology 2	4
	PTA 203, Neurology for Physical Therapist Assistant	2
	PTA 204, Clinical Anatomy 1 Lab	1
	PTA 205, Clinical Anatomy 1	1
	Total	8

YEAR 3		CREDITS
<i>Fall</i>	PTA214, Clinical Anatomy 2 Lab	1
	PTA215, Clinical Anatomy 2	1
	PTA212, Therapeutic Exercise 2 Lab	1
	PTA213, Therapeutic Exercise 2	2
	PTA220, Current Topics in Physical Therapy	3
	PTA 217 Pediatric Physical Therapy	1
	HUM Elective	3
	Total	12
<i>Spring</i>	PTA206, PTA Seminar	1
	PTA210, Case Studies in Physical Therapy	2
	PTA208, Clinical Experience 2	8
	Total	11

YEAR 2		CREDITS
<i>Fall</i>	CMP104/146, Composition 2 Elective	3
	PTA 113, Pathophysiological Conditions 1	2
	PTA104, PTA Procedures Lab	1
	PTA105, PTA Procedures	2
	PSY102, General Psychology	3
	Total	11
<i>Spring</i>	PTA114, Pathophysiological Conditions 2	2
	PTA201, Physical Agents Lab	1
	PTA202, Physical Agents	2
	PTA117, Therapeutic Exercise 1 Lab	1
	PTA118, Therapeutic Exercise 1	2
	Total	8
<i>Summer</i>	PTA 112, Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Experience 1	2
	Total	2

Commonly Asked Questions Regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant

1. *Who are Licensed Physical Therapist Assistants?*

Licensed Physical Therapists Assistants, or LPTAs, are technically educated health care professionals working under the supervision of physical therapists in the provision of physical therapy services.

2. *Where Do Physical Therapist Assistants Work?*

Physical Therapist Assistants work in hospitals, private physical therapy offices, community health centers, corporate or industrial health centers, sports facilities, research institutions, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, schools, pediatric centers, and colleges and universities.

3. *What are the educational requirements for becoming a PTA?*

Physical Therapist Assistants must complete a 2-year education program, typically offered through a community or junior college. Candidates receive an associate's degree upon graduation. The course of study includes usually 1 year of general education and 1 year of technical courses on physical therapy procedures and clinical experience. There are 293 accredited physical therapist assistant education programs throughout the country and 10, 598 are enrolled

4. *What are the Licensure, Registration, or Certification Requirements?*

Physical Therapist Assistants are licensed in 50 states and the District of Columbia. States requiring licensure stipulate specific educational and examination criteria. Information on practice acts and regulations may be obtained by contacting the licensure board in each respective state.

5. *Is the Physical Therapist Assistant Program a stepping-stone to a physical therapist program?*

Yes and No. Although the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum differs from that of the physical therapist, it does offer similar general education courses. However, with respect to physical therapy courses, transferability will vary depending upon the program you are applying to. Keep in mind that your work experience as a PTA may make you a more desirable candidate. There are accredited programs in California and Ohio designed to allow experienced Physical Therapist Assistants to continue working while attending a physical therapist DPT program on the weekends.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Policies – AN OVERVIEW

Academic Requirements

- Pass all PTA courses with a grade of “**C**” (75) or better
- Communication with instructor prior to class for all absences is required
- Adhere to program policies and procedures and student responsibilities as outlined in the Student Orientation Handbook
- Incomplete or late course assignments will not be accepted
- Adhere to PTA Program Learning Contract
- Demonstrate proof of immunization and undergo a drug test & Criminal Offense Record Inquiry (CORI) upon admission to the program and each year while enrolled in the program
- Sign PTA Technical Standards upon admission to the Program (Refer to Application Packet)
- Demonstrate professional behavior in the classroom and clinical settings

Clinical Education Requirements

- All students will complete 2 clinical experience rotations (total = 16 weeks)
- All students will complete at least one rotation, which involves in patient care
- The students are required to complete an average of **35-40 hours** per week during the clinical rotation, unless there is a prior arrangement between the facility and the College.
- Students are expected to work the hours of the clinical instructor. Arrangements can be made between the student and the clinical instructor regarding schedule modification however only with **prior approval of the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education.**
- Students are expected to travel up to an hour to get to reach a clinical facility therefore, a reliable means of transportation is necessary.
- Students who fail a Clinical Experience course must re-take the course during the next semester it is offered

- Students may be subject to the drug and alcohol policies of the clinic, if at any time it has been determined that any such substance has been abused during the clinical rotation.
- Students may also be required to participate in a national CORI and/ or fingerprinting prior to clinical
- Students who demonstrate inappropriate drug and alcohol consumption during clinical, will be dismissed from clinical and the program.

Participation during lab courses

- During lab, students will be expected to participate not only in administering techniques and modalities, but also in receiving them.
- Students will be asked to remove as much clothing as necessary to expose the body part to be treated.
- Appropriate clothing will be worn in lab to make activity easier and to allow for palpation of muscles and bony landmarks and administration of treatment.

Requirements for Physical Therapist Assistant Licensure

In order to obtain a position as a Physical Therapist Assistant, students must complete certain requirements. First, one must successfully complete and graduate from an accredited Physical Therapist Assistant program in order to be eligible to take the national examination for licensure. The computer based exam has been developed by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).

The questionnaire that is completed before taking the board exam will ask if you have been convicted of a felony offense.

Graduates will not be able to work as a Physical Therapist Assistant until he or she has passed the licensure examination.

Class Attendance and Child Care

We expect that students will be able to attend all classes and labs unless there is a valid reason for absence. Please make adequate arrangements for childcare, and back-up when needed.

Study Time/Program Grade Requirement

In order to be successful in this program you must achieve at least a grade of “C” (75). We ask that students give adequate time for study (2 hours of study per 1 hour of lecture). A simple way to figure out the minimum number of hours one will need to

study in order to pass with a “C” is to multiply the number of credits in the semester x 2. It is also recommended that students schedule their time accordingly for open lab practice time and group study sessions.

Working while in the program

Students should plan on working no more than 10 hours a week. If it is absolutely necessary that students work 20-40 hours per week, the part-time option is strongly recommended.

North Shore Community College Policies

Academic Honesty

Members of the North Shore Community College community are expected to act within the standards of academic honesty. Any willfully dishonest behavior is subject to disciplinary action, which may range from that which the instructor imposes relative to the specific course to dismissal from the College, depending on the seriousness of the act.

Dishonest academic behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- **Cheating** – use of unauthorized notes during an examination; giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on an examination; copying from someone else’s examination, term paper, homework, or report; theft of examination materials; falsification of works or records.
- **Plagiarism** – using the words, data or ideas of another, as one’s own, without properly acknowledging their source. Students should consult the freshman English handbook for guidelines on proper documentation procedures.

In addition to action taken relative to the specific course, the course instructor may bring any matter related to academic honesty to the Dean of Academic Affairs for further disciplinary action. The Dean will review the case and determine if further action is to be taken.

Disciplinary action may be appealed by the affected student(s). A full description of the student grievance process is available in the Dean of Student Services Office.

Smoking Policy

NSCC is a smoke free campus. Questions should be directed to the Campus Police, (978) 762-4000 ext. 6209.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

The use of alcohol in any form and the illegal use of drugs at any College-sponsored activities are strictly forbidden, regardless of location. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action, by the appropriate governing body.