

Physical Therapist Assistant

The Career

Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) continue to be in high demand in many settings including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and schools. PTAs provide physical therapy treatment to patients who are experiencing pain or disability, loss of function, temporary or permanent, under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

The Program

Dunwoody's PTA program prepares graduates to implement physical therapist-prescribed plans to help patients regain physical function after illness or injury and help provide services that improve patients' functional abilities. Working in both classroom and Dunwoody's new, sophisticated lab, students gain the skills required to treat patients directly, as well as help patients carry out home treatment plans. Students will be educated in all facets of physical therapy including anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, modalities, manual therapies, therapeutic exercise, supportive devices, advanced physical therapy techniques, and appropriate communication and documentation. In addition to the didactic curriculum, students will complete three full-time clinical affiliations.

Program Length

Graduates of this two-year program earn an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree. This 110-credit program includes general education courses, core technical courses, and clinical affiliations. The program will begin Spring Quarter of 2011 and will conclude the following year at the end of the Fall Quarter.

Minnesota Office of Higher Education approval is subject to completion of the application for programmatic accreditation and candidacy by the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), which is currently in progress.

Applying to Dunwoody is easy

To apply online, visit dunwoody.edu. Or, to speak with a Dunwoody Admissions representative, call 612-374-5800 or 800-292-4652.

Dunwoody's Admissions team is committed to working with you to ease and simplify the admissions process and provide all the necessary information regarding our academic programs, degree opportunities, financial aid, expectations and everything else that enters into such an important decision.

Other exciting Health Sciences Technology programs and degree options are available. Visit dunwoody.edu for complete details.

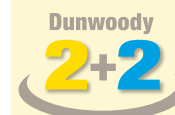


A.A.S. Degree Requirements

PTA101	Introduction to PTA (Theory)
PTA102	Introduction to PTA (Lab)
PTA103	PTA Communications
PTA104	Kinesiology I (Theory)
PTA105	Kinesiology I (Lab)
PTA114	Kinesiology II (Theory)
PTA115	Kinesiology II (Lab)
PTA116	PT Interventions I (Theory)
PTA117	PT Interventions I (Lab)
PTA118	Therapeutic Exercise I (Theory)
PTA119	Therapeutic Exercise I (Lab)
PTA120	Clinical Orthopedics
PTA126	PT Interventions II (Theory)
PTA127	PT Interventions II (Lab)
PTA200	Clinical Affiliation #1
PTA228	Therapeutic Exercise II (Theory)
PTA229	Therapeutic Exercise II (Lab)
PTA230	Neurorehabilitation (Theory)
PTA231	Neurorehabilitation (Lab)
PTA233	Clinical Geriatrics
PTA205	Special Topics I
PTA203	Leadership
PTA201	Clinical Affiliation #2
PTA204	Clinical Pediatrics
PTA206	Special Topics II
PTA207	Professionalism In Health care
PTA202	Clinical Affiliation #3
HSCI110	Medical Terminology
HSCI120	Intro to Human Disease
ANAT100	Anatomy
BIOL100	Human Biology
SPCH101	Public Speaking
ENGL101	English Composition
HUMN251	Global Studies
PHYS100	Physiology
PSYC120	Abnormal Psychology



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Dunwoody's 2+2 concept means every graduate of a Dunwoody two-year associate's degree program is qualified to be admitted into one of our breakthrough bachelor's degree programs if they would like to continue their education.

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Course Descriptions

HSCI110 - Medical Terminology

Medical Terminology will enable the learner to develop a medical vocabulary. Skills in spelling, pronunciation, and defining medical terms will be emphasized. Students will be able to divide and construct words through the appropriate use of a medical term's component parts - Prefixes, suffixes and combining forms.

HSCI120 – Intro to Human Disease

This course will focus on human disease, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and functional abilities with pathological conditions. A brief overview of diseases in the following areas will be discussed: immunity system, the endocrine system, the integumentary system, the musculoskeletal system, respiratory and circulatory systems.

PTA101 - Introduction to PTA (Theory)

This course introduces basic patient handling skills in physical therapy and theory behind the techniques. The topics include body mechanics, posture, draping and positioning, transfers, joint range of motion, goniometry, ambulation with and without assistive devices, wheelchair operation, measurement of vital signs, sterile techniques and professionalism.

PTA102 - Introduction to PTA (Lab)

This course puts theory into practice by offering hands-on training and practice in the following areas: body mechanics and posture awareness during patient education and practice during lab sessions, draping and positioning of patients, transfers, joint range of motion, goniometry, ambulation with and without assistive devices, wheelchair operation, measurement of vital signs, and sterile technique. The students will be responsible for demonstrating the mentioned techniques as well as instructing a patient simulator.

PTA103 - PTA Communications

This course will focus on communication within the healthcare setting. Communication skills include legal guidelines of documentation, professional verbal dialogue with patients and members of the healthcare team, confidentiality, ethical issues, verbal and nonverbal communication styles.

PTA104 - Kinesiology I (Theory)

This course will focus on the study of the musculoskeletal system, specifically of the lower extremity. Topics covered will be origin and insertion of muscles of the lower extremity, action and nerve innervations of the muscles, and bony landmarks. Other topics also include joint classification, forces and levers of the body, general neurology, and abnormal movement patterns.

PTA105 - Kinesiology I (Lab)

This course will place emphasis on the hands-on aspects of the muscles of the lower extremity, the bones and bony landmarks of the skeleton. A variety of learning tools will be utilized to assist with the theory of kinesiology.

PTA114 - Kinesiology II (Theory)

This course goes further into the intricate study of movement. Musculoskeletal focus will be on the trunk and the upper extremity in regards to origin and insertion, nerve and actions, bones and bony landmarks. Special emphasis will be placed on the spinal column and its unique features.

PTA115 - Kinesiology II (Lab)

This course will place emphasis on the hands-on aspects of the muscles of the trunk and upper extremity, bones and bony landmarks of the skeleton. A variety of learning tools will be utilized to assist with the theory of kinesiology.

PTA116 - PT Interventions I (Theory)

This course introduces massage techniques and modalities including superficial heat and cold techniques. Ultrasound and deep heat therapy, traction, and clinical management skills. Scientific evidence for treatments,

the efficacy of treatment, and indications and contraindications will be discussed.

PTA117 - PT Interventions I (Lab)

This course will give the student hands-on experience with modalities and massage, problem solving skills, interviewing the patient, documentation, goals and expectations of treatment, and appropriate education to the patient simulator. Hands-on techniques include massage, superficial heat and cold treatments, ultrasound and deep heat therapy, and traction.

PTA118 - Therapeutic Exercise I (Theory)

This course focuses on the study of therapeutic exercise as it relates to cardiovascular health, strengthening, range of motion, manual muscle testing, normal and abnormal gait, and mobility.

PTA119 - Therapeutic Exercise I (Lab)

This course focuses on application of therapeutic exercise techniques learned in Therapeutic Exercise I (Theory). Rationale for techniques and application of exercise to patients with a variety of disabilities and pathologies will be discussed.

PTA120 - Clinical Orthopedics

Applying knowledge from Kinesiology, Physical Therapy Interventions, and Therapeutic Exercise, this course will introduce common orthopedic conditions and how physical therapy is used to assist patients to reach their fullest functional ability. We will also discuss the pathophysiology of musculoskeletal conditions.

PTA126 - PT Interventions II (Theory)

This course introduces edema management, LASER, electrical stimulation, and clinical management skills. Scientific evidence for treatments, the efficacy of treatment, and indications and contraindications will be discussed. Clinical simulation activities will be tested to prepare the student for their first clinical experience.

PTA127 - PT Interventions II (Lab)

This course will give the student hands-on experience with modalities listed in PTA126, problem solving skills, interview skills and documentation, goals and expectations of treatment, and education to patient simulator.

PTA200 - Clinical Affiliation #1

This course is a full-time, on-site experience at a healthcare facility. The student will function as a SPTA (student physical therapist assistant) and will be responsible for patient care and treatments, documentation, professionalism within the setting, and clinical thinking skills. The student will be supervised by a physical therapist assistant or a physical therapist. The student will utilize skills gained in the first year of PTA education.

PTA201 - Clinical Affiliation #2

This course is a full-time, on-site experience at a healthcare facility. The student will function as a SPTA (student physical therapist assistant) and will be responsible for patient care and treatments, documentation, professionalism within the setting, and clinical thinking skills. The student will be supervised by a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant. The student will utilize skills gained in the first year of the PTA program and first quarter of the second year.

PTA202 - Clinical Affiliation #3

This course is a full-time, on-site experience at a healthcare facility. The student will function as a SPTA (student physical therapist assistant) and will be responsible for patient care and treatments, documentation, professionalism within the setting, and clinical thinking skills. The student will be supervised by a physical therapist assistant or a physical therapist. The student will utilize skills gained in the PTA program from the first year and previous quarters in the second year of the program. In addition, the student will present an in-service to faculty and staff at the clinical site.

PTA203 - Leadership

This course allows student options for leadership opportunities: 1. Antigua, Guatemala: the student will accompany the PTA faculty and peers to a leadership opportunity in Guatemala. The trip will be a 7-10 day experience, working in a hospital, volunteering in a homeless shelter, visiting an

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orphanage, and building a home for a needy family. 2. Community project. The student will volunteer in an established organization or create a community project to help a group of people that could benefit from physical therapy involvement. The project will be approved by and mentored by a PTA faculty member.

PTA204 - Clinical Pediatrics

This course will focus on pediatric diseases and illness, therapy considerations, and the unique nature of the pediatric patient as it pertains to the physical therapist assistant.

PTA205 - Special Topics I

This course includes specialty areas such as amputee, prosthetics, orthotics, work hardening, government influences on healthcare, adaptive equipment, ethics in healthcare, and other relevant topics. Classroom and field trips will present the information on each subject.

PTA206 - Special Topics II

This course includes specialty areas such as burn management, cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary therapy, wellness in the community, insurance reimbursement, referral to other medical providers, Medicare and Medicaid and their party payers will be discussed as well as other relevant topics. The student will also include an oral presentation.

PTA207 - Professionalism in Health care

This course will discuss the APTA Code of Ethics, role delineation between the PTA and the PT, resume and cover letter writing, interview skills, professionalism in the clinic, and benefits packages for the healthcare professional

PTA228 - Therapeutic Exercise II (Theory)

This course offers advanced therapeutic exercise techniques such as neuromuscular re-education, yoga and pilates. deep breathing and relaxation techniques, health and wellness, and pre-ambulation activities.

PTA229 - Therapeutic Exercise II (Lab)

This course offers instruction in advanced exercise techniques as well as creation of health and wellness programs. Progression of exercise programs and usual orthopedic protocols will be discussed.

PTA230 - Neurorehabilitation (Theory)

This course discusses anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, as well as pathology and disease processes of the nervous system. Topics covered include stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, and other neurological conditions. Other topics include; psychosocial aspects of neurological conditions and disabilities, critical thinking and problem solving unique patient conditions, home and community issues for the people that have neurological dysfunction.

PTA231 - Neurorehabilitation (Lab)

This course focuses on specific interventions for patients with neurological deficit or pathology. Treatment techniques include muscle re-education, balance and proprioception, functional movement and coordination, gait training, Neurodevelopmental Technique (NDT), Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation (PNF), Brunnstrom and Rood inhibition and facilitation techniques, as well as Swiss ball exercises.

PTA233 - Clinical Geriatrics

This course offers a special look at the geriatric population. Topics include: communicating with the geriatric patient, common orthopedic and neurological conditions in the geriatric population, wellness programs, home assessment, adaptive equipment, balance, osteoporosis, dying and death.