



# Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)

## Overview

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is a technically-educated, licensed health care provider who works under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist (PT). The PTA performs duties and carries out treatment plans as directed by the PT. Duties of the PTA are varied and include, but are not limited to the application of physical modalities, exercise programs, gait training, functional activities, and patient education. Physical requirements for PTAs utilize various rehabilitative techniques to help patients whose abilities have been impaired by an accident, injury, illness, disease or other health-related conditions that limit movement and functional abilities. Clients include adult and pediatric patients with orthopedic and neurologic injuries and various medical conditions. Employment settings include acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient clinics, schools, nursing homes, home health, sports medicine clinics, and even academic institutions.

## Degree Earned

Associate in Applied Science

## Length of Program

3 Semesters (67 semester hours of which 29 semester hours of prerequisite course work are required for admission).

## Credentials Earned

Students who graduate in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program will be eligible to sit for the national licensure exam.

Graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave, Suite 100, Alexandria, VA, 22305-3085; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Southern Union State Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085.

telephone: 703-706-3245

email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org);

website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call Jeff Leatherman, DPT, MS, PT, Program Director at 334-756-4121 x 5254 or email [jleatherman@suscc.edu](mailto:jleatherman@suscc.edu).

## Curriculum

Prerequisites (Must be completed prior to application with a grade of C or higher meeting a 2.5 GPA.)

<b>BIO 201 Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>BIO 202 Anatomy &amp; Physiology II</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ENG 101 English Composition I</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MTH 100 Inter. Algebra or higher</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PSY 200 General Psychology</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PSY 210 Growth and Development</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SPH 107 Fundamentals of Public Speaking (or SPH 106)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HPS 105 Medical Terminology</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>IDS 102 Ethics (preferred) or a Humanities Elective</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>29</b>

Other optional courses:

PTA100 Introduction to Physical Therapy  
PTA120 Introduction to Kinesiology  
HED231 First Aid

## Course Cr. hrs

<u>Semester I</u>	
PTA 220 Functional Anatomy and Kinesology	3
PTA 222 Functional Anatomy and Kinesology Lab	2
PTA 250 Therapeutic Procedures I	4
PTA 202 Communication Skills	2
PTA 240 Physical Disabilities I	2
	13
<u>Semester II</u>	
PTA 241 Physical Disabilities II	2
PTA 251 Therapeutic Procedures II	4
PTA 230 Neuroscience	2
PTA 231 Rehab Techniques	2
PTA 232 Orthopedics for the PTA	2
PTA 260 Clinical Education I	1
	13

<u>Semester III</u>	
PTA 200 PT Issues & Trends	2
PTA 201 PTA Seminar	2
PTA 263 Clinical Affiliation I	3
PTA 268 Clinical Practicum	5
	12

## Total Credit Hours 67

(Hours include prerequisite courses)

## Application Dates

### Valley Campus

Classes are admitted one time per year, spring semester

### Submission date for online application:

Months of January through September only .

An email indicating acceptance or denial will be sent to your SUSCC email account within 6 weeks of the application deadline.

## Admission Requirements

*Notice: Admission requirements and procedures may change without prior notice. Please check website for updates.*

In addition to the general admission requirements of the College, application to the Physical Therapist Assistant program requires:

1. Minimum 10 hrs of PT Observation experience with signed documentation from licensed PT/PTA.
2. Completion of prerequisite academic core courses with a **minimum** grade of "C" or higher meeting a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
3. Minimum 2.0 gpa at Southern Union if previously enrolled. Transfer students must enter the College on clear status.
4. Official transcripts in Records Office from all postsecondary institutions attended and high school transcript.
5. Official score on ACT National or ACT Residual with a minimum composite score of 18. (No superscores. No time limit on when the test was taken.) Will accept a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution which will be equivalent to 18 points.
6. Submission of application for Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

### Meeting minimal requirements does not guarantee acceptance.

Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant program is competitive, and the number of students admitted is limited by the number of clinical facilities available. After meeting minimal requirements, applicants are rank-ordered for acceptance using a points system based on score on ACT/ACT Residual and quality points from selected college courses. Students maybe eligible to earn additional points.

For more information about admission to the program:

Program Director: Dr. Jeff Leatherman ([jleatherman@suscc.edu](mailto:jleatherman@suscc.edu)) or

Health Sciences Admissions • 301 Lake Condy Road Opelika, Alabama 36801 • (334) 745-6437 ext. 5515/5519  
[healthsciences@suscc.edu](mailto:healthsciences@suscc.edu)