

## Physical Therapist Assistant Program

### **CURRICULUM GUIDE 2009-2010**

The information contained within this curriculum guide is **official PTA Program Policy effective 7/2009**. It is the student's responsibility to keep updated on any program changes.

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#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

The **Physical Therapist Assistant Program** at Jefferson Community & Technical College is designed to prepare the student to be a skilled health care provider working effectively under the supervision of a physical therapist. The **Associate of Applied Science Degree** is awarded upon successful completion of this program and the graduate is eligible for application to the National Physical Therapy Examination for Physical Therapist Assistants. The PTA Program is accredited by the *Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education through 2015*.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is offered at the Downtown Campus of the College, located near the heart of the Downtown Louisville Medical Center Campus. The Program consists of a combination of general education and program-specific coursework, including clinical learning experiences that are reflective of contemporary physical therapy practice. The PTA Program coursework spans four semesters and allows for the integration of general education coursework during the first year of the Program. The curriculum consists of approximately 29-33 credit hours of general education courses coupled with 38 credit hours of PTA core courses. Enrollment in this program is limited; therefore, a **selective admissions process is followed**. The PTA Program admits students only one time each year, with a new class beginning each fall. The **application deadline is April 1** of the year in which the students intends to apply.

#### ***WHO ARE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS?***

**Physical Therapist Assistants, or PTA's**, are technically educated health care providers who assist the physical therapist in the provision of physical therapy. **Physical Therapy** is a profession whose primary purpose is the prevention of disability and the promotion of positive health and function for all people. The duties of the PTA include assisting the physical therapist in implementing treatment programs according to the plan of care, training patients in exercises and activities of daily living, conducting treatments using special equipment, administering modalities and other interventions, and reporting to the physical therapist on the patient's response. Physical therapist assistants work in hospitals, private physical therapy offices, community health centers, corporate or industrial health centers, sports facilities, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, schools, pediatric centers, and colleges and universities.

#### **GETTING STARTED**

Students interested in the PTA Program at Jefferson should begin by reading this Curriculum Guide thoroughly. This Guide contains information regarding the Program's admission requirements, the application and selective admission processes, required coursework, conference schedules, and various other advising notes. Students are also encouraged to visit the college's website for additional program and career information.

Interested students, as well as those wishing to apply to the PTA Program, should attend a Pre-Admission Conference to learn more about the Program. Conferences are held periodically throughout the academic year and a schedule of this year's conferences is included in this Guide. Students may seek additional information by contacting PTA Program faculty advisors.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Students must first apply to Jefferson Community & Technical College, and then submit a separate PTA Program application to the Academic Program Coordinator. Program applications will be made available during PTA Program Pre-Admission Conferences held on various dates/times announced in the on-line *Student Bulletin*. Conferences are held periodically throughout the academic year and a schedule of this year's conferences is included in this Guide. The application process and procedures are reviewed during the Pre-Admission Conferences. **Therefore, all students interested in applying to the PTA Program must attend a Pre-Admission Conference.** Requested applications and appropriate credentials must be received by **April 1** of the year in which the student is applying for admission in order to be considered by the PTA Admissions Committee.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

In order to be considered for admission to the PTA Program, applicants must comply with both College *and* Program applications requirements. Students applying for admission to the PTA Program must meet the minimum requirements established by the *Senate Rules of the Community and Technical College*. Students who do not meet the minimum requirements cannot be admitted to the PTA Program. **Meeting the minimum requirements permits a student to be included in the qualified applicant pool, but does not guarantee admission to the PTA Program.** Admission to the College *does not imply* admission to the PTA Program.

### **Minimum Requirements Established by the Senate Rules:**

In order to be considered by the PTA Admissions Committee, each applicant must attend a Pre-Admission Conference and/or meet with the Academic Program Coordinator and present the following credentials by April 1 of the year in which the student is applying for admission:

1. Application for admission to the College.
2. High school transcript indicating the applicant has or will have completed a high school course of study *or* a passing GED report.
3. Official transcripts of all post-secondary education.
4. ACT or SAT Score Report.
5. Documentation of a minimum of 8 hours of observation and or experience in a physical therapy setting (4 hours must be in a hospital physical therapy department).

*Students admitted to the PTA Program must have completed BIO137 Human Anatomy & Physiology I or its equivalent with a grade of "C" or better prior to entering the Program.*

### **Technical Standards:**

The physical therapist assistant works in a hands-on situation under the supervision of a physical therapist in providing patient services for the prevention and alleviation of physical impairment and the restoration of function. **Therefore, in order to work successfully with patients, all applicants should possess:**

1. Sufficient visual acuity, such as observation necessary for administering patient care and reading equipment gauges and settings used in treatments.
2. Sufficient auditory perception to receive verbal communication and to execute patient care through the use of monitoring devices.
3. Sufficient strength and gross and fine motor coordination to respond promptly and to implement patient care skills, such as the manipulation of equipment, and positioning and lifting patients.
4. Sufficient communication skills (speech, reading, writing) to interact with individuals and to communicate their needs promptly and effectively, as may be necessary in the patient's interest; and
5. Sufficient intellectual and emotional functions to implement the plan of care.

## ADMISSION PROCESS

All applications received by April 1 will be reviewed for appropriate credentialing. The PTA Admissions Committee will determine the qualified applicant pool based on the minimum requirements for admission established by the *Senate Rules of the Community and Technical College*. Enrollment in the PTA Program is limited because of available faculty, financial, and/or clinical resources at the college. The PTA Program gives preference to:

1. Candidates who demonstrate above average standing in college, high school or on the GED examination.
2. Applicants with an ACT composite score of 19 or higher.
3. Applicants who have completed 12 or more credit hours in the approved curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher from any accredited college.
4. Kentucky residents.
5. Applicants who have completed more than 8 hours of observation and/or experience in a physical therapy setting.

After the qualified applicant pool has been established, students will earn points based on certain levels of performance as outlined in the **POINT SYSTEM FOR ADMISSION** (see page 5 + of this Guide). The Admissions Committee will recommend for admission the 20 students who have earned the highest total number of points. In the event of a tie, GPA will be rank ordered. The President of the College or the President's designee will select students for the PTA Program after considering recommendations from the PTA Admissions Committee. Late applications will be reviewed at the discretion of the PTA Admissions Committee and/or in the event that less than 20 students are admitted to the program one week prior to the beginning of the fall semester. A new program class begins each fall semester.

*Jefferson Community and Technical College is an Equal Opportunity Institution committed to the policy of providing educational opportunities to all qualified students regardless of economic or social status, beliefs, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or physical or mental disability.*

## POST-ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students accepted into the PTA Program are required to attend a program orientation session to the beginning of the fall semester. At that time, students will receive a PTA Program Student Handbook and be obligated to comply with all Program policies and procedures. Brief summaries of post-admission health/immunity, financial, and academic requirements are listed below:

- Students are responsible for obtaining/maintaining CPR Certification (1 and 2 person adult, child and infant), providing documentation of an annual TB Skin Test, immunity to measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) or vaccination against MMR, and vaccination against Hepatitis B or an executed Hepatitis B Vaccine Declination Form. These health/immunity requirements may cost the student up to \$300.
- Students are required to purchase liability insurance coverage through the college at ~\$20 each year.
- Students are required to submit a criminal background report as a basis for clinical placement at ~\$50.
- The cost of required books and supplies for PTA Program courses is approximately \$750.
- Students are required to purchase appropriate clinical uniform attire.
- Students will incur all costs related to clinical education, including transportation, housing, and meals. Students can expect to spend at least one clinical practicum experience in a setting outside the Louisville/Jefferson County area for as long as 5 weeks.
- Students may be required to submit to a drug screening panel at any time during the course of the program.
- BIO139 Human Anatomy & Physiology II or its equivalent must be completed with a grade of "C" or better prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> spring semester of the Program.
- Students must earn a minimum grade of "C" in each PTA Program course to continue in the Program.
- All general education requirements must be completed with a grade of "C" or better prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> fall semester.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Fee schedules may be found in the College Catalog or on-line at <http://www.jefferson.kctcs.edu>. Specific questions concerning financial assistance should be directed to the Downtown Campus Financial Aid Office located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Jefferson Education Center or by calling (502) 213-2146.

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

Students may contact any PTA Program faculty member to schedule an appointment for academic advising. Faculty offices are located on the Downtown Campus in Suite 316 of the VTI Building. We request that students use email communication to establish an initial contact. Students are strongly encouraged to read through this Curriculum Guide and visit our departmental web site prior to meeting with an advisor. Entering freshmen and students requiring developmental course work should contact the Advising Center for academic advising. Students may contact the Downtown Campus Advising Center, located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Jefferson Education Center by calling (502) 213-2277.

## TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION

A transcript evaluation is available for any student desiring to transfer credit into Jefferson Community and Technical College from other accredited institutions of higher learning. Formal transcript evaluation occurs upon the official receipt of transcripts by the Registrar and concurrent with the admissions process. However, for advising purposes, the Program can provide the student an informal assessment of status relative to the general education requirements specific to the PTA Program. Students may request such evaluation by contacting the Academic Program Coordinator.

## PTA PROGRAM FACULTY – CONTACT INFORMATION

**Deloris Cummings, PT, MA**  
Academic Program Coordinator  
(502) 213-2201  
[deloris.cummings@kctcs.edu](mailto:deloris.cummings@kctcs.edu)

**Debbie Hatfield, PTA**  
Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education  
(502) 213-2554  
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**Jennifer Pitchford, PTA**  
Program Instructor  
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**PTA Program Web Site:** [www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/pta](http://www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/pta)

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## POINT SYSTEM FOR ADMISSION (Implemented September 1, 2006)

Category	Criteria	Maximum Points Available
<b>I. Physical Therapy Observation and/or Experience</b>	<p>Applicants with documented evidence of the completion of <b>8 hours</b> of observation and/or experience in a physical therapy setting, with at least <b>4 hours</b> in a hospital physical therapy department = 10 points.</p> <p>Applicants with documented evidence of the completion of <b>40 hours</b> of observation and/or experience in a physical therapy setting, with at least <b>4 hours</b> in a hospital physical therapy department = 20 points.</p> <p><i>Documented evidence must be in the form of a letter from a Physical Therapist with whom the applicant completed the observation and/or experience. Late applicants are limited to 10 points in this category.</i></p>	<b>20</b>

<b>II. ACT Score</b>	<b>Composite Score of 19 or above =</b> ACT Points will be awarded according to the composite ACT score, up to a maximum of 25 points. For example, ACT composite score of 19 = 19 points.	<i>Composite scores for ACT results issued prior to 10-28-89 will be adjusted two points higher.</i>	<b>25</b>	
	<b>Composite score of 18 = 15 points</b> <b>Composite score of 17 = 10 points</b> <b>Composite score of 16 or below = 0 points</b> <i>The applicant's highest score will be utilized for point allocation, regardless of the date of exam. SAT scores will be converted using the SAT-ACT concordance table.</i>			
<b>III. General Academic Standing (GPA)</b>	<b>Only one of the options below will be recognized for point assessment.</b>			
	<b>Option I:</b> If applicant <b>has</b> completed 12 or more graded credit hours (remedial or developmental courses do not apply), then cumulative college GPA is utilized for point assessment.			
	<b>Option II:</b> If applicant <b>has not</b> completed 12 or more graded credit hours, then cumulative high school GPA or GED is utilized for point assessment.		<b>30</b>	
	GPA of 3.75 – 4.0 = 30 points GPA of 3.50 – 3.74 = 25 points GPA of 3.25 – 3.49 = 20 points GPA of 3.0 – 3.24 = 15 points GPA of 2.5 – 2.99 = 10 points GPA of 2.0 – 2.49 = 5 points GPA below 2.0 = 0 points	GED Score 70 – 75 = 30 points GED Score 65 – 69 = 25 points GED Score 60 – 64 = 20 points GED Score 55 – 59 = 15 points GED Score 50 – 54 = 10 points GED Score 45 – 49 = 5 points GED Score below 45 = 0 points		
<b>IV. General Education Requirement Credit</b>	Applicants who have completed 12 or more credit hours in the approved general education curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher from any accredited college will receive 15 points.			<b>15</b>
<b>V. Residency Status</b>	Those considered in-state residents will receive 10 points.			<b>10</b>
<b>Maximum Points Available</b>			<b>100</b>	

**SAMPLE CURRICULUM PLAN: *EFFECTIVE BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2008***

The following is a **sample** curriculum outlining required coursework for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Students may take any general education course (asterisked) without being admitted to the program. PTA courses (bold) are reserved for only those students admitted to the PTA Program. PTA courses are shown in the actual semester sequence and cannot be combined or taken out of this sequence. General education courses may be taken in any sequence with the **following exceptions**:

- BIO137, or its equivalent, must be completed with a grade of “C” or better prior to entering the PTA Program.
- BIO139, or its equivalent, must be completed with a grade of “C” or better prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> spring semester
- All general education courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> fall semester.

Please refer to the KCTCS College Catalog for course descriptions, which include individual course prerequisites/co-requisites.

Semester	Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	Credit Hours per Semester
<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUMMER</b>	*BIO 137	Human Anatomy & Physiology I ( <i>formerly BSL110</i> )	4	} 7 hours
	*ENG 101	Writing I	3	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> FALL</b>	<b>PTA 100</b>	<b>Orientation to Physical Therapy Practice</b>	<b>4</b>	} 14-18 hours
	*BIO 139	Human Anatomy & Physiology II ( <i>formerly BSL111</i> )	4	
		*Computer Literacy	(0-3)	
	*PY 110	General Psychology <b>OR</b>	3	
	*PSY 100	Introduction to Psychology	(4)	
	*ENG 102	Writing II	3	

<b>1<sup>st</sup> SPRING</b>	<b>PTA 150</b>	<b>Functional Anatomy &amp; Kinesiology</b>	<b>6</b>	} 16 hours
	<b>PTA 160</b>	<b>Medical and Surgical Conditions in PT</b>	<b>3</b>	
	<b>PTA 170</b>	<b>Clinical Practicum I</b>	<b>1</b>	
	<b>*PSY 223</b>	<b>Developmental Psychology</b>	<b>3</b>	
	*	Heritage / Humanities Course / Foreign Language	3	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUMMER</b>	<b>*MT 150</b>	<b>College Algebra (formerly MT109, MA109) OR</b>	<b>3</b>	} 6 hours
	<b>*MT 110</b>	<b>Applied Mathematics (formerly MAH151)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	
	*	Oral Communications Course	<b>3</b>	
<i>Note: All general education courses must be completed at this point.</i>				
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> FALL</b>	<b>PTA 200</b>	<b>Modalities and Procedures in Physical Therapy</b>	<b>5</b>	} 12 hours
	<b>PTA 220</b>	<b>Physical Therapy Principles and Procedures</b>	<b>5</b>	
	<b>PTA 240</b>	<b>Clinical Practicum II</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SPRING</b>	<b>PTA 250</b>	<b>Neurological Rehabilitation in Physical Therapy</b>	<b>5</b>	} 12 hours
	<b>PTA 260</b>	<b>Seminar in Physical Therapy</b>	<b>2</b>	
	<b>PTA 280</b>	<b>Clinical Practicum III</b>	<b>5</b>	

**TOTAL CREDITS 67-71\***

Total Credit Hours of General Education Courses= **29-33**

Total Credit Hours of PTA Program Courses = **38**

### PTA PROGRAM PRE-ADMISSION CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2009/2010

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Location</u>
Friday	October 9, 2009	12:00 noon	Bullitt	Room 103
Friday	October 23, 2009	10:00 am	Carrolton	Room 103
Friday	November 13, 2009	10:00 am	Downtown	VTI-201
Tuesday	November 17, 2009	2:00 pm	Southwest	Quinlan Seminar Hall
Friday	January 22, 2010	10:00 am	Downtown	VTI-201
Friday	January 29, 2009	10:00 am	Shelbyville	Room 102B
Wednesday	February 10, 2010	12:00 noon	Downtown	VTI-201
Friday	February 19, 2010	12:00 noon	Elizabethtown Community and Technical College	Occupational Technical Building, Room 303AB
Wednesday	March 3, 2010	2:00 pm	Southwest	Quinlan Seminar Hall
Friday	March 5, 2010	10:00 am	Downtown	VTI-214

Any change in the above schedule of Pre-Admission Conferences will be announced in the on-line Student Bulletin. Each Conference is scheduled to last approximately one hour. Although most questions can be addressed during the Conference, students are welcome to stay afterwards for individual advising. While it is only necessary to attend only one conference in order to apply to the PTA Program, interested students are welcome to attend at any time.