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Physical Therapist Assistant

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. It is designed to prepare the graduate to work under the supervision of a physical therapist to treat disabilities resulting from birth, disease, or injury. Physical therapy helps the patient to develop strength, mobility, coordination, and skills needed to manage pain. Physical Therapist Assistant is a licensed profession. In order to meet licensure requirements, the student must graduate from an accredited program and successfully pass a National Examination for licensure in the state in which they will practice. Successful completion of the program provides graduates with the educational requirements necessary to take the national licensing examinations for physical therapist assistants.

Students are provided hands-on experience in exercise, physical agents, and other therapeutic techniques in actual practice at local hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, skilled care facilities, and outpatient clinics. They will work with physical therapists and physical therapist assistants performing therapeutic techniques and carrying out the patient’s physical therapy plan of care. While the regular semesters will utilize classroom, laboratory and clinical education experiences, the final summer semester requires two full-time, six-week internships at two separate facilities away from the University campus. In accordance with Federal and State guidelines, the clinical sites will require proof of the following: vaccination for measles, mumps, and rubella, varicella, tetanus, TB, and Hepatitis B, covid vaccine, flu vaccine, current CPR card, and proof of completion of HIPAA and blood borne pathogens training as well as a criminal background check and drug screening. Students may be required to purchase and develop an account within a clinical management system for clinical placement.

A minimum grade of C for all physical therapist assistant courses is required to maintain enrollment in the Physical Therapist Assistant program. Physical Therapist Assistant courses are taught one time in an academic year. A student who fails a course (or drops out of the physical therapist assistant sequence) must reapply to the Physical Therapist Assistant program. Students will be required to complete the Practice Exam & Assessment Tool (PEAT) at the conclusion of all curriculum requirements. A minimum score of 600 is required for program graduation.

The program is served by an advisory committee made up of practicing physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, students and educators who provide expertise to assure a curriculum which will prepare graduates to meet the physical therapy needs of the public.

Increasing numbers of elderly and chronically ill persons and the rapid expansion of health care programs in both urban and rural areas have created a demand for physical therapy personnel. Employment opportunities are available in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, extended care facilities, outpatient clinics and schools. Physical therapy provides a unique service and requires a close interpersonal relationship with the patient.

To be considered for enrollment into the Physical Therapist Assistant program, prospective students must first obtain admission into the University. The competitive admission application is accessed by selecting the Physical Therapist Assistant major. Current SIU Carbondale students may complete the competitive admission application directly from the Physical Therapist Assistant webpage at sah.siu.edu/undergraduate/physical-therapist-assistant/. Classes are admitted only in the fall semester.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program has Linkage Agreements with Southeastern Illinois College, Rend Lake College, John A. Logan College, Frontier College, Lakeland College, Southeast Missouri State University, Olney College, Wabash Valley College, and Shawnee College. If you have questions about a linkage agreement, please contact the appropriate Community College advisor or SIU Carbondale’s School of Health Sciences at 618-453-7172.

Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Physical Therapist Assistant Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
Requirements for Major in Physical Therapist Assistant	
ZOOL 115, AH 241 or PHSL 201 and PHSL 208	7
PSYC 102	3
ENGL 101	3
CMST 101	3
AH 105	2
PH 334 or KIN 324 ¹	3
PTH 215 or KIN 320 and PTH 209 or KIN 321 ²	6
PSYC 301, or PSYC 303, or PSYC 304, or PSYC 305	3
PTH 107, PTH 123A*, PTH 123B*, PTH 203, PTH 204, PTH 205, PTH 207, PTH 210A*, PTH 210B*, PTH 212A*, PTH 212B*, PTH 220A*, PTH 220B*, PTH 230A*, PTH 230B*, PTH 233A*, PTH 233B*, PTH 234, PTH 321A#, PTH 321B#, PTH 322 ³	43
Total	73

¹ PH 334 may substitute for KIN 324

² A minimum grade of C is required for KIN 320 and KIN 321

³ A minimum of C/Pass is required in all PTH courses. * A and B are co-requisites. They must be taken together and completed with a minimum grade of C/Pass. # A is a prerequisite to B. A must be successfully completed with a minimum grade of C before the student can progress to the B sequence internship.

AH 241: may substitute PHSL 201/PHSL 208.

PSYC 301: may substitute PSYC 303, PSYC 304, or PSYC 305.

PTH 207 must be taken before KIN 321 or PTH 209.

PTH 203 and PTH 205 can be moved up a year.

AH 241 must be taken before KIN 320 or PTH 215.

C or better in all PTH classes.

Residency Requirement: 15 semester hours.

A.A.S. Degree: 60 semester hours required.

Physical Therapist Assistant Courses

PTH107 - Introduction to Physical Therapy Practice and Procedures Students will be introduced to the historical background, professional, ethical, and legal aspects of the physical therapy profession, as well as the relationship of physical therapy to total health care. Restricted to PTH majors. Credit Hours: 3

PTH123A - Physical Agents I Theory Students will be able to describe the theories and physiological effects of physical therapy interventions such as superficial and deep heat, cryotherapy, hydrotherapy, massage and laser therapy. Co-requisite: PTH 123B. Restricted to PTH majors. \$30 to cover expenses associated with equipment maintenance and accreditation. Credit Hours: 2

PTH123B - Physical Agents I Application Students will be able to safely and effectively apply physical therapy interventions such as superficial heat and deep heat, cryotherapy, hydrotherapy, massage, and laser therapy. Co-requisite: PTH 123A. Restricted to PTH majors. Lab fee: \$10. Credit Hours: 1

PTH199 - Independent Study Provides first year students with the opportunity to develop a special program of study to fit a particular need not met by other offerings. Enrollment provides access to program and clinical resources. Each student will work under the supervision of a faculty or staff member. Restricted to PTH majors. Special approval needed from the instructor. Credit Hours: 1-10

PTH203 - Pathology Students will be able to describe the fundamental basis of diseases including inflammation, cardiovascular diseases, vascular diseases, orthopedic conditions, repair of bone and soft tissue injuries. Emphasis is placed on those conditions treated through physical therapy interventions. Prerequisite: AH 241 or PHSL 201 and 208. Restricted to PTH majors. Credit Hours: 2

PTH204 - Physical Therapist Assistant Practicum I Students will be able to carry out routine physical therapy interventions with select patients. They will be able to demonstrate skill in the application of heat, cold, radiant energy, range of motion, therapeutic exercise, activities of daily living, hydrotherapy and massage. Students will also assist in maintaining records and equipment. Course includes clinical experience. Prerequisites: PTH 107 and PTH 123A with a minimum grade of C and PTH 123B with a pass. Restricted to PTH majors. Credit Hours: 2

PTH205 - Physical Therapy Science Students will be able to describe selected medical and surgical conditions from the stand point of etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, and their impact on physical therapy interventions. Prerequisite: AH 241 or PHSL 201 and 208. Restricted to PTH majors. Credit Hours: 2

PTH207 - Human Neuromusculoskeletal Anatomy Students will be able to describe and identify the structure, function, and integration of the component parts of the skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems of the human body. Students will be able to identify and palpate anatomical landmarks and understand the relationship between the structure and function of the human body. This course contains integrated laboratory experiences. Credit Hours: 3

PTH209 - Functional Kinesiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant Students will apply their knowledge of musculoskeletal anatomy to the science of human movement. Emphasis is placed on the integration of structure and function of the neuromusculoskeletal systems during functional movements and activities of daily living. The course applies biomechanical principles and analysis to normal movements and movement patterns as well as compensatory movements and their implications. The concepts of locomotion, biomechanics, forces, and levers will be introduced. This is a foundation course for PTH 210 A/B and PTH 220 A/B. Prerequisites: PTH 207, AH 241 with grades of C or better. Restricted to major. Credit Hours: 3

PTH210A - Introduction to Therapeutic Exercise Theory This course is an introduction to therapeutic exercise theory. Students will apply basic neuroanatomy and theoretical concepts related to therapeutic exercise and identify treatment interventions and special tests associated with specific orthopedic conditions. Co-requisite: PTH 210B. Prerequisite: PTH 207, PTH 209 with a minimum grade of C. Restricted to PTH majors. Credit Hours: 2

PTH210B - Introduction to Therapeutic Exercise Application This course is an introduction to therapeutic exercise application. Students will be able to palpate anatomical landmarks, perform length tests and manual muscle tests to individual muscles and muscle groups. Students will also learn to select,

instruct, and perform exercises to improve flexibility and muscle performance. Co-requisite: PTH 210A. Prerequisite: PTH 207, PTH 209 with a minimum grade of C. Restricted to PTH majors. Lab fee: \$7. Credit Hours: 1

PTH212A - Physical Rehabilitative Theory Students will be able to understand and explain the need for and concepts involved in physical rehabilitation interventions that assist patients in obtaining a state of optimal function. Co-requisite: PTH 212B. Restricted to PTH majors. \$16 to cover expenses associated with equipment maintenance and accreditation. Credit Hours: 3

PTH212B - Physical Rehabilitative Application Students will be able to demonstrate competency in performing physical rehabilitative patient care skills and interventions that assist patients in obtaining a state of optimal function. Interventions covered include: range of motion, goniometry, transfers, chest physical therapy, and utilization of assistive devices. Co-requisite: PTH 212A. Restricted to PTH majors. Lab fee: \$20. Credit Hours: 1

PTH215 - Physiologic Assessment for the Physical Therapist Assistant This course will introduce the Physical Therapist Assistant to the normal physiological and biochemical processes related to physical activity and the implications of deviation from normal as it relates to treatment of the physical therapy patient. Emphasis is on physiological principles at the cellular, tissue, organ, and system level and clinical assessment of systems at rest and response to exercise in health and disease across the lifespan. Prerequisite: PTH 207, AH 241 with grades of C or better. Restricted to major. Credit Hours: 3

PTH220A - Neurologic Therapeutic Exercise Theory Students will understand the principles of advanced therapeutic exercise for patients with neurologic dysfunction. Theories behind motor control, motor reflexes, motor learning, sensory integration, motor development, and utilization of synergies are covered. Students will be able to identify the need for adaptive equipment for individuals with neurologic dysfunction. Co-requisite: PTH 220B. Prerequisites: PTH 210A with a minimum grade of C and PTH 210B with a pass. Restricted to PTH majors. Credit Hours: 2

PTH220B - Neurologic Therapeutic Exercise Application Students will be able to demonstrate through supervised application, advanced therapeutic exercise interventions such as sensory integration, motor reflexes, motor development, and utilization of synergies for specific clinical neurological conditions. Co-requisite: PTH 220A. Prerequisites: PTH 210A with a minimum grade of C and PTH 210B with a pass. Restricted to PTH majors. Credit Hours: 1

PTH230A - Advanced Therapeutic Exercise Theory This course is a progression of PTH 210A designed to present advanced theoretical concepts related to therapeutic exercise. Students will apply neuroanatomy and therapeutic principles to the spine, peripheral joints, connective tissue, vestibular, sensorimotor and neuromuscular systems. Co-requisite: PTH 230B. Prerequisites: PTH 210A with a minimum grade of C and PTH 210B with a pass. Restricted to PTH majors. Credit Hours: 1

PTH230B - Advanced Therapeutic Exercise Application This course is a progression of PTH 210B designed to develop advanced competencies in therapeutic exercise. Students will perform techniques related to spinal stabilization, movement impairments, soft tissue and joint mobilization, muscle energy, proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation, and proprioceptive/vestibular systems. Co-requisite: PTH 230A. Prerequisites: PTH 210A with a minimum grade of C and PTH 210B with a pass. Restricted to PTH majors. Credit Hours: 1

PTH233A - Physical Agents II Theory Students will understand and describe the physiological effects, indications, and contraindications for electrotherapy, traction, and intermittent compression. Students will also explain the different theories and mechanics of pain. Co-requisite: PTH 233B. Prerequisites: PTH 123A with a minimum grade of C and PTH 123B with a pass. Restricted to PTH majors. \$30 to cover expenses associated with equipment maintenance and accreditation. Credit Hours: 2

PTH233B - Physical Agents II Application Students will be able to demonstrate the safe and effective application of: compression units, traction, electrical currents, electrical muscle stimulation, and electrotherapy for pain and healing functions. Students will administer standardized questionnaires, graphs, behavioral scales or visual analog scales for pain. Co-requisite: PTH 233A. Prerequisites: PTH 123A with a minimum grade of C and PTH 123B with a pass. Restricted to PTH majors. Lab fee: \$30. Credit Hours: 1

PTH234 - Physical Therapist Assistant Practicum II Students will be able to perform the skills acquired in Practicum I as well as more complex interventions with selected patients. They will demonstrate skills in therapeutic exercise, application of physical agents, and record keeping. Course includes clinical experience. Prerequisites: PTH 107, 123A, 203, 204, 210A, and 212A with a minimum grade of C; PTH 123B, 210B, and 212B with a pass. \$99 fee for online licensure practice examination. Credit Hours: 3

PTH299 - Independent Study Provides second-year students with the opportunity to develop a special program of study to fit a particular need not met by other offerings. Enrollment provides access to program and clinical resources. Each student will work under the supervision of a faculty or staff member. Restricted to PTH majors. Special approval needed from the instructor. Credit Hours: 1-14

PTH321A - Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Internship Students will be able to apply previously learned theories and perform interventions of patient care through closely supervised internship experiences in two separate physical therapy facilities. First six week internship. Must be taken in A, B sequence. Corequisite: PTH 322. Prerequisites: PH 334, ZOO 115, ENGL 101, PSYC 102, PSYC 301, CMST 101; PTH 215, PTH 220A, PTH 230A, PTH 233A, and PTH 234 with a minimum grade of C; PTH 220B, PTH 230B, and PTH 233B with a pass. \$27 to cover expenses associated with use of CPI Web for clinical evaluation. Credit Hours: 4

PTH321B - Clinical Internship Students will be able to apply previously learned theories and perform interventions of patient care through closely supervised internship experiences in two separate physical therapy facilities. Second six-week internship. Must be taken in A, B sequence. Co-requisite: PTH 322. Prerequisites: PTH 321A with a minimum grade of C. Restricted to PTH majors. \$27 to cover expenses associated with use of CPI Web for clinical evaluation. Credit Hours: 4

PTH322 - Physical Therapist Assistant Seminar Students discuss with the program director or faculty member of their internship patient care experience. They will complete weekly assignments via D2L as well as two educational presentations at their assigned clinical affiliation site, evaluate their clinical internship experience and their academic preparation at Southern Illinois University by survey. Students will complete the course by taking the PEAT examination on-campus with a minimum required score of 600. Corequisites: PTH 321A and 321B. Prerequisites: PTH 220A, 230A, 233A, and 234 with a minimum grade of C. PTH 220B, 230B, and 233B with a pass. Fee: \$99 to cover Practice Examination & Assessment Tool. Credit Hours: 2

Physical Therapist Assistant Faculty

Davis, Julie K., Associate Professor, M.S.P.T., Barry University, 1996.

Davis, Timothy S., Clinical Instructor, M.S., Indiana State University, 1996.

Osman, Eric, Clinical Instructor, MPT, Northwestern University, 1998.

Emeriti Faculty

Rogers, Janet, L., Professor, Emerita, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1995.

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