



# Alabama Community College System

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: HEALTH-RELATED PROFESSIONS DISCIPLINES

### PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA)

#### Detail for CIP Code 51.0806

**Title:** Physical Therapist Assistant

**Definition:** A program that prepares individuals, under the supervision of a physical therapist, to implement physical therapy treatment care plans, train patients, conduct treatment interventions, use equipment, and observe and record patient progress. Includes instruction in applied anatomy and physiology, applied kinesiology, principles and procedures of physical therapy, basic neurology and orthopedics, physical therapy modalities, documentation skills, psychosocial aspects of health care, wound and injury care, electrotherapy, working with orthotics and prostheses, and personal and professional ethics.

**06-23-2020**

SUMMARY OF CHANGES			
Date	CRS #	COURSE TITLE	RECENT CHANGES
03/24/2020	293	Directed Studies for PTA	Credit hours was made variable to accommodate Auburn University Pathway-to-Plains Articulation Agreement
10/16/14		205, 215,	Courses archived due to inactivity.
4/11/14			Added CIP code information
3/23/10			Directory reformatted
3/23/10	120	Introduction to Kinesiology	Course added at the request of Wallace Hanceville.
3/23/10	258	Introduction to the Clinical Environment	Course added at the request of Wallace Hanceville.
COMMENTS:			

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	100	INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL THERAPY	2	0	2
Course Description			Date Changed		
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This course is an introduction to the field of physical therapy as a career choice. Emphasis is on the role of the PT and PTA, educational requirements, scope of practice and subspecialty areas such as pediatrics, geriatrics, sports. Upon completion of the course, the student should have a general understanding of the role of physical therapy in the health care environment.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	120	Introduction to Kinesiology	2	1	3
Course Description			Date Added		
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.			3/23/10		
<p>This course is an introduction to the clinically oriented study of functional anatomy. Emphasis is placed on a beginning level of understanding of the musculoskeletal system and nervous system as they relate to human movement. Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to identify basic anatomical structures involved in human movements.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	180	MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	1	0	1
Course Description			Date Changed		
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This course is an introduction to the language of medicine with emphasis on its use in physical therapy. Emphasis is on terminology of anatomical systems, root forms, prefixes and suffixes, surgery, symptomatology, psychiatric terms, pharmaceutical terms, anesthetic terms, and abbreviation. Upon completion, the student should be able to recognize this terminology as it is used in physical therapy.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	200	PHYSICAL THERAPY ISSUES AND TRENDS	2	0	2
Course Description			Date Changed		
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This is an introductory course to the trends and issues in physical therapy. Emphasis is placed on areas such as history, practice issues, psychosocial aspects of illness and cultural diversity. Upon completion, the student should be able to discuss trends and issues relevant to physical therapy. <b>CORE</b></p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	201	PHYSICALTHERAPIST ASSISTANT SEMINAR	2	0	2
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This course is a continuing study of issues and trends in physical therapy practice. Emphasis is placed on issues such as licensure, job skills, board exam review, practitioner roles, legal and ethical issues. Upon completion, the student should have acquired necessary skills for transition from student to practitioner. <b>CORE</b></p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	202	PTA COMMUNICATION SKILLS	2	0	2
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This course is the study of verbal and nonverbal communication and documentation in health care. Emphasis will be placed on terminology, format, computer usage, reimbursement, interpersonal communication, and legal issues. Upon completion, student should be able to discuss and demonstrate communication methods for achieving effective interaction with patients, families, the public and other health care providers.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	204	PTA FORUM I	1	0	1
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This course consists of independent visits to relevant clinical and related sites and activities. Students observe and assist with sports and recreational activities and visit specialized clinical sites. By the end of the course, the student should have broad exposure to activities in which physically challenged persons participate and specialized clinical areas.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	CLINICAL	COURSE
PTA	210	INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINIC	0	1	1
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This clinical course is designed to introduce the student to the practice of physical therapy in the clinical setting. Emphasis is on student observation of techniques in the clinic that they have been taught in the classroom and will entail on-going communication between the clinical instructor, student and course coordinator. Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate practical application of basic physical therapy assistant skills.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	220	FUNCTIONAL ANATOMY AND KINESIOLOGY	3	0	3
Course Description					Date Changed
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
This course provides an in-depth, clinically oriented study of functional anatomy. Emphasis is placed on the musculoskeletal system, nervous system, and study of human movement. Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to identify specific anatomical structures and analyze human movements. <b>CORE</b>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	221	KINESIOLOGY LAB	0	1	1
Course Description					Date Changed
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
This laboratory course allows for hands-on appreciation of functional anatomy and kinesiology. Emphasis may include muscle and joint function, ROM/strength testing, palpation skills and exercise concepts. Upon completion, the student should be able to integrate content areas into an understanding of normal gait posture and movement patterns.					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	222	FUNCTIONAL ANATOMY AND KINESIOLOGY LAB	0	2	2
Course Description					Date Changed
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
This laboratory course allows for hands-on appreciation of anatomical structures and kinesiological concepts as they relate to therapeutic exercise. Emphasis may include muscle and joint function, testing applications and therapeutic exercise. Upon completion, the student should be able to integrate content areas into an understanding of normal human movement.					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	230	NEUROSCIENCE	2	0	2
Course Description					Date Changed
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
This course provides students with an overview of the neuroanatomy of the CNS and PNS, as it relates to treatment necessary for patients with dysfunctions of these systems. Emphasis includes the structure and function of the nervous system, neurophysiological concepts, human growth and development, neurologic dysfunctions. Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to identify and discuss specific anatomical structures, functions of the nervous system, basic concepts of human growth and development and identify neurologic pathologies. <b>CORE</b>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	231	REHABILITATION TECHNIQUES	0	2	2

Course Description Date Changed

PREREQUISITE: As required by program.

This course allows for hands on appreciation of advanced rehabilitation techniques. Emphasis is on orthopedic and neurologic treatment techniques, therapeutic exercise procedures and analysis and treatment of pathologic gait. Upon completion, the student should be able to demonstrate an understanding of advanced rehabilitation techniques appropriate to orthopedic and neurologic dysfunctions. **CORE**

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	232	ORTHOPEDICS FOR THE PTA	2	0	2

Course Description Date Changed

PREREQUISITE: As required by program.

This course provides the student with an overview of orthopedic conditions seen in physical therapy. Emphasis is on the study of orthopedic conditions and appropriate physical therapy intervention and a review of related anatomical structures. Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to discuss PT interventions for common orthopedic conditions.

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	240	PHYSICAL DISABILITIES I	2	0	2

Course Description Date Changed

PREREQUISITE: As required by program.

This course presents the student with a body systems approach to the etiology, pathology, signs/symptoms and treatment of conditions seen in PT. Emphasis may include conditions most commonly treated in physical therapy. Upon completion, the student should be able to discuss basic pathological processes, treatment options and prognoses of conditions studied. **CORE**

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	241	PHYSICAL DISABILITIES II	2	0	2

Course Description Date Changed

PREREQUISITE: As required by program.

This course continues a body systems approach to study of common PT pathologies. Emphasis includes various neurological pathologies with additional focus on the needs of special populations. Upon completion, the student should be able to discuss PT interventions appropriate to a variety of diagnoses. **CORE**

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	250	THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES I	2	2	4
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This laboratory course provides a hands-on introduction to the principles and procedures of therapeutic physical therapy intervention. Emphasis is on basic patient care skills and procedures utilized in physical therapy. Upon completion, the student should be able to demonstrate safe and effective delivery of those procedures with an in-depth understanding of the rationale for each treatment. <b>CORE</b></p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	251	THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES II	2	2	4
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This laboratory course is a continued study of the principles and procedures of therapeutic PT intervention. Emphasis is on advanced physical therapy interventions and procedures and their rationale. Upon completion, the student should be able to demonstrate safe and effective delivery with an in-depth understanding of each. <b>CORE</b></p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	252	PHYSICAL AGENTS AND THERAPEUTIC MODALITIES	2	0	2
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This course provides the student with the theoretical basis for the use of physical agents such as heat, cold, electricity, light, water and therapeutic modalities utilized in physical therapy. Emphasis is placed on modalities such as hydrotherapy, various forms of electrical stimulation, ultrasound, traction and diathermy. Upon completion of the course, the student will understand the physiological effects, indications and contraindication, advantage and disadvantage of utilizing these modalities in physical therapy.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	253	THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES III	2	2	4
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This laboratory course is a continued study of the principles and procedures of therapeutic PT intervention. Emphasis is on specialized physical therapy interventions and procedures and their rationale. Upon completion, the student should be able to demonstrate safe and effective delivery with an in-depth understanding of each.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	258	Introduction to the Clinical Environment	1	0	1

Course Description Date Added 3/23/10

PREREQUISITE: As required by program.

This course is an introduction to the expectations and legal requirements of the clinical environment. Emphasis is placed on personal and client safety, personal integrity and accountability, and universal clinical expectations. Upon completion, the student should be able to demonstrate pre-clinical competency in clinically relevant topics such HIPAA regulations, universal precautions, safety regulations and expectations, and the clinical expectations of the home institution.

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	CLINICAL	COURSE
PTA	260	CLINICAL EDUCATION I	0	1	1

Course Description Date Changed

PREREQUISITE: As required by program.

This clinical experience is designed to introduce the student to the practice of physical therapy through interaction in the health care environment. The course entails on-going communication between the clinical instructor, student and course coordinator. Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to safely and effectively apply procedures and techniques previously attained in the classroom.

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	CLINICAL	COURSE
PTA	261	CLINICAL EDUCATION II	0	1	1

Course Description Date Changed

PREREQUISITE: As required by program.

This clinical class is a continuation of PTA 260 which is designed to introduce the student to the practice of physical therapy through interaction in the health care environment. The course entails on-going communication between the clinical instructor, student, and course coordinator. The student will safely and effectively apply procedures and techniques previously attained in the classroom.

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	CLINICAL	COURSE
PTA	263	CLINICAL AFFILIATION I	0	3	3

Course Description Date Changed

PREREQUISITE: As required by program.

This clinical class will provide clinical interaction in the health care environment. The course entails on-going communication between the clinical instructor, student, and course coordinator. Upon completion, the student should be able to safely and effectively apply procedures and techniques previously attained in the classroom.

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	CLINICAL	COURSE
PTA	266	CLINICAL FIELD WORK I	0	2	2
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This clinical class will provide an intensive and extended clinical interaction in the health care environment. The course entails on-going communication between the clinical instructor, student, and course coordinator. The student will safely and effectively apply procedures and techniques previously attained in the classroom.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	CLINICAL	COURSE
PTA	267	CLINICAL FIELD WORK II	0	2	2
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This clinical class is a continuation of PTA 266 and will provide clinical interaction in the health care environment. The course entails on-going communication between the clinical instructor, student and course coordinator. The student will safely and effectively apply procedures and techniques previously attained in the classroom.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	CLINICAL	COURSE
PTA	268	CLINICAL PRACTICUM	0	5	5
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.					
<p>This clinical education experience allows the student to practice in the health care environment, using entry level skills attained in previous classroom instruction. The course entails on-going communication between the clinical instructor, student, and course coordinator. Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate entry level competency in those skills necessary for functioning as a physical therapist assistant.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	290	THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE	0	1	1
Course Description				Date Changed	
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.				11/30/01	
<p>This lab course covers exercise techniques commonly used in PTA practice. It may include aquatics, isometric, isotonic, isokinetic, plyometric, Swiss ball, and aerobic exercise. Upon completion of the course the student should have entry level skills in exercise application.</p>					

DPT	CRS	COURSE TITLE	THEORY	LAB	COURSE
PTA	293	DIRECTED STUDY FOR PTA	1-3	0	1-3
Course Description			Date Changed		03/24/2020
PREREQUISITE: As required by program.			This course is designed to increase the opportunity for exploring, reading, and reporting on specific topics related to the field of physical therapy. Emphasis is placed on the development of knowledge in an area of interest to the student. The student should be able to meet the objectives of the course as approved by the instructor.		