

CURRICULUM STANDARD

Effective Term
Fall 1999
[1999*03]

Curriculum Program Title **Physical Therapist Assistant (2-year program)** Code **A45620**
Concentration **(not applicable)**

Curriculum Description

The Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum prepares graduates to work in direct patient care settings under the supervision of physical therapists. Assistants work to improve or restore function by alleviation or prevention of physical impairment and perform other essential activities in a physical therapy department.

Course work includes normal human anatomy and physiology, the consequences of disease or injury, and physical therapy treatment of a variety of patient conditions affecting humans throughout the life span.

Graduates may be eligible to take the licensure examination administered by the NC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Employment is available in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, extended care facilities, specialty hospitals, home health agencies, private clinics, and public school systems.

*Curriculum Requirements**

[for associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs in accordance with 23 NCAC 02E.0204 (3)]

- I. General Education.** Degree programs must contain a minimum of 15 semester hours including at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics. Degree programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of communications. Diploma programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of general education; 3 semester hours must be in communications. General education is optional in certificate programs.
- II. Major Hours.** AAS, diploma, and certificate programs must include courses which offer specific job knowledge and skills. Work experience, including cooperative education, practicums, and internships, may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit. *(See second page for additional information.)*
- III. Other Required Hours.** A college may include courses to meet graduation or local employer requirements in a certificate, diploma, or associate in applied science program. These curriculum courses shall be selected from the Combined Course Library and must be approved by the System Office prior to implementation. Restricted, unique, or free elective courses may not be included as other required hours.

	AAS	Diploma	Certificate
Minimum General Education Hours	15	6	0
Minimum Major Hours	49	30	12
Other Required Hours	0-7	0-4	0-1
Total Semester Hours Credit (SHC)	64-76	36-48	12-18

**Within the degree program, the institution shall include opportunities for the achievement of competence in reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills, and basic use of computers.*

Major Hours

[ref. 23 NCAC 02E.0204 (3)]

- A. Core.** The subject/course core is comprised of subject areas and/or specific courses which are required for each curriculum program. A diploma program offered under an approved AAS program standard or a certificate which is the highest credential level awarded under an approved AAS program standard must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit derived from the subject/course core of the AAS program.
- B. Concentration** (*if applicable*). A concentration of study must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit from required subjects and/or courses. The majority of the course credit hours are unique to the concentration. The required subjects and/or courses that make up the concentration of study are in addition to the required subject/course core.
- C. Other Major Hours.** Other major hours must be selected from prefixes listed on the curriculum standard. A maximum of 9 semester hours of credit may be selected from any prefix listed, with the exception of prefixes listed in the core or concentration. Work experience, including cooperative education, practicums, and internships, may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit.

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	AAS	Diploma	Certificate
Minimum Major Hours Required	49 SHC	30 SHC	12 SHC
A. CORE Required Courses: PTA 110 Introduction to Physical Therapy 3 SHC PTA 120 Functional Anatomy 3 SHC PTA 130 Physical Therapy Procedures I 3 SHC PTA 140 Therapeutic Exercise 4 SHC PTA 150 Physical Therapy Procedures II 3 SHC PTA 160 Physical Therapy Procedures III 3 SHC PTA 170 Pathophysiology 3 SHC PTA 212 Health Care Resources 2 SHC PTA 222 Professional Interactions 2 SHC PTA 240 Physical Therapy Procedures IV 5 SHC Required Subject Areas: Clinical Education. select 12 - 13 SHC: PTA 180 PTA Clinical Education Introduction 3 SHC PTA 182 PTA Clinical Education I 2 SHC PTA 210 PTA Clinical Education II 2 SHC PTA 220 PTA Clinical Education III 8 SHC PTA 230 PTA Clinical Education IV 8 SHC PTA 260 Advanced PTA Clinical Education 10 SHC Anatomy and Physiology. Select one sequence: BIO 165 Anatomy & Physiology I 4 SHC & BIO 166 Anatomy & Physiology II 4 SHC <i>or</i> BIO 168 Anatomy & Physiology I 4 SHC & BIO 169 Anatomy & Physiology II 4 SHC	51-52 SHC	NR	
B. CONCENTRATION (<i>Not applicable</i>) <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued on next page</i></div>			

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<p>C. OTHER MAJOR HOURS <i>To be selected from the following prefixes:</i></p> <p>BIO, CIS, COE, HSC, PHS, PHY, and PTA</p> <p><i>Foreign language courses (including ASL) that are not designated as approved other major hours may be included in all programs up to a maximum of 3 semester hours of credit.</i></p>			
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