

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA AAS)

1820 clock hours/ 81 weeks (Total time to complete the program may vary based on school holidays and breaks)
63 weeks Theory/Lab (14-24 hours per week) + 18 week externship (40 hours per week)

The **Mission of the Physical Therapist Assistant program** is to graduate entry level physical therapist assistant practitioners who practice in a safe, legal and ethical manner under the supervision of a physical therapist and seek to advance their competence through the pursuit of lifelong learning.

The **ultimate goal** of CBD College's PTA Program is to educate its students with the knowledge and skills to function within the physical therapist assistant scope of practice as defined by the American Physical Therapy Association and the laws of the State of California and advance their competence through the pursuit of lifelong learning.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is a comprehensive course of study that combines theory and clinical practice. The curriculum is designed to provide qualified individuals an opportunity to acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills, which will enable them to become safe and competent practitioners as a Physical Therapist Assistant. Upon successful completion of the program, the graduate is eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) and the California Law Examination (CLE), which relates to the practice of physical therapy in California, to obtain licensure, as required for the practice as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

The program prepares students for entry-level positions leading to careers or career advancement in a number of health care facilities including hospitals, medical centers, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient clinics, private practices. The program includes 680-hours of clinical experiences that must be completed prior to graduation.

Philosophy:

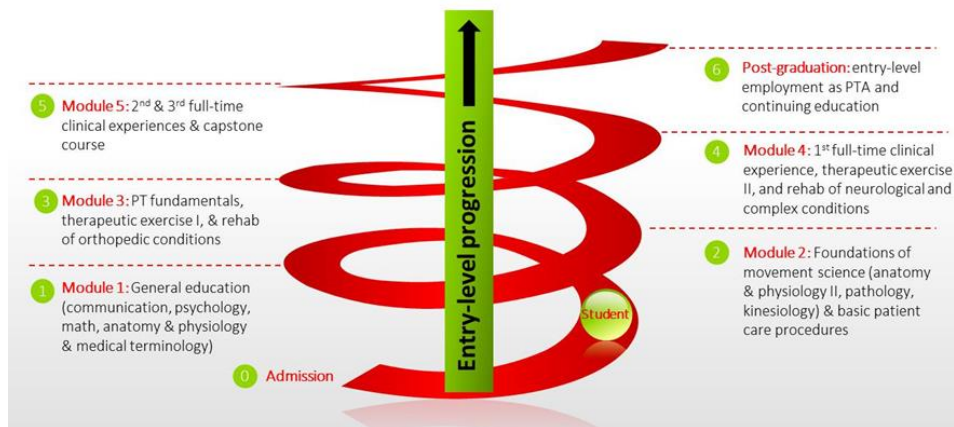
We believe that the education process should provide every student with an opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, professionalism and values needed to successfully pursue a productive and fulfilling career as a Physical Therapist Assistant. To that end, we seek to admit individuals who enjoy interacting with people in a caring and compassionate manner, can manage the demands of a rigorous learning process, and demonstrate the integrity and adaptability needed to practice in a rapidly changing health care environment. As faculty, we recognize that our students are adult learners who possess diverse thinking styles and bring a variety of past experiences to the educational process. We strive to build on those past experiences and utilize their strengths as learners to provide them with opportunities for new learning experiences using a variety of interactive instructional methods such as classroom lectures, media presentations, laboratory practice, web-based applications, simulations and supervised patient care experiences. Our primary goal is to prepare a caring and competent entry-level practitioner who works effectively as a member of the health care team to deliver physical therapy interventions that are grounded in scientific evidence and sound ethical judgment. To accomplish this goal, we believe the curriculum must begin with the introduction of foundational knowledge and skills that can be progressively applied and integrated in a clinical context that focuses on the prevention and treatment of illnesses/disabilities which impair functional movement in people of all ages and lifestyles. This progression and integration occurs in a spiral fashion (see figure below) which allows the learner to review and reflect on past experiences as he or she prepares to apply them to more complex, novel situations. In addition to facilitating the achievement of clinical competence, the faculty is committed to modeling professionalism to our students and serving as advocates for the physical therapy profession and the patients we serve. Finally, we embrace education as a lifelong process that enables physical therapist assistants to maintain and advance their clinical competence in order to meet the future challenges of an evolving profession and health care system.

CBD College strives to provide a physical therapist assistant curriculum that allows students to experience physical therapy at different clinical sites in the community. This also exposes the students to diversity not only amongst the patients at all age levels but also to the diversity of the different health care delivery systems. The students give care learning to incorporate the patient's family, environment and cultural factors in the most safe and effective way while under the supervision of the Physical Therapist (PT).

Graduates of the program in Physical Therapist Assistant will meet the following program objectives:

1. Practice in safe, competent, legal and ethical manner, under the supervision of a physical therapist.
2. Students will have the capability to be successful on the PTA licensure exam, and acquire an entry-level position as a PTA.
3. Provide competent and compassionate patient care.
4. Demonstrate ability to implement interventions as developed by the supervising physical therapist for all patients in their care.
5. Demonstrate appropriate problem solving and critical thinking within the scope of work as a Physical Therapist Assistant.
6. Seek to advance their competence through the pursuit of lifelong learning.

PTA Curriculum Model



Program Objective:

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program provides students with the theory, laboratory and clinical experiences that will prepare them to assume the role of competent and safe entry-level physical therapist assistants, to work under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist, providing services to patients and clients of all ages who have impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease, or other causes. Physical Therapy treatments are rendered in a variety of healthcare settings, including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, school systems, outpatient clinics, and private practices.

Upon successful completion of the program, the graduate is eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) and the California Law Examination (CLE), which relates to the practice of physical therapy in California, to obtain licensure, as required for the practice of physical therapy assisting.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates may obtain employment as

- Physical Therapist Assistants (CIP # 51.0806; O-NET # 31-2021.00)

Mod #	Module Title	Week #	Clock Hours
I	General Education	01-16	288
II	Foundations	17-32	312
III	Orthopedic	33-48	312
IV	Rehabilitation	49-64	318
V	Clinical Education	65-81	590
Total:			1820

Note: one clock hour is defined as a 60 minute span of time in which 50 minutes is devoted to actual class instruction, with the remaining portion being designated as a break.

Program Syllabus:

Course Number	Course Title	Lecture	Lab	Externship	Total Hours
ENG 100	Communication	48	0	0	48
BIO 100	Anatomy and Physiology I	80	0	0	80
MTH 100	College Math	48	0	0	48
PSY 100	Introduction to Psychology	32	0	0	32
MT 100	Medical Terminology	24	0	0	24
PTA 100	Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting	56	0	0	56
BIO 200	Anatomy and Physiology II	80	0	0	80
PTA 210	Physical Therapist Assisting Procedures	32	56	0	88
PTA 220	Pathophysiology	48	0	0	48
PTA 230	Kinesiology	48	48	0	96
PTA 300	Physical Therapy Fundamentals	48	48	0	96
PTA 310	Therapeutic Exercises I	64	64	0	128
PTA 320	Health Conditions I	48	0	0	48
PTA 330	PTA Practice I	40	0	0	40
PTA 400	Clinical Experience I	0	0	120	120
PTA 410	Physical Rehabilitation	48	72	0	120
PTA 420	Health Conditions II	48	0	0	48
PTA 430	PTA Practice II	30	0	0	30
PTA 500	Clinical Experience II	0	0	280	280
PTA 510	PTA Capstone I	10	0	0	10
PTA 520	Clinical Experience III	0	0	280	280
PTA 530	PTA Capstone II	20	0	0	20
TOTAL		852	288	680	1820

For information on graduation rates, median debt of graduates completing this program or other important information, visit: <http://www.cbd.edu/programs/physical-therapist-assistant/>

PTA Program Descriptions:

MODULE I COMMUNICATION – ENG 100

Prerequisite: None, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module I Courses

Total clock hours: 48

This course is designed to provide students with greater skills in all aspects of oral and written presentations. The course enables students to prepare effective speeches, emphasizing the relevant elements of public speaking, compose logical, coherent essays and reports necessary for academic and professional success. The process of preparing a presentation is covered, including topic selection, development, research, organization, language and delivery of speeches for many types of audiences and occasions is included. Students will become proficient in research techniques, learn critical thinking skills through expository and persuasive reading selections, and apply these skills to creating original essays and a final research paper.

MODULE I ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I – BIO 100

Prerequisite: None, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module I Courses

Total clock hours: 80

This course is an introduction to the structure and function of the human body, with an emphasis on the properties of cells, tissues and organ systems, and their relationships in both health and disease. The structure and function of the organ systems, muscles and nerves are studied.

MODULE I COLLEGE MATH – MTH 100

Prerequisite: None, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module I Courses

Total clock hours: 48

This course is designed primarily for students who know the fundamentals of arithmetic and have had little or no background in algebra. The course strengthens the student's arithmetic and informal geometry skills, provides an introduction to the abstractions of algebra using fundamental principles of rational numbers, order of operations and solving linear equations.

MODULE I INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY – PSY 100

Prerequisite: None, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module I Courses

Total clock hours: 32

This course presents a survey of the field of general psychology and a study of the native and acquired controls of human behavior, with emphasis on the mental process and the development of personality.

MODULE I MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY – MT 100

Prerequisite: None, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module I Courses

Total clock hours: 24

This course introduces medical terminology, which includes basic word structure, anatomical terms, terminology used to describe organ systems, body structure, medical diagnoses, and procedures. Students also receive instruction in the correct pronunciation of medical terms.

MODULE I INTRODUCTION TO PTA – PTA 100

Prerequisite: None, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module I Courses

Total clock hours: 56

This course serves as an introduction to the history and development of the profession of physical therapy, the role of a physical therapist assistant, as well as the legal, ethical and behavioral expectation for a physical therapist assistant, the course also introduces students to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and the concepts of teaching and learning.

MODULE II ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II – BIO 200

Prerequisites: Module I, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module II Courses

Total clock hours: 80

This course is a continuation of BIO 100 and includes the study of the structure and function of the cardiovascular, endocrine, circulatory, immune, respiratory, digestive, excretory, sensory, and reproductive systems.

MODULE II PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING PROCEDURES- PTA 210

Prerequisites: Module I, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module II Courses

Total clock hours: 88

This course introduces the clinical environment of physical therapy. The course includes instruction, demonstration and practice, in patient care procedures, including positioning and draping patients, hand washing, universal precautions, use and applications of personal protective equipment, sterile technique, wound care basics, body mechanics, passive range of motion, transfers, gait training, bed mobility, and wheelchair mobility. Students also receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for healthcare providers, vital signs, and the Heimlich maneuver.

MODULE II PATHOPHYSIOLOGY - PTA 220

Prerequisites: Module I, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module II Courses

Total clock hours: 48

This course is a systems overview of the changes in body tissues and organs that cause or result from common health conditions. The course focuses on the disease processes; medical and pharmacological treatments; the implications for the movements system and physical therapy interventions; and the impairments associated with health conditions related to the immune, integumentary, endocrine, cardiovascular, hematologic, respiratory, gastrointestinal, renal, hepatic, pancreatic, metabolic and psychological body systems.

MODULE II KINESIOLOGY - PTA 230

Prerequisites: Module I, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module II Courses

Total clock hours: 96

This course introduces the student to the science of human movement. Students evaluate biomechanical forces on the body; concepts of locomotion, forces and levers. Topics include origins, insertions, innervations and actions of prime movers of the musculoskeletal system, and related data collection.

MODULE III PHYSICAL THERAPY FUNDAMENTALS - PTA 300

Prerequisites: Module I, Module II, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module III Courses

Total clock hours: 96

This course emphasizes physical therapy treatments using physical agents, the use and application of mechanical forces like traction and compression using both equipment and manual techniques. The indications, contraindications, applications, and patient responses to modalities performed in physical therapy are examined. Emphasis is place on safe use of equipment, patient safety, and documentation.

MODULE III THERAPEUTIC EXERCISES I - PTA 310

Prerequisites: Module I, Module II, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module III Courses

Total clock hours: 128

This course teaches the concept of therapeutic exercise and examines the principles of various types of exercise; the stages of tissue healing, and exercise considerations associated with each stage. Students receive instruction in and develop exercise programs for medical and surgical conditions that affect the trunk, neck, and extremities. This course is designated to prepare students to implement therapeutic exercise under the supervision of a physical therapist.

MODULE III HEALTH CONDITIONS I - PTA 320

Prerequisites: Module I, Module II, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module III Courses

Total clock hours: 48

This course covers the musculoskeletal health conditions encountered in the practice of Physical Therapy with patients across the lifespan. The course focuses on the disease processes or mechanisms of injury; medical, surgical and pharmacological treatments; associated impairments; and the implications for the movements system and physical therapy interventions.

MODULE III PTA PRACTICE I – PTA 330

Prerequisites: Module I, Module II, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module III Courses *Total clock hours: 40*

Students learn the essentials of safe, ethical, legal and value-based behaviors needed by a student PTA. Emphasis is placed on teaching and learning, documentation, billing and reimbursement, evidence based practice, and self-assessment. Students will utilize all previously learned PTA skills and knowledge to demonstrate clinical reasoning, competence and readiness for PTA 400 Clinical Experience I.

MODULE IV CLINICAL EXPERIENCE I – PTA 400

Prerequisites: Module I – Module III, **Co-requisite:** None *Total clock hours: 120*

This course is an introduction to the clinical environment that immediately follows Module 3. Students are expected to apply selected skills, knowledge and behaviors learned in the classroom by providing direct patient care under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist and/or physical therapist assistant.

MODULE IV PHYSICAL REHABILITATION – PTA 410

Prerequisites: Module I – Module III, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module IV Courses *Total clock hours: 120*

This course provides instruction in the techniques and procedures used in physical rehabilitation of neuromuscular, cardiopulmonary, integumentary and genetic health conditions across the lifespan. The course emphasizes the use of functional activities for adult and pediatric patient populations, along with patient safety and documentation. Initiatives

MODULE IV HEALTH CONDITIONS II – PTA 420

Prerequisites: Module I – Module III, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module IV Courses *Total clock hours: 48*

This course covers the neuromuscular, integumentary, cardiovascular, reproductive and developmental health conditions encountered in the practice of Physical Therapy with patients across the lifespan. The course focuses on the disease processes or mechanisms of injury; medical, surgical and pharmacological treatments; associated impairments; and the implications for the movements system and physical therapy interventions.

MODULE IV PTA PRACTICE II – PTA 430

Prerequisites: Module I – Module III, **Co-requisite:** Concurrent Module IV Courses *Total clock hours: 30*

This course is a continuation of PTA 330. Students expand their knowledge, skill and ability in providing the safe, ethical, legal and value-based behaviors needed for effective patient care within the context of the current healthcare system. Emphasis is placed on understanding the U.S. healthcare models, government influences and jurisdiction practice acts; duty to patients, employers and the profession; as well as the use of technology in effective written, oral and visual communication. Students will utilize all previously learned PTA skills and knowledge to demonstrate clinical reasoning, competence and readiness for PTA 500 Clinical Experience II.

MODULE V CLINICAL EXPERIENCE II – PTA 500

Prerequisites: Module I - Module IV, **Co-requisite:** None *Total clock hours: 280*

This course is the second clinical experience. Students are expected to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and behaviors by providing physical therapy services under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist and/or physical therapist assistant. Students have completed all didactic courses and should be near the entry-level expectations of a PTA at the conclusion of the experience.

MODULE V PTA CAPSTONE I – PTA 510

Prerequisites: Module I - Module IV, PTA 500, **Co-requisite:** None *Total clock hours: 10*

This course initiates the process of student preparation for graduation, licensure/registration, and employment as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

MODULE V CLINICAL EXPERIENCE III – PTA 520

Prerequisites: Module I - Module IV, PTA 500-510, **Co-requisite:** None

Total clock hours: 280

This course is the culminating clinical experience. Students are expected to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and behaviors expected of an entry-level physical therapist assistant by providing physical therapy services under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist and/or physical therapist assistant.

MODULE V PTA CAPSTONE II – PTA 530

Prerequisites: Module I - Module IV, PTA 500-520, **Co-requisite:** None

Total clock hours: 20

This course continues the process of student preparation for graduation, licensure/registration, and employment as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

PTA EVALUATION/PROGRESSION POLICY

The CBD PTA program is a modular program. All students are admitted as a cohort and the curriculum is designed so students complete all of the required courses within 5 Modules. A student must pass all courses in Module I to progress to Module II, must pass all courses in Module II to progress to Module III, etc. A student must pass all Modules to be able to graduate. Each didactic courses in Modules 1, Module 2, Module 3 and Module 4 must all be passed with a 75% or higher. The Capstone and Clinical Experience courses in Module 4 and Module 5 are graded pass or fail as detailed in the course syllabus. A student who fails a course at any point in the sequence is dropped from the program and may apply for a spot in the next available cohort.

SKILLS CHECK LISTS

Lab classes are designed to teach specific psychomotor skills that are needed throughout one's career as a Physical Therapist Assistant. Passing A PTA course with a lab component requires each student demonstrate competence in **ALL** of the course specific skills. Failure to pass ALL listed Skill Check competencies prior to the end of the module will result in **NO GRADE** being issued for the course.

Skill checks are taught, practiced, remediated and tested until passed with zero errors in Critical Safety Elements and no more than two cues in the Essential Components of each skill. Critical Safety Elements are integral to the successful demonstration of a skill and therefore must be performed safely 100% of the time. Any critical safety error is a failed skill check. Essential Components represent the procedures, techniques and behaviors pertinent to the demonstration of a technical skill and should be present in order to pass the skill. More than two (2) cues is a failed skill check.

PTA 210 Procedures

1. Universal Precautions: Hand washing, Don/Doff Personal Protective Equipment
2. Vital Signs: Heart Rate, Respiration Rate, Blood Pressure, Oxygen Saturation
3. Anthropometric Measurements: Height, Weight, Length, Girth
4. Deep Tendon Reflexes
5. Sensation Testing: Light Touch, Two-Point Discrimination, Sharp/Dull, Vibration, Proprioception, Kinesthesia
6. Body Mechanics
7. Patient Positioning
8. Bed Mobility
9. Transfers: One Person Assist, Multiple Person Assist
10. Wheelchair Management: Measurement and Adjustment, Propulsion
11. Gait Training: Parallel Bars, Walker, Crutches

PTA 230 Kinesiology

1. Goniometry: Shoulder, Elbow and Forearm, Wrist and Hand, Spine, Hip, Knee, Ankle and Foot
2. Muscle Length Measurement: Hamstrings (Straight Leg Raise), Rectus Femoris (Ely's Test), Gastrocnemius, Hip Flexors (Thomas Test)
3. Manual Muscle Testing: Upper Extremity, Lower Extremity, Spine
4. Gait Velocity

PTA 300 Fundamentals

1. Cryotherapy
2. Superficial Thermotherapy
3. Deep Thermotherapy
4. Compression Therapy
5. Soft tissue mobilization and therapeutic massage
6. Mechanical Traction
7. Biofeedback
8. Electrotherapy: TENS, NMES
9. Light Therapy

PTA 310 Therapeutic Exercise

1. Motor Performance Training - AAROM: Shoulder, Elbow and Forearm, Wrist and Hand. Spine, Hip and Pelvis, Knee, Ankle and Foot
2. Motor Performance Training - Resisted ROM: Shoulder, Elbow and Forearm, Wrist and Hand, Spine, Hip and Pelvis, Knee, Ankle and Foot
3. Manual Flexibility Training: Upper Extremity, Lower Extremity
4. Joint Mobility – shoulder, wrist & forearm; hand; LE distraction, knee, ankle
5. Don/Doff Orthoses

PTA 410 Physical Rehabilitation

1. Neurologic Tests and Measures: Cranial Nerve Assessment
2. Facilitation Techniques: Quick Stretch, Approximation, Distraction, Slow Reversal, Rhythmic Stabilization
3. Inhibition Techniques: Inhibitory Pressure, Slow Stroking, Rhythmical Rotation, Contract-Relax
4. Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation Patterns and Techniques (Rhythmic Initiation): Upper Extremity, Lower Extremity
5. Postural Drainage with Percussive Techniques
6. Wound Measurement
7. Dressing Changes

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The Program Director monitors the academic progress of each student throughout the PTA Program. The Student Advisement Form is used to document student progress at midterm and final of each module. Course instructors also monitor student grades to provide ongoing advice and promote student success. A Student Success Plan is developed anytime a student's cumulative course grade or midterm exam grade falls below 78%.

BASIS FOR CLINICAL GRADING

Grading: The Director of Clinical Education (DCE) assigns a grade of Pass or Fail for the course. The DCE, in consultation with the Program Director, Center Coordinator of Clinical Education (CCCE) and CI, determines if the student has achieved the expected course objectives, and therefore meets the minimum academic standards to pass the course and progress in the PTA curriculum.

The DCE determines a Pass or Fail grade based on assessment of the following components.

- a. Course objectives.
- b. Clinical setting and complexity of the environment.
- c. Experience with patients in the clinical setting.
- d. Expectations of the clinic site and academic program.
- e. Progression of performance from initial to final clinical experience.
- f. Indication of “significant concerns” or “with distinction” on the clinical evaluation.
- g. Congruence between the CI's written evaluation, comments, and performance dimensions and ratings.
- h. Congruence between CI, student and DCE assessment of student performance.
- i. Completion of all clinical assignments (e.g. project, assessments, weekly journal, student evaluation of instruction, etc.).
- j. Additional verbal or written information from the CI and student.

The Director of Clinical Education makes the final grade determination.

Note: Clinical education experiences are based on a voluntary collaborative relationship between the student and CI. Any student asked not to return to a clinic site, for any reason, will receive an automatic failure. When a student asks not to return to a clinic site, the DCE in consultation with the Program Director will determine if the student receives a failing grade or is provided an alternate clinic site.

PTA TESTING PROCEDURES

Examinations – Midterm and final examinations are the primary method of assessing student learning in a course and readiness to progress to the next PTA Module.

- ALL examinations are cumulative. PTA courses are sequential, building on previously passed courses. Examinations may test content learned in previous PTA courses.
- Missed examinations cannot be made up unless there are extenuating circumstances and documentation (Medical, Legal, or Military) is provided to the Program Director.
- The Program Director in consultation with the Dean of Education and PTA faculty determines if there are extenuating circumstances that warrant a make-up exam.
- Make-up examinations are scheduled at the discretion of the instructor and must be completed before the next assessment or the end of the Module.
- Make-up written exams are an alternate test version that automatically receives a 10% reduction to the earned grade.
- A student who misses a final written or practical exam due to extenuating circumstances will be given an Incomplete (I) grade. The final exam must be completed within 7 days and prior to progressing to the next clinical experience.
- If the final exam is not taken within 7 days, the grade is automatically converted to an “F”.

Practical Examinations – Midterm and final practical examinations are the primary method of assessing student skill competence and readiness to progress to the next PTA Module.

- PTA courses are sequential, building on previously passed courses, therefore practical exams may test content learned in all prior and concurrent PTA courses.
- All course specific skill checks must be passed prior to sitting for a practical examination. Cancellation of a practical due to incomplete skill checks is graded as a failed practical.
- Practical examinations in PTA 210 and PTA 230 are graded pass or fail according to the grading rubric criteria provided in these courses.
- Practical examinations in PTA 330 and PTA 430 must be passed with a minimum 75%. Practical exam scores are included in the cumulative course grade.
- Students have two (2) opportunity per course to remediate and re-take a failed practical exam. An inability to earn a Pass grade on both the midterm and final practical examinations results in no grade issued and failure of the course.
- Re-take practical exams receives a 10% reduction to the earned grade.
- Missed practical examinations are subject to the same policies as missed written examinations (see above).

Quizzes – Weekly quizzes are given at the beginning of most classes to assess student comprehension throughout the course.

- All weekly quizzes are given in a designated timeframe as determined by the instructor.
- Students who are tardy must turn in their quiz at the specified end time, regardless of when they began the quiz.
- **No make-up quizzes are permitted. NO exceptions.**
- The lowest quiz score is dropped before calculating the 25% course quiz grade.

REVIEW OF TESTS/ASSIGNMENTS

Tests and assignments are available for review with the instructor after all of the students in the class have completed the test. The midterm, final, practical examinations and quizzes are retained by CBD College PTA program.

PTA PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

The PTA program requires each student to consistently *demonstrate behaviors that meet the academic and professional standards* of safe, responsible, respectful, legal and ethical conduct as described in these documents. Blatant violation of these expectations or repeated behavioral remediation will result in a Recommendation for Termination from the PTA Program

- a. *The CBD College Catalog*
- b. *The [laws and regulations of any jurisdiction](#) in which a CBD student is participating in a clinical education practicum. In California, physical therapy is governed by the PT Board of California (www.ptbc.ca.gov)*
- c. *A.P.T.A. Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant (www.apta.org/PTA/PatientCare)*
- d. *A.P.T.A. Value Based Behaviors for the PTA. (www.apta.org/ValuesBasedBehaviors)*

Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant

HOD S06-09-20-18 [Amended HOD S06-00-13-24; HOD 06-91-06-07; Initial HOD 06-82-04-08] [Standard]



Preamble

The Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant (Standards of Ethical Conduct) delineate the ethical obligations of all physical therapist assistants as determined by the House of Delegates of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The Standards of Ethical Conduct provide a foundation for conduct to which all physical therapist assistants shall adhere. Fundamental to the Standards of Ethical Conduct is the special obligation of physical therapist assistants to enable patients/clients to achieve greater independence, health and wellness, and enhanced quality of life.

No document that delineates ethical standards can address every situation. Physical therapist assistants are encouraged to seek additional advice or consultation in instances where the guidance of the Standards of Ethical Conduct may not be definitive.

Standards

Standard #1: Physical therapist assistants shall respect the inherent dignity, and rights, of all individuals.

- 1A. Physical therapist assistants shall act in a respectful manner toward each person regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition, or disability.
- 1B. Physical therapist assistants shall recognize their personal biases and shall not discriminate against others in the provision of physical therapy services.

Standard #2: Physical therapist assistants shall be trustworthy and compassionate in addressing the rights and needs of patients/clients.

- 2A. Physical therapist assistants shall act in the best interests of patients/clients over the interests of the physical therapist assistant.
- 2B. Physical therapist assistants shall provide physical therapy interventions with compassionate and caring behaviors that incorporate the individual and cultural differences of patients/clients.
- 2C. Physical therapist assistants shall provide patients/clients with information regarding the interventions they provide.
- 2D. Physical therapist assistants shall protect confidential patient/client information and, in collaboration with the physical therapist, may disclose confidential information to appropriate authorities only when allowed or as required by law.

Standard #3: Physical therapist assistants shall make sound decisions in collaboration with the physical therapist and within the boundaries established by laws and regulations.

- 3A. Physical therapist assistants shall make objective decisions in the patient's/client's best interest in all practice settings.
- 3B. Physical therapist assistants shall be guided by information about best practice regarding physical therapy interventions.
- 3C. Physical therapist assistants shall make decisions based upon their level of competence and consistent with patient/client values.
- 3D. Physical therapist assistants shall not engage in conflicts of interest that interfere with making sound decisions.
- 3E. Physical therapist assistants shall provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist and shall communicate with the physical therapist when patient/client status requires modifications to the established plan of care.

Standard #4: Physical therapist assistants shall demonstrate integrity in their relationships with patients/clients, families, colleagues, students, other health care providers, employers, payers, and the public.

- 4A. Physical therapist assistants shall provide truthful, accurate, and relevant information and shall not make misleading representations.
- 4B. Physical therapist assistants shall not exploit persons over whom they have supervisory, evaluative or other authority (eg, patients/clients, students, supervisees, research participants, or employees).
- 4C. Physical therapist assistants shall discourage misconduct by health care professionals and report illegal or unethical acts to the relevant authority, when appropriate.

- 4D. Physical therapist assistants shall report suspected cases of abuse involving children or vulnerable adults to the supervising physical therapist and the appropriate authority, subject to law.
- 4E. Physical therapist assistants shall not engage in any sexual relationship with any of their patients/clients, supervisees, or students.
- 4F. Physical therapist assistants shall not harass anyone verbally, physically, emotionally, or sexually.

Standard #5: Physical therapist assistants shall fulfill their legal and ethical obligations.

- 5A. Physical therapist assistants shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- 5B. Physical therapist assistants shall support the supervisory role of the physical therapist to ensure quality care and promote patient/client safety.
- 5C. Physical therapist assistants involved in research shall abide by accepted standards governing protection of research participants.
- 5D. Physical therapist assistants shall encourage colleagues with physical, psychological, or substance-related impairments that may adversely impact their professional responsibilities to seek assistance or counsel.
- 5E. Physical therapist assistants who have knowledge that a colleague is unable to perform their professional responsibilities with reasonable skill and safety shall report this information to the appropriate authority.

Standard #6: Physical therapist assistants shall enhance their competence through the lifelong acquisition and refinement of knowledge, skills, and abilities.

- 6A. Physical therapist assistants shall achieve and maintain clinical competence.
- 6B. Physical therapist assistants shall engage in lifelong learning consistent with changes in their roles and responsibilities and advances in the practice of physical therapy.
- 6C. Physical therapist assistants shall support practice environments that support career development and lifelong learning.

Standard #7: Physical therapist assistants shall support organizational behaviors and business practices that benefit patients/clients and society.

- 7A. Physical therapist assistants shall promote work environments that support ethical and accountable decision-making.
- 7B. Physical therapist assistants shall not accept gifts or other considerations that influence or give an appearance of influencing their decisions.
- 7C. Physical therapist assistants shall fully disclose any financial interest they have in products or services that they recommend to patients/clients.
- 7D. Physical therapist assistants shall ensure that documentation for their interventions accurately reflects the nature and extent of the services provided.
- 7E. Physical therapist assistants shall refrain from employment arrangements, or other arrangements, that prevent physical therapist assistants from fulfilling ethical obligations to patients/clients.

Standard #8: Physical therapist assistants shall participate in efforts to meet the health needs of people locally, nationally, or globally.

- 8A. Physical therapist assistants shall support organizations that meet the health needs of people who are economically disadvantaged, uninsured, and underinsured.
- 8B. Physical therapist assistants shall advocate for people with impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, and disabilities in order to promote their participation in community and society.
- 8C. Physical therapist assistants shall be responsible stewards of health care resources by collaborating with physical therapists in order to avoid overutilization or underutilization of physical therapy services.
- 8D. Physical therapist assistants shall educate members of the public about the benefits of physical therapy.

PTA EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- 10' Platform Par Bars Adj Ht/Wd
- 2-Point Aesthesiometer
- 390 Standard Pulley Series Wall Mount
- 393 Standard Double Pulley Wall-Mount
- Adj. Alum. Walker
- Adj. Alum. Walker- 5" Wheels
- Adjustable Folding Hemi Walker
- Adjustable Oxygen Cart
- Adjustable Wall Goniometer
- Aerobic Exercise Step-Platform System
- Aircast Ankle Stirrup, R-M, R-L
- Allheart Buck Neurological Hammer
- Alliance Patient Lifts - Battery Powered Patient Lift
- Alliance Patient Lifts - HE Hydraulic Patient Lift
- Altay Human Muscular Leg, Arm, Human Heart
- Antimicrobial Gait Belt. Size: 54", 70"
- Anti-Tipper for Invacare 9000XT Recliner Wheelchair
- Baseline® Inclinometer
- Biofreeze® Pain-Relieving Gallon Pump Bottle
- Bodyblade Classic
- BOSU Pro™ Balance Trainer-Balance Trainer
- Cando Blue Foam Rolls
- Cando Foam Balance Pads
- Cervical Vertebrae Flexible
- Chattanooga Ionto Machine
- Chlorazene Whirlpool Antiseptic
- Clinic Model BAPS Board
- Coban® Self-Adherent Wrap
- Colpac Freezer
- Combo US/IFC/TENS Unit
- Compact 4-Sided Weight Rack-with Accessories
- Comprilan® Compression Bandage
- Cotton Classic Hospital Bath Towels, Washcloths, Flat Hospital Bed Sheets
- Deluxe Intellect® Tens Unit
- Designer Offset Canes
- Detecto® 339 Physician Beam Scales with Height Rod
- Digi-Flex® Hand & Finger Exercise System Set of 5
- Dual-Head Stethoscope.
- Earthlite Flex Rest Self Adjusting Face Cradle
- Earthlite® Sedona Treatment Tables
- Economy Aneroid Sphygmomanometer
- Economy Finger Pulse Oximeter
- Economy Overdoor Traction with Waterbag
- Economy Square Stool
- Exercise Ball Rack
- EZ - Trode Electrodes 2" Round
- EZ Read Jamar(R) Goniometer 8", 12.5"
- Ez-On Hinged Knee Wrap, S/M, M/L
- Fitter Rocker& Wobble Boards Kit of 3 boards & stand

Books:

- *Fundamentals of Physical Therapy Examination*
- *Pierson and Fairchild's Principles & Techniques of Patient Care*
- *Documentation Basics: A Guide for the Physical Therapist Assistant*
- *Measurement of Joint Motion*
- *Pathology for the PTA*
- *Physical Rehabilitation*
- *Essentials of Kinesiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant*
- *Daniels & Worthingham's Muscle Testing: Techniques of Manual Examination*
- *Physical Agents in Rehabilitation from Research to Practice*
- *Therapeutic Exercises: Foundations & Techniques*
- *PTA EXAM: The Complete Study Guide*
- *Clinical Decision Making for Physical Therapist Assistant*
- *Role of the PTA*
- *Patient Practitioner Interaction*

Software:

- *Visible Body Muscle Premium*
- *Exercise Pro Live*
- *PTA CPI Web*
- *PEAT (2 PTA Practice Examinations and Assessment Tool)*

General Education:

- *Communication Skills for the Healthcare Professional*
- *Structure and Function of the Body*
- *Study Guide to Accompany Structure and Function of the Body*
- *Beginning Algebra*
- *Psych 3*
- *Medical Terminology for the Healthcare Professional*
- *Introduction to Physical Therapy*

- Foot Volumeter
- Foot, Hand, Shoulder, Hip Skeletons
- Footstool
- Forearm Crutches-Adult
- Frame w/Swingaway Elevating Legrests
- Full Body Padded U-Sling with Head Support, Medium, Large
- Functional Model of the Knee, Elbow, Muscled Elbow Joint Model
- Gel Warmer
- HamperMyotrac T4000P
- Hand Volumeter
- Hemi Shoulder Sling
- Human Muscular and Ligamentous Skeleton, Plastic
- Human Skeleton, Disarticulated, Plastic, in Carrying Case
- Human Skeleton, Left side ½ of Upper and Lower Extremities
- Invacare® 9000 XT Recliner Wheelchair
- Ionto patch for Ionto machine
- Iontopatch® SP
- J&J Coach Speed Tape
- Jamar Economy Stopwatch
- Jamar Flexible Tape Measure
- Jamar® Plus+ Hand Evaluation Kit
- J-lat Lateral Subluxation Right, L, M
- Kinesio Tex Taping Kit
- Knee Walker
- Lister Bandage Scissors Right Handed 5-1/2"
- Lumbar Section w/ Herniated Disk
- Matrix R5x Recumbent Cycle
- Matrix Upright Cycle
- Matt-Kleen™ All Purpose Disinfectant Cleaner
- M-brace lumblock, M, L, XL
- Medicine Balls
- Medsoft Pillows
- Medsoft Pillows Cases
- Metron™ Value Mat Platforms
- Mettler Electrotherapy Cart
- Midland Electric Tilt Table - Electric Tilt Table
- Mobile Thermalator Heating Unit
- Mueller Adj Knee Support
- Multi-Purpose Bench
- Myotrac T4000P Triode Electrodes
- Paterson Medical Standard, Neck Contour Cold Packs
- Patient Gowns
- Patterson Medical® Paraffin Wax Unscented, 36-lb. Blocks
- Philadelphia Tracheotomy Collar® Size: S, M, L
- Plyometric Rebounder
- Presssion Sequential Pump, Multi 3
- Presssion® compression therapy garments-Foot & Ankle, Full Arm, Full Leg
- Quad Cane, Narrow Base

- Quick-Adjust Crutches Size: Junior, Adult, Tall Adult
- Rigid Leg Lifter
- Rolyan Deep Prep Tissue Massage Products
- Rolyan Figure of 8 Sling Small to Average, Large to
- Rolyan Universal Arm Sling
- Rolyan® Posterior Leaf Splint Right, Small, Medium, Large, X-Large
- Rolyan® Slip-Resistant Knee Immobilizer, Short Medium, Short Large, Long Medium, Long Large
- Rolyan® Stabilizer Walker - High, Size: S, M, L
- Rolyan® Universal Contour Cervical Collar
- SAFESKIN® Powder-Free Purple Nitrile Exam Gloves S, M, L
- Sammons Preston Economy Ultrasound Gel
- Sammons Preston Lumbar Roll Standard
- Sammons Preston Transfer Board with Slots
- Sammons Preston® Economy Pneumatic Stool
- Sammons Preston® Glass Mirrors Single-Section
- Sammons Preston® Pedal Exerciser
- Sammons Preston® Therapy Putty Soft, Medium Red, Firm
- Saunders Cervical Hometrac® Deluxe
- Scifit DC 1000 Treadmill
- Scifit PRO Total and Upper Body Exerciser
- Secured Quick Release Gait Belt Stripe
- Shoulder Abduction Ladder
- Single-Bag Laundry Hampers
- Soft-Touch™ Therapy Rolls
- Soft-Touch™ Therapy Wedges
- Somso Human Brain with Arteries 4 parts
- Sphygmomanometer Oversized Cuff
- Standard Adjustable Cane
- Swede-o Strap lok S, M, L
- Thera Cane® Massager
- Thera-Band® Exercise Balls
- Thera-Band® Professional Resistance Tubing, Resistance Level: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Thera-Band® Wall Station
- Therabath® with Scent Free™ Paraffin
- Total Gym® GTS® Basic Accessory Package
- Tropic Pac Moist Heat Packs-Standard, Cervical, Oversize
- Universal Platform Walker/Crutch Attachment
- Universal Scissors
- Value Four Wheel Rollator Adult, Color: Red
- Valueline Two-Sided Compact Staircase
- Venture Wheelchair Detachable Desk Arm
- X-large