

Northern Virginia Community College 2008-2009 Catalog
Medical Education - Allied Health and Nursing Curricula

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Associate of Applied Science Degree

MEC

Purpose: The PTA program is designed to prepare students to utilize exercise, specialty equipment and other treatment procedures to prevent, identify, correct, and alleviate movement dysfunction. The program design provides students with the philosophical, theoretical, and clinical knowledge necessary to deliver high-quality patient care. Ultimately, students are prepared as skilled technical health care providers who work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist to provide selected components of physical therapy treatments. Upon successful completion of the program, students must take and pass a licensing examination to begin their career as a physical therapist assistant (PTA). Students are prepared for employment in a variety of health-care settings including acute care hospitals, outpatient clinics, extended care facilities, rehabilitation centers, contract agencies and schools.

Transfer Information: Transfer is **not** the primary purpose of an A.A.S. program, but NOVA has articulation agreements that facilitate the transfer of this and other career-oriented programs to selected senior institutions. Students interested in transfer should contact a counselor or their faculty advisor early in their program.

Admission Requirements:

Students must:

- Comply with all General Admission Requirements for Allied Health Programs.
- Attend a Physical Therapist Assistant Information Session. Call the program office at 703-822-6570 for scheduled dates or visit the web site <http://www.nvcc.edu/medical/health/pta/>.
- Have completed NAS 150 Human Biology with a grade of "C" or higher. BIO 141-142 or NAS 161-162 may be substituted for NAS 150.
- Have completed HLT 141 Medical Terminology with a grade of "C" or higher.
- Have a minimum 2.0 curricular GPA.
- Be 18 years of age.
- Have satisfactory scores on NOVA placement test to qualify for MTH 151 and ENG 111.

Special Accreditation Status: The program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

Completion Requirements: Completion of the above steps constitutes a completed *PTA Program Application*. Completed *PTA Program Applications* will be accepted in the PTA program office on October first for the following Fall semester. Acceptance is determined on a first-come-first-served basis with first priority given to legal residents domiciled in the cities and counties supporting the College. Students are notified in writing of acceptance into the program following submission of a completed application.

Professional Standards Requirements: Students are expected to consistently demonstrate professional behavior in the classroom, laboratory, and during clinical affiliations. Professional behavior must be consistent with the APTA Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant and the Generic Abilities outlined in the PTA Program Handbook. Behavior inconsistent with the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant and/or the Generic Abilities will result in dismissal from the program.

Additional Requirements: In addition to the Admission Requirements for Allied Health Programs, students must complete a basic first aid course prior to admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Advanced Placement Admission: Students seeking advanced placement or transfer should contact the PTA program for individual counseling.

Laboratory Examination Requirements: Each student must achieve a minimum passing score of 70% on each laboratory practical exam. In the event that a lab practical is failed, a maximum of *one* reexamination, per examination will be permitted. A student who does not achieve a 70% or greater on the second attempt will fail the class and be administratively withdrawn from the program.

Re-Enrollment:

1. Students in good standing may be permitted to re-enroll in the PTA curriculum on a space available basis, with permission of the Assistant Dean.
2. Students who leave the program for one year or more for either personal or academic reasons are required to demonstrate proficiency in all previously enrolled skills courses prior to re-entering the program. "Practical exams" are administered and scheduled by the program faculty. A written exam will be required.

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT A.A.S.

- Students who leave the program for any period of time for medical reasons are required to submit evidence of good physical and mental health, as substantiated by a newly completed Pre-Admission Health History and Physical for Allied Health and Nursing form (NVCC 125-7) signed by the primary physician responsible for their healthcare.

Prerequisites:		Credits
NAS	150 Human Biology or NAS 161-162 Health Science I-II (8) or BIO 141-142 Human Anatomy & Physiology I-II (8)	4
HLT	141 Intro. to Medical Terminology	<u>1</u>
Total Credits		5

Two Years Credits

1st Semester

ENG	111 College Composition I	3
PTH	105 Intro. to Physical Therapy	3
PTH	121 Therapeutic Proc. I	5
PTH	151 Musculoskeletal Structure and Function	5
SDV	101 Orientation to Health Care	<u>1</u>
Total		17

2nd Semester

¹ _____	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3
PED	220 Adult Health and Development	2
PSY	201 Intro. to Psychology I	3
PTH	115 Kinesiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant	5
PTH	122 Therapeutic Proc. II	<u>5</u>
Total		18

3rd Semester

² MTH	Elective	3
PTH	131 Clinical Education I	<u>3</u>
Total		6

4th Semester

PTH	225 Rehab. Procedures	5
PTH	231 Clinical Education II	5
³ _____	Social Science Elective	<u>3</u>
Total		13

5th Semester

PTH	210 Psych. Aspects of Therapy	2
PTH	227 Pathological Conditions	2
PTH	232 Clinical Education III	5
PTH	245 Professional Issues	<u>3</u>
Total		12

Total credits for the A.A.S. Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant = 71 (includes 5 prerequisite credits).

¹ Humanities/fine arts elective may be selected from the humanities/fine arts courses listed under General Education Electives.

² Math elective may be selected from any MTH course 151 or above.

³ The social science elective may be selected from the social/behavioral sciences courses listed under General Education Electives.