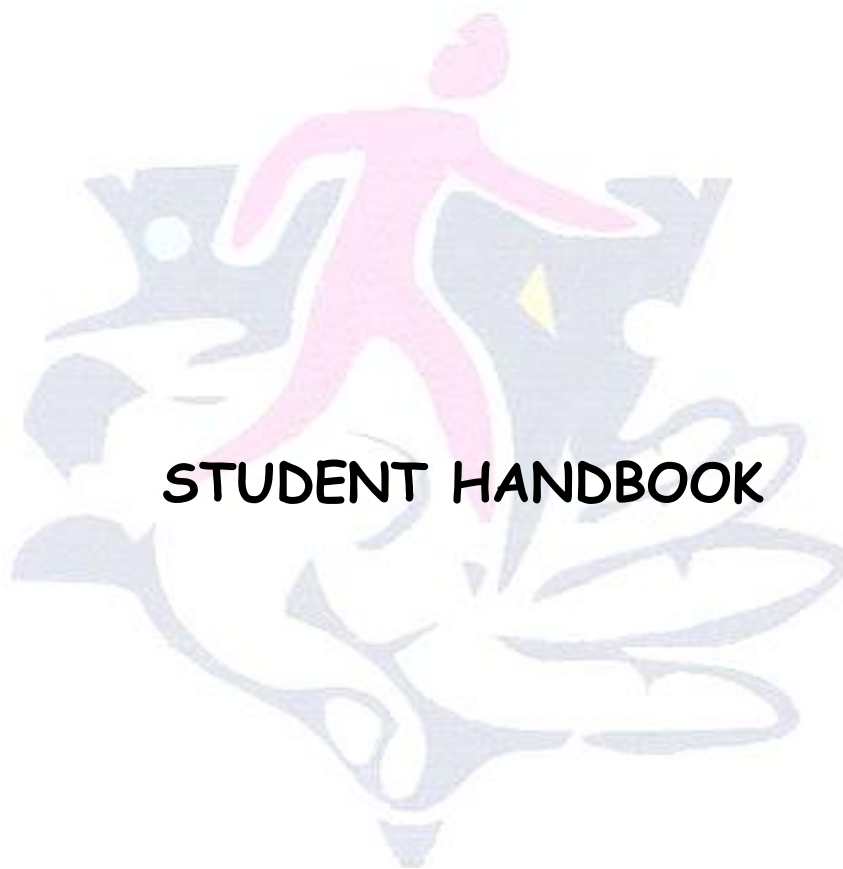


# **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**



## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**State University of New York  
College of Technology at Canton  
Canton, NY 13617**

## PREAMBLE

This **HANDBOOK** was developed to provide students in the physical therapist assistant program at SUNY Canton with information about the profession, the academic program, and clinical experience requirements.

All students have on-line access to the handbook at the beginning of their first semester in the PTA program. The handbook is updated annually. Students will be provided with any additions or changes made to information in this handbook as they are made.

Any duplication of materials in this handbook requires written permission from the PTA Program Director.

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The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at SUNY Canton is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave, Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

Concerns about SUNY Canton's Physical Therapist Assistant program can be submitted to CAPTE, at the following link: <https://www.capteonline.org/Complaints/>

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE**

Pursuant to the State University of New York policy, SUNY Canton is committed to fostering a diverse community of outstanding faculty, staff, and students, as well as ensuring equal educational opportunity, employment, and access to services, programs, and activities, without regard to an individual's race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction.

Employees, students, applicants, or other members of the campus community (including, but not limited to, vendors, visitors, and guests) may not be subjected to harassment that is prohibited by law or treated adversely or retaliated against based upon a protected characteristic.

The University's policy is in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and harassment. These laws include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as Amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the New York State Human Rights Law. These laws prohibit discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Inquiries regarding the application of laws, regulations, and policies prohibiting discrimination may be directed to the Affirmative Action Officer at 315-386-7688 or [hr@canton.edu](mailto:hr@canton.edu). Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator at 315-386-7399 or [title9@canton.edu](mailto:title9@canton.edu).

Inquiries may also be directed to the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, 32 Old Slip 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005-2500; Tel. 646-428-3800; email [OCR.NewYork@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.NewYork@ed.gov).

## **SECTION I**

### **PTA PROGRAM MISSION/GOALS/OUTCOMES**

## **SUNY CANTON MISSION**

SUNY Canton is dedicated to providing a progression of accessible, affordable, high-quality applied programs that enable students in the North Country, New York State, and beyond to achieve their highest potential both personally and professionally.

### **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM MISSION**

The Physical Therapist Assistant program prepares students to be competent, professional physical therapist assistants who value the differences and needs of every individual. Program graduates are ready to enter the workforce or pursue additional educational opportunities. The program provides a quality education in a supportive learning environment, encouraging students to reach their highest potential.

### **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM GOALS**

1. Graduates will demonstrate competent physical therapy practice.
2. Graduates will demonstrate professional behaviors expected of the physical therapist assistant.
3. Graduates will demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to individual differences and needs.
4. Faculty will set high academic standards in a supportive learning environment to facilitate student achievement of educational and career goals.
5. Faculty will role model lifelong learning by participation in professional development activities that inform their teaching.

## **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The curriculum prepares students to:

1. Communicate verbally and non-verbally with the patient, the physical therapist, health care delivery personnel, and others in an effective, appropriate, and capable manner.
2. Recognize individual differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs and respond appropriately in all aspects of physical therapy services.
3. Exhibit conduct that reflects practice standards that are legal and ethical.
4. Demonstrate safe practice in all situations.
5. Communicate an understanding of the plan of care developed by the physical therapist to achieve short and long term goals and intended outcomes.
6. Demonstrate competence in implementing and adjusting selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist.
7. Demonstrate competency in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care.
8. Demonstrate sound clinical problem solving in the provision of physical therapy services.
9. Participate in educating and providing patient-related instruction to patients, family members, and caregivers based on the plan of care.
10. Complete accurate and timely documentation in accordance with regulatory guidelines to support the delivery of physical therapy services.
11. Appropriately utilize evidence-based resources in the provision of physical therapy services.
12. Participate in activities that contribute to the effective function of the healthcare environment.
13. Participate in practice management functions within a physical therapy service, including billing and organizational planning.

14. Demonstrate awareness of and commitment to social responsibility, citizenship, and advocacy.
15. Identify career development and lifelong learning opportunities for the physical therapist assistant.
16. Exhibit professional behaviors that are consistent with the expectations of the physical therapy profession.

## **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

We, the faculty of the Physical Therapist Assistant program, believe that every student is an individual who has unique qualities. We recognize and respect individual differences and foster self-discovery of these differences which can maximize each student's contribution to the learning process.

We have a responsibility to present the fundamentals of physical therapy which will allow the student to apply and advance their skills in a clinical setting. It is not enough to memorize facts and figures. Through case study-based learning situations integrated with traditional presentation of theory, the student is prepared to function effectively as a health care provider in a dynamic health care environment.

An emphasis is placed on development of behaviors consistent with the core values. This is facilitated through role modeling and self-assessment. We believe that learning requires a partnership between teacher and student, each contributing to the overall process. The teacher acts as a role model to provide a baseline by which students can gauge their progress toward becoming an effective healthcare provider. The student assumes the role of an adult learner, accepting responsibility for their own learning. This includes continuous self-assessment which fosters their self-directed learning. The faculty provide the basis for this self-direction with an emphasis on the importance of a life-long commitment to continued education beyond completion of the PTA program.

The faculty are dedicated to providing a clear identity of the profession of physical therapy and the ideal working relationship of the PT/PTA. In essence, we are providing an environment for transformative learning with the goal of preparing students for the constantly changing trends in healthcare and socialization into the profession of physical therapy.



## **SECTION II**

# **ETHICS, GUIDELINES, AND LAWS REGARDING PTA'S**

## **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.

**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 healthcare 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.

*Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant.* Retrieved July 27, 2018, from [http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Policies\\_and\\_Bylaws1&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=73011](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Policies_and_Bylaws1&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=73011)

## **DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

HOD P06-18-28-35 [Amended: HOD P06-05-18- 26; HOD 06-00-16-27; HOD 06-99-07-11; HOD 06-96-30-42; HOD 06-95-11-06; HOD 06-93-08-09; HOD 06-85-20-41; Initial: HOD 06-84-16-72/HOD 06-78-22-61/HOD 06-77-19-37] [Position]

Physical therapist practice and the practice of physical therapy are synonymous. Both phrases are inclusive of patient and client management, and direction and supervision. Direction and supervision apply to the physical therapist assistant, who is the only individual who assists a physical therapist in practice. The utilization of other support personnel, whether in the performance of tasks or clerical activities, relates to the efficient operation of the physical therapy service.

Physical therapists are responsible for providing safe, accessible, cost-effective, and evidence-based services. Services are rendered directly by the physical therapist and with responsible utilization of physical therapist assistants.

The physical therapist's practice responsibility for patient and client management includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, and outcomes. Physical therapist assistants may be appropriately utilized in components of intervention and in collection of selected examination and outcomes data.

Direction and supervision are essential in the provision of quality physical therapist services. The degree of direction and supervision necessary for ensuring quality physical therapist services is dependent upon many factors, including the education, experiences, and responsibilities of the parties involved, as well as the organizational structure where physical therapist services are provided.

Regardless of the setting in which the physical therapist service is provided, the following responsibilities must be borne solely by the physical therapist:

1. Interpretation of referrals when available
2. Evaluation, diagnosis, and prognosis
3. Development or modification of a plan of care, which is based on the initial examination or reexamination and includes the physical therapy goals and outcomes
4. Determination of when the expertise and decisionmaking capability of the physical therapist requires the physical therapist to personally render services and when it may be appropriate to utilize the physical therapist assistant
5. Revision of the plan of care when indicated
6. Conclusion of an episode of care
7. Responsibility for any "hand off" communication
8. Oversight of all documentation for services rendered to each patient or client

Only the physical therapist performs the initial examination and reexamination of the patient and may utilize the physical therapist assistant in collection of selected examination and outcomes data.

The physical therapist is responsible for services provided when the physical therapist's plan of care involves the physical therapist assistant. Regardless of the setting in which the service is provided, the determination to utilize physical therapist assistants requires the education, expertise, and professional judgment of a physical therapist as described by the Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy, the Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist, and the APTA Guide for Professional Conduct.

In determining the appropriate extent of assistance from the physical therapist assistant, the physical therapist considers:

- The physical therapist assistant's education, training, experience, and skill level
- Patient or client criticality, acuity, stability, and complexity
- The predictability of the consequences
- The setting in which the care is being delivered
- Federal and state statutes
- Liability and risk management concerns
- The mission of physical therapist services for the setting
- The needed frequency of reexamination

## Physical Therapist Assistant

### Definition

The physical therapist assistant assists the physical therapist in the provision of physical therapy. The physical therapist assistant is a graduate of a physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

### Utilization

The physical therapist is directly responsible for the actions of the physical therapist assistant in all practice settings. The physical therapist assistant may provide services under the direction and at least general supervision of the physical therapist. In general supervision, the physical therapist is not required to be on site for direction and supervision but must be available at least by telecommunication. The ability of the physical therapist assistant to provide services shall be assessed on an ongoing basis by the supervising physical therapist.

Services provided by the physical therapist assistant must be consistent with safe and legal physical therapist practice and shall be predicated on the following factors: complexity and acuity of the patient's or client's needs; proximity and accessibility to the physical therapist; supervision available in the event of emergencies or critical events; and type of setting in which the service is provided. The physical therapist assistant makes modifications to elements of the intervention either to progress the patient or client as directed by the physical therapist or to ensure patient or client safety and comfort.

When supervising the physical therapist assistant in any offsite setting, the following requirements must be observed: **\*\*Please note: State law ultimately determines the amount of supervision required. Please refer to NYS Education Law Article 136.**

1. A physical therapist must be accessible by telecommunication to the physical therapist assistant at all times while the physical therapist assistant is providing services to patients and clients.
2. There must be regularly scheduled and documented conferences with the physical therapist assistant regarding patients and clients, the frequency of which is determined by the needs of the patient or client and the needs of the physical therapist assistant.
3. In situations in which a physical therapist assistant is involved in the care of a patient or client, a supervisory visit by the physical therapist:
  - a. Shall be made upon the physical therapist assistant's request for a reexamination, when a change in the plan of care is needed, prior to any planned conclusion of the episode of care, and in response to a change in the patient's or client's medical status
  - b. Shall be made at least once a month, or at a higher frequency when established by the physical therapist, in accordance with the needs of the patient or client
  - c. Shall include:
    - i. An onsite reexamination of the patient or client
    - ii. Onsite review of the plan of care with appropriate revision or termination
    - iii. Evaluation of need and recommendation for utilization of outside resources

Explanation of Reference Numbers: HOD P00-00-00-00 stands for House of Delegates/month/year/page/vote in the House of Delegates minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, HOD P06-17-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2017 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4. P: Position | S: Standard | G: Guideline | Y: Policy | R: Procedure

*Direction and Supervision of the Physical Therapist Assistant.* Retrieved July 16, 2022, from <https://www.apta.org/apta-and-you/leadership-and-governance/policies/direction-supervision-pta>

**EDUCATION LAW  
ARTICLE 136**

**PHYSICAL THERAPY AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS**

**§ 6730. Introduction.**

This article applies to the profession of physical therapy and provides for the licensing of physical therapists and for the certification of physical therapist assistants. The general provisions for all professions contained in article one hundred thirty of this title apply to this article.

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**§ 6731. Definition of physical therapy.**

Physical therapy is defined as:

- a. The evaluation, treatment or prevention of disability, injury, disease, or other condition of health using physical, chemical, and mechanical means including, but not limited to heat, cold, light, air, water, sound, electricity, massage, mobilization, and therapeutic exercise with or without assistive devices, and the performance and interpretation of tests and measurements to assess pathophysiological, pathomechanical, and developmental deficits of human systems to determine treatment, and assist in diagnosis and prognosis.
- b. The use of roentgen rays or radium, or the use of electricity for surgical purposes such as cauterization shall not be included in the practice of physical therapy.
- c. Such treatment shall be rendered pursuant to a referral which may be directive as to treatment by a licensed physician, dentist, podiatrist, nurse practitioner or licensed midwife, each acting within his or her lawful scope of practice, and in accordance with their diagnosis, except as provided in subdivision d of this section.
- d. Such treatment may be rendered by a licensed physical therapist for ten visits or thirty days, whichever shall occur first, without a referral from a physician, dentist, podiatrist, nurse practitioner or licensed midwife provided that:
  1. The licensed physical therapist has practiced physical therapy on a full time basis equivalent to not less than three years.



2. Each physical therapist licensed pursuant to this article shall provide written notice to each patient receiving treatment absent a referral from a physician, dentist, podiatrist, nurse practitioner or licensed midwife that physical therapy may not be covered by the patient's health care plan or insurer without such a referral and that such treatment may be a covered expense if rendered pursuant to a referral. The physical therapist shall keep on file with the patient's records a form attesting to the patient's notice of such advice. Such form shall be in duplicate, with one copy to be retained by the patient, signed and dated by both the physical therapist and the patient in such form as prescribed pursuant to regulations promulgated by the commissioner.

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### **§ 6732. Practice of physical therapy and the use of title "physical therapist".**

Only a person licensed or otherwise authorized under this article shall practice physical therapy or use the title "physical therapist", "physiotherapist" or "mechanotherapist" or the abbreviation of "P.T." in connection with his or her name or with any trade name in the conduct of his profession.

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### **§ 6733. State board for physical therapy.**

A state board for physical therapy shall be appointed by the board of regents on recommendation of the commissioner for the purpose of assisting the board of regents and the department on matters of professional licensing and professional conduct in accordance with section sixty-five hundred eight of this title. The board shall be composed of not less than eight licensed physical therapists and not less than one public representative. An executive secretary to the board shall be appointed by the board of regents on recommendation of the commissioner.

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### **§ 6734. Requirements for a professional license.**

To qualify for a license as a physical therapist, an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

- a. Application: file an application with the department;

- b. Education: have received an education, including completion of a master's degree or higher in physical therapy or determined to be equivalent, in accordance with the commissioner`s regulations;
- c. Experience: have experience satisfactory to the board in accordance with the commissioner`s regulations;
- d. Examination: pass an examination satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commissioner`s regulations;
- e. Age: be at least twenty-one years of age;
- f. Character: be of good moral character as determined by the department; and
- g. Fees: pay a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars to the department for admission to a department conducted examination and for an initial license; a fee of eighty-five dollars for each reexamination; a fee of one hundred fifteen dollars for an initial license for persons not requiring admission to a department conducted examination; and a fee of one hundred fifty-five dollars for each triennial registration period.

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#### **§ 6735. Limited permits.**

- a. The department of education shall issue a limited permit to an applicant who meets all requirements for admission to the licensing examination.
- b. All practice under a limited permit shall be under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist in a public hospital, an incorporated hospital or clinic, a licensed proprietary hospital, a licensed nursing home, a public health agency, a recognized public or non-public school setting, the office of a licensed physical therapist, or in the civil service of the state or political subdivision thereof.
- c. Limited permits shall be for six months and the department may for justifiable cause renew a limited permit provided that no applicant shall practice under any limited permit for more than a total of one year.
- d. Supervision of a permittee by a licensed physical therapist shall be on-site supervision and not necessarily direct personal supervision except that such supervision need not be on-site when the

supervising physical therapist has determined, through evaluation, the setting of goals and the establishment of a treatment plan, that the program is one of maintenance as defined pursuant to title XVIII of the federal social security act.

- e. The fee for each limited permit and for each renewal shall be seventy dollars.

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### **§ 6736. Exempt persons.**

- a. This article shall not be construed to affect or prevent the administration of physical therapy or the use of modalities by a person employed by a licensed physician or physical therapist in his office, or in the civil service of the state or any political subdivision thereof, or in a hospital or clinic, or in an infirmary maintained by a person, firm or corporation employing one or more full-time licensed physicians or physical therapists, provided that such person was so employed for a period of at least two years prior to April tenth, nineteen hundred fifty, and has been issued a written authorization by the department.
- b. This article shall not be construed to affect or prevent:
  - 1. a physical therapy student from engaging in clinical practice under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist as part of a program conducted in an approved school of physical therapy or in a clinical facility or health care agency affiliated with the school of physical therapy and supervision of a physical therapy student by a licensed physical therapist shall be on-site supervision and not necessarily direct personal supervision;
  - 2. a physical therapist graduate of an approved program from engaging in clinical practice under the on-site, but not necessarily direct personal supervision of a licensed physical therapist provided the graduate has: (a) applied and paid a fee for the licensing and examination, (b) applied and paid a fee for the temporary permit. This exemption shall not extend beyond ninety days after graduation;
  - 3. a physical therapist licensed in another state or country from conducting a teaching clinical demonstration in connection with a program of basic clinical education, graduate education, or post-graduate education in an approved school of physical therapy or in its affiliated clinical facility or health care agency, or before a group of licensed physical therapists who are members of a professional society;

4. a physical therapist who is serving in the armed forces or the public health service of the United States or is employed by the veterans administration from practicing the profession of physical therapy, provided such practice is limited to such service or employment.

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### **§ 6737. Non-liability of licensed physical therapists for first aid or emergency treatment.**

Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of any general, special or local law, any licensed physical therapist who voluntarily and without the expectation of monetary compensation renders first aid or emergency treatment at the scene of an accident or other emergency, outside a hospital, doctor`s office or any other place having proper and necessary physical therapy equipment, to a person who is unconscious, ill or injured, shall not be liable for damages for injuries alleged to have been sustained by such person or for damages for the death of such person alleged to have occurred by reason of an act or omission in the rendering of such first aid or emergency treatment unless it is established that such injuries were or such death was caused by gross negligence on the part of such physical therapist. Nothing in this section shall be deemed or construed to relieve a licensed physical therapist from liability for damages for injuries or death caused by an act or omission on the part of a physical therapist while rendering professional services in the normal and ordinary course of his practice.

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### **§ 6738. Definition of physical therapist assistant.**

- a. A "physical therapist assistant" means a person certified in accordance with this article who works under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist performing such patient related activities as are assigned by the supervising physical therapist. Duties of physical therapist assistants shall not include evaluation, testing, interpretation, planning or modification of patient programs. Supervision of a physical therapist assistant by a licensed physical therapist shall be on-site supervision, but not necessarily direct personal supervision. The number of physical therapist assistants supervised by one licensed physical therapist shall not exceed the ratio of four physical therapist assistants to one licensed physical therapist as shall be determined by the commissioner's regulations insuring that there be adequate supervision in the best interest of public health and safety. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a hospital from employing physical therapist assistants, provided they work under the supervision of physical therapists designated by the hospital and not beyond the scope of

practice of a physical therapist assistant. The numerical limitation of this section shall not apply to work performed in a hospital, provided that there be adequate supervision in the best interest of public health and safety.

- b. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision a of this section, supervision of a physical therapist assistant by a licensed physical therapist, (i) in a residential health care facility, as defined in article twenty-eight of the public health law, (ii) in a diagnostic and treatment center licensed under article twenty-eight of the public health law that provides, as its principal mission, services to individuals with developmental disabilities, (iii) in a facility, as defined in section 1.03 of the mental hygiene law, or (iv) under a monitored program of the office of mental retardation and developmental disabilities as defined in subdivision (a) of section 13.15 of the mental hygiene law, shall be continuous but not necessarily on site when the supervising physical therapist has determined, through evaluation, the setting of goals and the establishment of a treatment plan, that the program is one of maintenance as defined pursuant to title XVIII of the federal social security act. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the provision of physical therapy services when the condition requires multiple adjustments of sequences and procedures due to rapidly changing physiological status and/or response to treatment, or to children under five years of age.
- c. \* For the purposes of the provision of physical therapist assistant services in a home care services setting, as such services are defined in article thirty-six of the public health law, except that the home care services setting shall not include early intervention services as defined in title two-A of article twenty-five of the public health law, whether such services are provided by a home care services agency or under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed pursuant to this article, continuous supervision of a physical therapist assistant, who has had direct clinical experience for a period of not less than two years, by a licensed physical therapist shall not be construed as requiring the physical presence of such licensed physical therapist at the time and place where such services are performed. For purposes of this subdivision "continuous supervision" shall be deemed to include: (i) the licensed physical therapist's setting of goals, establishing a plan of care and determining whether the patient is appropriate to receive the services of a physical therapist assistant subject to the licensed physical therapist's evaluation; (ii) an initial joint visit with the patient by the supervising licensed physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant; (iii) periodic treatment and evaluation of the patient by the supervising licensed physical therapist, as indicated in the plan of care and as determined in accordance with patient need, but in no instance shall the interval between such treatment exceed every six patient visits or thirty days, whichever

occurs first; and (iv) a final evaluation by the supervising licensed physical therapist to determine if the plan of care shall be terminated. For purposes of this subdivision, the number of physical therapist assistant's supervised in the home care services setting by a licensed physical therapist shall not exceed the ratio of two physical therapist assistants to one licensed physical therapist.

\* NB Repealed June 30, 2022

d. \*

1. For purposes of the provision of physical therapist assistant services in public primary or private primary or secondary schools and for preschool children, as that term is defined in paragraph i of subdivision one of section forty-four hundred ten of this chapter, and receiving services thereunder, continuous supervision of a physical therapist assistant, who has direct clinical experience providing age appropriate physical therapy services for a period of not less than two years, by a licensed physical therapist shall not be construed as requiring the physical presence of such licensed physical therapist at the time and place where such services are performed. For purposes of this subdivision "continuous supervision" shall be deemed to include:

- i. the licensed physical therapist's setting of the goals, establishing a plan of care, determining on an initial and ongoing basis whether the patient is appropriate to receive the services of a physical therapist assistant, determining the frequency of joint visits with the patient by both the supervising licensed physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant, except that in no instance shall the interval, between joint visits, be more than every ninety calendar days, subject to the licensed physical therapist's evaluation;
- ii. an initial joint visit with the patient by the supervising licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant;
- iii. periodic treatment and evaluation of the patient by the supervising licensed physical therapist as indicated in the plan of care and as determined in accordance with patient need, except that in no instance shall the interval between such treatment exceed every twelfth visit or thirty days which ever occurs first; and

- iv. notification of the supervising licensed physical therapist by the physical therapist assistant whenever there is a change in status, condition or performance of the patient.
- 2. This subdivision shall not apply to the provision of physical therapy services when a child's condition requires multiple adjustments of sequences and procedures due to rapidly changing physiologic status and/or response to treatment.

\* NB Repealed June 30, 2025

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### **§ 6739. Duties of physical therapist assistants and the use of title "physical therapist assistant".**

Only a person certified or otherwise authorized under this article shall participate in the practice of physical therapy as a physical therapist assistant and only a person certified under this section shall use the title "physical therapist assistant".

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### **§ 6740. Requirements for certification as a physical therapist assistant.**

- a. Application: file an application with the department;
- b. Education: have received an education including completion of a two-year college program in a physical therapist assistant program or equivalent in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
- c. Experience: have experience satisfactory to the state board for physical therapy in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
  - 1. Examination: pass an examination satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
- d. Age: be at least eighteen years of age;
- e. Character: be of good moral character as determined by the department;

- f. Registration: all certified physical therapist assistants shall register triennially with the education department in accordance with the regulations of the commissioner;
  - g. Fees: pay a fee for an initial certificate of forty-five dollars, and for the biennial registration period ending December thirty-first, nineteen hundred eighty-two a fee of twenty dollars and a fee of fifty dollars for each triennial registration period.
- 

#### **§ 6741. Exemption.**

- a. This article shall not be construed to affect or prevent a physical therapist assistant student from engaging in clinical assisting under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist as part of a program conducted in an approved program for physical therapist assistants or in a clinical facility or health care agency affiliated with the program for physical therapist assistants.
  - b. Supervision of a physical therapist assistant student by a licensed physical therapist shall be on-site supervision and not necessarily direct personal supervision.
  - c. Nothing in this article is intended to affect the overall medical direction by a licensed physician of a physical therapist assistant.
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#### **§ 6741-a. Limited permits.**

- a. The department shall issue a limited permit to an applicant who meets all requirements for admission to the certification examination.
- b. All practice under a limited permit shall be under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist in a public hospital, an incorporated hospital or clinic, a licensed proprietary hospital, a licensed nursing home, a public health agency, a recognized public or non-public school setting, the office of a licensed physical therapist, or in the civil service of the state or political subdivision thereof.
- c. Limited permits shall be for six months and the department may for justifiable cause renew a limited permit provided that no applicant shall practice under any limited permit for more than a total of one year.



- d. Supervision of a permittee by a licensed physical therapist shall be on-site supervision and not necessarily direct personal supervision.
- e. e. The fee for each limited permit and for each renewal shall be fifty dollars.

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#### **§ 6742. Special provision.**

1. Any person who is employed as a physical therapist assistant in a facility satisfactory to the state board for a period of not less than two years prior to the effective date of this article and who does not qualify for certification under subdivision b of section sixty-seven hundred forty of this article may be certified as a physical therapist assistant upon successful completion of an examination approved by the state board of physical therapy in accordance with the commissioner`s regulations.
2. Application for examination for certification pursuant to this section must be submitted not later than January first, nineteen hundred eighty-five. The department shall provide a total of three such examinations. The third examination shall be given not later than April first, nineteen hundred eighty-five. The fee for examination or reexamination shall be twenty-five dollars for each examination. Any person who qualifies for admission to an examination pursuant to this section may practice as a physical therapist assistant in the course of his or her employment in a facility satisfactory to the state board until thirty days after notification of failure to qualify pursuant to this section.
3. Any person who was employed as a physical therapist assistant for at least two years prior to April first, nineteen hundred eighty-one, and who had attained permanent civil service status as a physical therapist assistant prior to that date, shall be issued written authorization from the department to continue working in that capacity without examination. This authorization shall remain in effect until the person leaves the position in which the civil service status had been granted.

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#### **§ 6742-a. Mandatory continuing education. \***

- 1.

- a. Each licensed physical therapist and certified physical therapist assistant required under this article to register triennially with the department to practice in the state shall comply with the provisions of the mandatory continuing education requirements prescribed in subdivision two of this section except as set forth in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subdivision. Licensed physical therapist and certified physical therapist assistants who do not satisfy the mandatory continuing education requirements shall not practice until they have met such requirements, and they have been issued a registration certificate, except that a licensed physical therapist or certified physical therapist assistant may practice without having met such requirements if he or she is issued a conditional registration certificate pursuant to subdivision three of this section.
  - b. Each licensed physical therapist and certified physical therapist assistant shall be exempt from the mandatory continuing education requirement for the triennial registration period during which they are first licensed. In accordance with the intent of this section, adjustment to the mandatory continuing education requirement may be granted by the department for reasons of health certified by an appropriate health care professional, for extended active duty with the armed forces of the United States, or for other good cause acceptable to the department which may prevent compliance.
  - c. A licensed physical therapist and certified physical therapist assistant not engaged in practice, as determined by the department, shall be exempt from the mandatory continuing education requirement upon the filing of a statement with the department declaring such status. Any licensee who returns to the practice of physical therapy during the triennial registration period shall notify the department prior to reentering the profession and shall meet such mandatory education requirements as shall be prescribed by regulations of the commissioner.
2. During each triennial registration period an applicant for registration as a licensed physical therapist or certified physical therapist assistant shall complete a minimum of thirty-six hours of acceptable formal continuing education, as specified in subdivision four of this section. Any licensed physical therapist or certified physical therapist assistant whose first registration date following the effective date of this section occurs less than three years from such effective date, but on or after January first, two thousand ten, shall complete continuing education hours on a prorated basis at the rate of one-half hour per month for the period beginning January first, two thousand ten up to the first

registration date thereafter. A licensee who has not satisfied the mandatory continuing education requirements shall not be issued a triennial registration certificate by the department and shall not practice unless and until a conditional registration certificate is issued as provided for in subdivision three of this section. Continuing education hours taken during one triennium may not be transferred to a subsequent triennium.

3. The department, in its discretion, may issue a conditional registration to a licensee who fails to meet the continuing education requirements established in subdivision two of this section but who agrees to make up any deficiencies and complete any additional education which the department may require the fee for such a conditional registration shall be the same as, and in addition to, the fee for the triennial registration. The duration of such conditional registration shall be determined by the department but shall not exceed one year. Any licensee who is notified of the denial of registration for failure to submit evidence, satisfactory to the department, of required continuing education and who practices without such registration may be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to section sixty-five hundred ten of this title.
4. As used in subdivision two of this section, "acceptable formal education" shall mean formal courses of learning which contribute to professional practice in physical therapy and which meet the standards prescribed by regulations of the commissioner. Such formal courses of learning shall include, but not be limited to, collegiate level credit and non-credit courses, professional development programs and technical sessions offered by national, state and local professional associations and other organizations acceptable to the department, and any other organized educational and technical programs acceptable to the department. The department may, in its discretion and as needed to contribute to the health and welfare of the public, require the completion of continuing education courses in specific subjects to fulfill this mandatory continuing education requirement. Courses must be taken from a sponsor approved by the department, pursuant to the regulations of the commissioner.
5. Licensed physical therapist or certified physical therapist assistant shall maintain adequate documentation of completion of acceptable formal continuing education and shall provide such documentation at the request of the department. Failure to provide such documentation upon the request of the department shall be an act of misconduct subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to section sixty-five hundred ten of this title.

6. The mandatory continuing education fee shall be forty-five dollars, shall be payable on or before the first day of each triennial registration period, and shall be paid in addition to the triennial registration fee required by section sixty-seven hundred thirty-four of this article.

\* Effective September 1, 2009

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### **§ 6743. Validity of existing licenses.**

1. This article shall not be construed to affect the validity of existing licenses and permits or the continuation of any administrative actions or proceedings commenced prior to the effective date of this article.
2. Amendments made to the educational requirement of section sixty-seven hundred thirty-four of this article pursuant to a chapter of the laws of two thousand eleven which amended this section shall not be construed to affect the validity of existing licenses and permits.

Last Updated: February 24, 2021

*New York State Consolidated Laws: Education.* Retrieved July 16, 2022, from <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pt/article136.htm>

## **SECTION III**

### **Academic Standards for the PTA Program**

## **TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

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Technical standards are the physical, cognitive, and psychological attributes a student needs to possess to be successful in SUNY Canton's Physical Therapist Assistant program. A student's ability to progress through the PTA Program to meet requirements for graduation is based not only on satisfactory academic achievement, but also on their ability to demonstrate the technical standards listed in this document.

It is important that every student who is admitted to the SUNY Canton PTA program be able to meet the technical standards listed below, which are consistent with safe and effective physical therapy practice. Any student who believes they would need accommodations in order to meet these standards should contact our Student Accessibility Services department at (315) 386-7392 to begin the process. Prior notice is needed to arrange reasonable accommodations.

### **Psychomotor (Physical) Standards**

- Demonstrate ability to lift, push, pull, carry 1/3 of body weight (i.e. transfers, hoist lift, CPR procedures, manual resistance)
- Balance self and provide support to patients during various mobility activities (i.e. gait training, bed mobility, transfers)
- Assume and maintain a variety of positions (i.e. sitting, standing, bending, squatting, reaching)
- Perform fine motor skills (i.e. manipulate dials, ultrasound, manual therapy, palpation, written or computerized documentation)
- Possess adequate vision to read written and computerized information; observe and interpret patient posture and movement, nonverbal communication, and signs of disease and dysfunction; and to identify safety hazards.
- Possess adequate hearing to detect high and low frequency sounds including, but not limited to, alarms, bells, emergency signals, timers.
- Ability to move efficiently and effectively to meet the time restraints of the clinical environment

### **Cognitive (Intellectual) Standards**

- Ability to effectively communicate with other students, faculty, patients and their family members and care givers, and other health care providers.
- Ability to produce written communication that is clear, concise, and accurate to document patient care
- Ability to follow written or verbal directions to perform tasks or procedures.
- Demonstrate ability to make sound clinical decisions in an efficient manner in order to provide safe and effective patient care.

- Ability to exercise independent judgment and think logically in the performance of one's duties.
- Master content in technical and clinical courses at the level deemed appropriate for the safe and effective practice of physical therapy.

### **Affective (Psychological) Standards**

- Ability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment which may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways.
- Ability to remain calm, rational, and decisive, at all times, especially during emergency situations.
- Exhibit social skills appropriate to professional interactions.
- Ability to plan, prioritize and organize one's work
- Ability to maintain patient confidentiality and exercise ethical judgment, integrity, honesty, dependability, and accountability in the performance of one's professional responsibilities.

## **POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE IN THE LABORATORY AND CLINICAL SETTING**

Being a PTA student or PTA carries with it risks related to physical hazards, chemical hazards, radiation hazards, infectious diseases, and psychological hazards. These risks can be controlled through the responsible application of procedures designed to minimize these risks.

Students learn contraindications and precautions for delivering treatments and should apply these to excuse themselves from receiving and/or applying interventions that would impose a risk as indicated below. (Refer to Student Participation Agreement)

### **Physical Hazards:**

- Risk of musculoskeletal injury related to lifting and moving patients
- Risk of injury from physical assault by violent patients
- Students may be at risk of harm during laboratory activities.

### **Chemical Hazards:**

- Students must follow procedures for storage, handling, and disposing of chemicals.(refer to Laboratory Safety Policies)
- Some laboratory supplies may contain latex. Alternative non-latex products will be made available on request for any student with a latex allergy or sensitivity.

### **Radiation:**

- Some biophysical modalities may emit radiation such as ultrasound, diathermy, infrared, and laser therapy.

### **Infectious Diseases:**

- Healthcare workers have an increased risk of exposure to viral, bacterial and parasitic infections. Students are required to have up to date immunizations including the influenza vaccination.
- Handwashing is an important barrier to the spread of infection. Following universal standard precautions and isolation procedures, when applicable, helps to minimize risk.

### **Psychological Hazards:**

- Attending an intensive, competitive educational program and/or working in healthcare can be stressful. It is important to maintain boundaries between personal emotions and professional roles.
- Individuals experiencing difficulty maintaining boundaries and/or managing the stress of the program and/or work are encouraged to seek assistance or referral from faculty members, counseling center personnel, or other personal support systems.

Much of the information in this section is taken from Health Risks, Report of the 1992 American Physical Therapy Association House of Delegates. The full text of this report is in the 1992 House of Delegates Handbook (APTA, Alexandria, VA; 179-189).



**SUNY CANTON**  
**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**  
**ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICIES**

The academic standards and policies stated below apply to a student's entire academic record at SUNY Canton and to courses taken at other institutions of higher education.

**I. Professional Course Requirements**

**A. Course Grade Requirement**

Students enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant program must receive a grade of 75% or better in all technical courses and a C or better in BIOL 217 & 218 (Human Anatomy & Physiology I/II). Courses with the prefix PHTA are considered technical courses.

**B. Course Failure/Course Re-take**

Students who do not receive a grade of 75% or better in a technical course, or at least a C in BIOL 217 & 218, will be suspended from course of study. If a student fails two technical courses (same course twice or two or more different courses), they will be permanently dismissed from the PTA Program. Withdrawing from a PTA course in poor academic standing is considered the equivalent of not meeting the academic expectations of the course.

Students failing one course will be given the opportunity to repeat that course. Since technical courses are not offered every semester, students who need to repeat a course should realize that an extra semester or more may be required to complete their degree.

Students who have been suspended from course of study for failing one course will be notified by the Dean's office with specific instructions regarding enrollment requirements. The PTA Program Director will also contact the student via email detailing requirements for re-entry into the program. These requirements are based on each individual student's situation, however, most students will have to satisfy some type of auditing requirement related to previously passed coursework to ensure currency of knowledge and skills to move forward in the curriculum. Auditing requirements may include, but are not limited to, attendance at lecture and/or lab sessions and/or performance of lab skills. Detail related to the auditing requirements will be delineated in the course audit form. Re-entry to the program is based on space availability and the student successfully meeting the stated requirements.

**C. Request for Readmission**

Students who have withdrawn from the program/college in good academic standing must apply for readmission to the program through the admissions department. Students may be required to meet specific academic requirements to be re-admitted. These requirements are based on each individual student's situation, however, most students will have to satisfy some type of auditing requirement related to previously passed coursework to ensure currency of knowledge and skills to move forward in the curriculum.

Auditing requirements may include, but are not limited to, attendance at lecture and/or lab sessions and/or performance of lab skills. Detail related to the auditing requirements will be delineated in the course audit form. Re-admission to the program is based on space availability and the student successfully meeting the stated requirements.

Students who have been permanently dismissed from the program may be considered for readmission in the event of extenuating circumstances which led to their inability to meet program expectations. A student seeking re-admission must submit a written request detailing the extenuating circumstances to the PTA Program Director within 30 days of initial notification of dismissal. If the Program Director approves the request, a readmission contract will be developed. The contract will detail specific requirements that the student must fulfill to be eligible to apply for readmission to the program through the admissions department.

**D. Class and Laboratory Grades**

Course grades will be determined based on lecture grade average. Students are required to earn a 75%. In courses that have lab content, the lab will be graded as a pass or fail. In these lab-based courses, a student must pass the lab to pass the course and receive a 75% average in the lecture portion of the course, which includes a 75% written exam average and completion of all graded assignments for the course.

Any student who does not pass the lab portion of the course will receive a maximum grade of C for the course. Any student who does not pass lecture, but passes lab, will receive the lecture grade as their course grade. A student who does not pass lecture or lab will receive the lecture grade for the course. If a student does not pass lecture, solely based on an exam average less than 75%, their exam average will be recorded as the course grade.

***Third Semester Exam Average Exception***

Given the timing of 3<sup>rd</sup> semester PTA courses in relation to final clinicals, the following exception will be made if a student's final lecture exam average falls between 72-74.9% in one 3<sup>rd</sup> semester course, and the student's course average is at least 75%:

- An incomplete grade will be recorded for the course.
- The student will be offered remediation and will be scheduled for a retake examination prior to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester.
- If the student achieves the required grade to bring the exam average to 75%, the incomplete will be changed to a passing grade of C+ and the student will be allowed to continue to 4<sup>th</sup> semester.
- If the student does not achieve the 75% final exam average requirement, the appropriate grade will be recorded and the student will follow the course repeat policy.

This exception is only offered if the following criteria are met:

- Student has successfully completed all other 3<sup>rd</sup> semester courses.
- Student has not had to repeat a previous PTA course.
- No documentation of issues with professional behavior at any time during the PTA program (i.e. attendance, accountability, etc)

A student has the option to refuse the exception, in which case they would follow the policy for course repeat.

The grading scale for the Physical Therapist Assistant program is as follows:

A	= 90-100	C	= 70-74
B+	= 85-89	D+	= 65-69
B	= 80-84	D	= 60-64
C+	= 75-79	F	= below 60

Students should be aware that cumulative averages on Brightspace may not be reflective of the student's actual lecture or lab average. Students are referred to individual course syllabi or to the course instructor for clarification.

Exam averages will be calculated to 2 decimal places and will not be rounded (i.e. 74.87 = 74.87, not a 75). Final course averages will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

**E. Progression to Clinical Education Courses**

Prior to the end of the 2nd and 3rd semesters, faculty meet to review each student to confirm that the student is prepared to progress to the scheduled clinical education course. Student performance in all domains, cognitive, psychomotor, and affective is reviewed to determine that the student is safe and competent in all areas based on program policies. If a student is found to not meet requirements in any of the areas, they will be required to meet with the Program Director and DCE to discuss the next course of action.

**F. Examination Procedures**

Most lecture exams are administered on-line through Brightspace in the classroom. Prior to the start of any exam, students are required to turn off all electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, etc) and place them in their backpack which is placed in a designated area of the classroom. All browser windows and computer programs, other than the exam window on Brightspace, must be closed throughout an on-line exam. When available, Respondus lock down browser will be used.

Exam grades will be posted on Brightspace no later than 5 working days after all students have taken the exam. Students who wish to review an exam should schedule a time to meet with the course instructor within one week after grades are posted. Students who score below 75% will receive a flag in Roo Success to schedule a mandatory meeting with the course instructor to review their exam. Students will not have free access to review their exams on Brightspace.

Final examination grades will be posted on Brightspace after all PHTA final exams for a given semester have been administered and graded.

**G. Degree Time Requirements**

In order to maintain current practices and ensure the retention of learned skills, all technical course work and clinical education experiences for the PTA Program must be completed within three and a half years in order to be applicable. This applies to all students on full or part-time status and students having to repeat course work.

**H. Incomplete Grades**

An incomplete grade may be given in cases where, for such valid reasons (sickness, accident, etc.), all of the required course work has not been completed, but is otherwise satisfactory. The delinquent work should not exceed 20 percent of the total required work.

Responsibility for making up incomplete work lies with the student. Such incomplete work must be made up within two weeks after the start of the subsequent semester, except in unusual circumstances, in which permission of the instructor and Program Director or Dean of the School must be obtained. If the work is not completed accordingly, the incomplete grade will be recorded as "F" on the student's record.

**I. Deviant Academic Conduct**

An instructor may impose a penalty upon a student evidencing prohibited academic behavior. In those instances where cheating, plagiarism, and/or alteration of academic documents is proven, a student will be subject to a grade of "F" for the specific assignment and/or course. The program follows the procedures outlined in the Academic Integrity Policy. Similarly, a student may be dismissed from a course with a grade of "F" as a consequence of intentional disruption, obstruction or comparable class misconduct.

**J. Due Process**

If a student has a dispute concerning evaluation of their academic performance, they should follow the Academic Grievance Procedure in the College's Student Handbook.

## **II. Technical Laboratory Course Requirements**

### **A. Lab Competency**

All laboratory classes have specific skill competencies that must be satisfactorily acquired and performed to pass the lab portion of the course. Students will be given a list of required skill competencies for each course. Skill acquisition is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Some lab skills will require instructor check off prior to formal lab competency exams. Students are expected to complete these during open lab times.

Students will have a maximum of 3 attempts to pass a lab competency. Students who do not pass a lab competency on a first or second attempt will be required to remediate prior to retesting.

If a student uses the maximum of 3 attempts on more than 2 skills in a course, they will be required to meet with the Program Director, Director of Clinical Education, and course instructor to identify problem areas and establish a plan of action. The plan of action will articulate specific learning activities to assist the student with achieving skill competency.

### **B. Lab Practicals**

Most professional courses that have a laboratory component will include at least one practical exam. A lab practical is more than an assessment of skill, but rather a comprehensive assessment of a student's ability to effectively function in a clinical situation which incorporates effective communication, problem solving, and time management. Students will be given a case scenario which will require them to integrate their knowledge and skills to appropriately manage a mock treatment session.

Lab practicals are graded on a pass/fail basis. Students must pass the lab practical to pass the lab portion of the course. Students will have a maximum of 2 attempts to pass a lab practical. Students who do not pass a lab practical on the first attempt will be required to remediate prior to retesting.

If a student has to repeat more than one lab practical across the curriculum, the student will be required to meet with the Program Director, Director of Clinical Education, and course instructor to determine the reason for challenges encountered during lab practicals. A plan of action will be established to determine remediation strategies. Students must demonstrate safe and competent practice prior to clinical assignment.

### **C. Critical Safety Elements**

The following elements of patient care are considered critical for safe/effective practice:

- Identify self as student PTA
- Obtain informed consent
- Confirm patient identity
- Demonstrate attentiveness toward the patient
- Utilize proper body mechanics
- Demonstrate proper guarding/handling techniques

- Use of a gait belt when a patient requires contact guard or greater assistance; or when there is a change in patient status or in a new situation in which the patient may require greater assistance than previously needed
- Request assistance when warranted by the task or situation
- Follow infection control procedures
- Maintain a safe working environment
- Follow specific precautions or contraindications

Individual competencies may have specific critical safety elements identified in addition to those listed above. These will be specifically delineated in course syllabi or on lab competency check sheets.

Students will receive an automatic failure on a lab competency or practical for failure to demonstrate critical safety elements which would place the patient in **immediate** danger.

#### **D. Critical Skill Components**

Critical skill components are those components of a skill that would render a treatment ineffective. For example, placing NMES electrodes on the hamstrings when attempting to get a quad contraction. These will be identified on each skill competency check sheet and will result in automatic failure of the skill if not performed.

### **III. Student Advisement**

#### **A. Meetings**

Students are required to meet with the Program Director and/or program faculty at least once per semester to discuss academic progress in the curriculum and/or professional behaviors. All formal meetings with students will be documented in Roo Success.

Students may request a meeting with the Program Director or other PTA program faculty at any time throughout the semester. Office hours for each faculty member are posted on the door of their office and are on the course syllabi.

#### **B. Remediation**

Students who are performing below program expectations will be flagged and will receive e-mail notification through Roo Success. Students will be required to meet with the course instructor and/or the Program Director to discuss their academic performance. Flags will be lowered once a student has met with the faculty member and the meeting has been documented, including any plan of action.

To promote academic success, students performing below program expectations may be referred to an appropriate Student Support Service department on campus.

Students may also be mandated to attend course specific weekly study sessions, open lab, or other programmatic remediation. Students scoring less than 75% on a unit exam or who have a quiz average less than 75% will be required to attend weekly study sessions for the designated class and/or tutoring as directed by the faculty. When the student has raised their next exam grade and/or quiz average to at least 75% they will no longer be mandated to attend.

**C. Learning Contracts**

Learning contracts may be used when a student is considered "at-risk" due to lack of improvement with standard remediation interventions. A learning contract is an agreement between students and faculty in which performance expectations and recommended strategies for improvement are identified and agreed upon by the student and faculty. The intent of the learning contract is to encourage and facilitate student success.

**D. Requests for Accommodation**

Students registered with the Office of Student Accessibility Services (SAS) will receive approved disability-related accommodations, in the classroom and lab, as requested.

Students who plan to use their accommodations in clinical courses, should inform the DCE who will facilitate a meeting between the student, the DCE, and SAS to determine reasonable clinical accommodations. The DCE, with the student's permission, will share the request with the clinical site to determine if the clinical site is able to accommodate the student. If the site is unable to provide the requested accommodation, the DCE will attempt to find an alternate site who can fulfill the request.

Students who are not currently registered with SAS, but believe they may benefit from receiving accommodations, should meet with the Director of SAS to begin the process.

**E. Scheduling**

Students will pre-schedule for classes for the following semester during the designated week at midterm of each semester. The Program Director will assist each student with completing a schedule that fulfills program requirements and meets their individual academic goals. The Program Director is also available to assist students with schedule revisions and curricular questions throughout the semester and between terms.

**F. Privacy and Recordkeeping**

The program follows FERPA regulations in regards to sharing of academic information. (Refer to College Student Handbook for full description).

All meetings with students regarding academic and clinical performance or other sensitive topics will be held in a location that ensures privacy.

To ensure student confidentiality, the program does not share sensitive student information (i.e. health information, criminal background check, academic standing, documented disability) with clinical sites, unless explicitly authorized to do so by the student. Students are responsible for sharing required information with the clinical site, as necessary.



### **Student Records**

Most student records are maintained electronically on the campus system through UCanWeb and Banner. Most faculty records related to students are maintained in each faculty member's computer storage which is password protected and on a secure server. Any paper files with confidential student information are kept in the designated faculty member's office in a locked filing cabinet.

Students may request access to their academic files at any time.

The Davis Health Center maintains health records for all SUNY Canton students.

Clinical faculty will ensure that all student information, both electronic and paper, is maintained in a way that ensures confidentiality.

## **IV. Professional Conduct**

### **A. Professional Behavior**

The development of professional behavior is as much a part of the PTA curriculum as acquisition of skills and knowledge. Each student is expected to exhibit professional behavior throughout all aspects of the curriculum. Students are required to continuously self-assess and progress in their development of behaviors consistent with the APTA's Core Values.

Students are expected to exhibit honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, and caring toward all individuals they encounter in the classroom and clinical setting.

Faculty will monitor professional behavior of all students in the program. Professional issues are discussed routinely amongst faculty during program meetings. A flag will be raised in Roo Success for any student who demonstrates recurrent lapses in professional conduct. The student will be required to meet with program faculty to further discuss the situation and implement a plan of action.

The Program Director and DCE will review all student records prior to assignment to full time clinical placements. If there is sufficient evidence for faculty to be concerned about a student's ability to perform satisfactorily in the clinical setting, a Learning Contract will be established and the student will be required to share this with their clinical instructor at the beginning of the clinical experience. Repeat lapses in professional conduct in the clinical setting may lead to failure of the clinical or dismissal from the program.

As per SUNY Canton policy, no student may attend class impaired by any substance, drugs or alcohol, lawful or unlawful. Students who are suspected to be impaired in the classroom setting will be dealt with according to the policy outlined in the SUNY Canton Student Handbook.



Clinical faculty who suspect that a student is impaired in the clinical setting will remove the student from all patient contact immediately and notify the DCE. The DCE and clinical faculty will consult to determine the immediate course of action. The student will be required to meet with the DCE within 24 hours of the incident to discuss appropriate intervention. The DCE will follow up with the clinical site to determine appropriate resolution.

## **B. Confidentiality**

Maintaining confidentiality is of utmost importance for a healthcare provider. Students must follow the guidelines established in the Student Confidentiality Agreement. (see appendix)

## **C. Social Media**

Students are expected to adhere to standards of professional and ethical behavior in all activity, including social media, in accordance with the APTA House of Delegates RC 23-12, the APTA Code of Ethics, and Core Values for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to text messaging, Facebook, Twitter, and Blogs.

Students are expected to maintain confidentiality and professional boundaries in all interactions, respecting HIPAA guidelines at all times. This applies to patients, their families, other students, and faculty – both academic and clinical.

Students are encouraged to be attentive to their own privacy in their online presence. Use of privacy settings that will safeguard personal information is recommended. Students who see unprofessional content posted by their peers have a professional responsibility to encourage the individual to remove or modify the content. If the individual does not remove or modify the content, the student has a responsibility to inform a PTA faculty member.

## **D. Informed Consent**

Upon enrolling in the program, students read and sign the Student Participation Agreement (see appendix) which clearly explains their role as a student physical therapist assistant and/or surrogate patient. This includes participation in videotaping, audiotaping, photography, and/or digital imaging.

Any other individuals that participate as subjects or patient-simulators during any laboratory or clinical experience outside of standard patient care, must read and sign the Informed Consent Form (see appendix) prior to engaging in the activity. This includes participation in videotaping, audiotaping, photography, and/or digital imaging.

Students involved in patient care activities will wear a name tag identifying themselves as a student. Students will introduce themselves as a physical therapist assistant student during all lab practicals and clinical interactions. Patients have the right to refuse treatment by a student PTA.

### **E. Cell phones**

Use of cell phones for non-course related activities during class, lab or clinical is prohibited. All cell phones must be turned off prior to the start of class or lab. Students will be allowed to use their cell phones during scheduled breaks only. Students awaiting an important call should inform the instructor prior to the start of class and will be allowed to leave their phone on vibrate. Students expecting an emergency call while in the clinic should inform the clinical instructor and follow the clinical instructors recommended course of action.

### **F. Communication with Program Faculty**

SUNY Canton email is the primary mode of written communication between students and faculty. Students are expected to check their SUNY Canton email at least daily M-F, and once on the weekend. Any required follow up to a faculty member's email is expected within 24 hours of the time the email was sent, unless otherwise specified by the faculty. In turn, faculty will make an initial response to a student's email within 24 hours of the time the email was sent. Emails sent over the weekend, by a student or faculty, are expected to be responded to by Monday. Faculty will contact students by phone in the event of a matter that requires a student's more immediate attention.

## **V. Retroactivity**

The past academic records of students transferred into the PTA Program from another institution must meet the standards and policies of the college. Transfer credit for PTA coursework will be given on an individual basis. Students will be required to submit thorough documentation of completed coursework to the Program Director for consideration. The student may be required to demonstrate competency through performance of all lab skills and successful completion of a final exam for that course to receive transfer credit.

***The Physical Therapist Assistant Program upholds Academic Policies and Standards as delineated in SUNY Canton's Student Handbook.***

**SUNY CANTON  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**Policy on Absenteeism and Tardiness for courses prefixed with PHTA is as follows:**

Each student is expected to accept full responsibility for meeting all of the academic requirements for every course in which they are enrolled. The following is the PTA program's attendance policy:

A student is allowed 3 excused absences, including those granted by the Dean of Students, for each course in the PTA curriculum (except clinicals – see attendance policy in clinical section).

An excused absence is defined as....

- Notification of absence to the instructor via e-mail, telephone, or in person, prior to the start of class.
- Excused absences in excess of 3 will be dealt with at the discretion of the course instructor in consultation with the Program Director.

Unexcused absences demonstrate a lack of professional responsibility. An unexcused absence is defined as....

- Failure to notify instructor of absence prior to start of the class

Upon 1 unexcused absence, the student will receive written notification through the college's Roo Success system. A second unexcused absence will result in another Roo Success notification and a 5% reduction in overall grade for the course. First and second unexcused absences will count toward the three allowed as described above (excused absences). A third unexcused absence will result in dismissal from the class and a grade of "F" will be received unless the student officially withdraws from class.

The above policies are modified as follows for absence from laboratory sessions:

Due to the nature of lab instruction, it is critical that students make every attempt to attend all lab sessions as scheduled. If missing a lab session is unavoidable due to illness or family emergency, the student should contact the instructor the first day they return to campus to make arrangements for lab make up. Any student who misses a lab, for reasons other than those identified above, is responsible for all content covered in the missed lab session.

An emergency which causes a student to miss a scheduled class, without notice prior to the start of class, will be counted as an excused absence if the reason can be documented to the instructor's satisfaction. If it cannot be documented satisfactorily the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

**FAILURE TO SHOW UP FOR AN EXAM OR LAB PRACTICAL WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO THE INSTRUCTOR WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF "0" ON THE SCHEDULED EXAM OR LAB PRACTICAL.**

Only unusual circumstances documented to the satisfaction of the instructor will be accepted as an excused absence from an exam or lab practical, at which time a retake exam will be administered.

### **Tardiness**

Tardiness is disruptive. Tardy is defined as arriving for class after the instructor has begun the lecture or lab. This includes the second half of a longer lecture or laboratory period in which a break has occurred and the return time has been announced. The class will not begin any sooner than scheduled. Students who have more than two tardies in a class will be identified by faculty as per the professional behaviors policy. Tardiness to class or lab exceeding the first fifteen minutes without notification will be considered an unexcused absence. If a tardiness notification is given it will count as an excused absence. Tardiness to an exam or lab practical exceeding the first fifteen minutes will result in failure of the exam unless the instructor has been notified.

### **Student Athletes**

Student athletes will receive excused absences for classes missed for participation in intercollegiate competition. Students are required to notify instructors at least one day in advance of a scheduled competition. Any assignments due must be handed in prior to the class that will be missed. If the student will be missing an exam or scheduled presentation, it is their responsibility to notify the instructor **one week** in advance to reschedule.

### **Instructor Absence**

Should an instructor be absent, an e-mail will be sent informing the students of class cancellation and any assignments which need to be completed prior to the next class.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event of inclement weather, if the College is open, class will be held as scheduled. If in-person classes are delayed or cancelled, PTA classes may move to an on-line format for that day. Students should monitor SUNY Canton email for updates from instructors.

### **Remote Attendance Exception**

Students may request an exception to attend some lectures remotely. A written request must be emailed to the instructor and Program Director, explaining special circumstances justifying the request for remote attendance. If permission is granted, an individualized contract will be developed between the student and instructor, outlining the guidelines for remote attendance. Students who are granted a Remote Attendance Exception must maintain at least an 85 course average, otherwise the exception will be revoked. If a student has a flag raised for professional conduct issues, the faculty reserve the right to revoke the exception, if deemed appropriate.

**SUNY CANTON  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

**LABORATORY POLICIES**

**SAFETY**

Students, faculty and staff will adhere to the following safety control measures when working in the college PTA laboratory:

- All students will be familiarized with the location of safety items and emergency procedures as per SUNY Canton policy pertaining to the PTA lab during lab orientation. Evacuation plan maps are posted at the exit in the PTA laboratory.
- Emergency numbers are posted in the PTA laboratory and above each phone in the faculty offices
- No student is allowed to use electrical modality equipment without the direct supervision of the instructor or lab assistant.
- All PTA students will read and adhere to all electrical safety rules and procedures and contraindications to specific treatment modalities.
- Damaged electrical equipment or any other lab equipment is to be reported to the lab instructor, labeled damaged and removed from the treatment area.
- All equipment will be inspected and/or calibrated on an annual basis.
- No food or drink is allowed in the lab area.
- Students will be responsible for maintaining clean and properly organized treatment areas during and after each lab session.
- Students are expected to adhere to the PTA lab dress code including lab attire and hygiene.
- Students will conduct themselves in a safe, responsible manner and alert a faculty member if an injury or unsafe situation arises.
- PTA students & staff will follow SDS sheets for all potentially hazardous materials. SDS sheets are located in the PTA Program Safety Manual posted on the wall adjacent to the sink of Wicks 214
- In case of accident or incident, a PTA faculty member will complete an accident/injury report.
- All blood and body fluid spills are to be reported to and cleaned by the lab instructor. In the event of a major blood or body fluid spill, OSHA trained personnel will be notified and will perform the necessary cleanup and disposal.
- Students will learn standard precautions during their first laboratory experience and will be instructed to follow appropriate standard precautions at all times during all class/lab sessions.

**LAB SKILLS**

Each lab session will have specific assigned objectives to be met. There will be a set of clinical skills and techniques that must be acquired. Students will spend time in lab working in small groups under the direction and supervision of instructors. Students will be required to demonstrate a specified level of competency of assigned skills. Performance of skills at a level of proficiency that allows students to enter into a supervised clinical education setting is necessary for successful completion of the course.

The level of proficiency of assigned skills is determined by each instructor. The amount of instruction time needed for independent study to acquire proficiency of required skills will vary among students. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements for additional instruction

if needed and to practice independently. Students may be mandated to attend open lab sessions based on lab skill/laboratory performance that is below expectation.

### **OPEN LAB**

The PTA laboratory encompasses three distinct areas including the main lab, the gait room and the fitness room, as well as an adjacent classroom space. These areas (Wicks 214/216) are shared with other students from the HEFI and Sports Management Programs. Open Lab is when **all or part** of the laboratory space is available for PTA students to practice their lab skills outside of classroom and lab times. An instructor does not always have to be present in the lab, but must be in his/her office or nearby for the students to consult with if needed. An instructor **must** be present when a student wishes to practice using electrical modalities such as, ultrasound, electrical stimulation and traction machines.

Open lab spaces are available for student use most days throughout the week. An open lab schedule will be posted weekly during each semester. Students may be required to sign up for open lab times and are encouraged to attend at least one hour of open lab weekly to practice/review lab skills and lab techniques. The lab assistant, or PTA faculty is available during open lab times to assist the student during their lab practice, if needed.

If a class is using part of a lab area such as the gait room, students are welcome to use other parts of the lab space that are not being used such as the main lab area as long as they are not disruptive to others and maintain the noise level at a minimum.

### **LAB EQUIPMENT**

If a student wishes to borrow lab supplies or lab equipment for use outside of the lab area, or for overnight use, they need to sign them out on the supply/equipment sign out sheet posted on the lab desk/or the office space (W211). An instructor must be present and initial the student's signature. The item (s) signed out must also be signed back in with an instructor present. If a student does not return the borrowed item, the student will be billed for the cost of the item.

### **STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

Students will act as surrogate patients for each other in laboratories. It is the student's responsibility to notify lab instructors of any condition that is contraindicated for a lab procedure. If a student does not notify an instructor and jeopardizes their safety along with the safety of fellow students, the student will not be allowed to continue in the lab portion of the course, resulting in course failure. Students will be required to sign a Student Participation Agreement in order to participate in laboratories. If a student's health status or need for special accommodations change over the course of the semester, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor. (see Student Participation Agreement in Appendix.)

### **LAB DRESS CODE**

Lab attire is as follows: Shorts, tee shirt, socks, sneakers. Sweatshirt and sweatpants may be worn over top of the above attire. Content in some lab sessions will require that the upper back be exposed. Students who do not arrive in appropriate lab attire will be asked to change or wear a patient gown. Students who refuse to do this will be excused from lab with the absence marked as unexcused.

Hygiene should be consistent with close personal contact. Fingernails should be short (unable to be seen above fingertips when observing from palm side of hand). Long hair should be secured away from face.

## **SECTION IV**

### **The PTA Curriculum**

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**  
Curriculum No. 489

**First Semester**

	<b><u>Course</u></b>	<b><u>Credit</u></b>	<b><u>Term</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>
ENGL 101	Composition and the Spoken Word(GER 10)	3	_____	_____
PSYC 101	Introductory Psychology (GER 3)	3	_____	_____
BIOL 217	HumanAnatomy/Physiology I (GER 2)	4	_____	_____
PHTA 100	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2	_____	_____
PHTA 101	Fundamental PT Skills and Modalities	<u>4</u>	_____	_____
		16		

**Second Semester**

PSYC 225	Human Development	3	_____	_____
BIOL 218	Human Anatomy/Physiology II	4	_____	_____
PHTA 102	Kinesiology	3	_____	_____
PHTA 103	Musculoskeletal Pathologies	4	_____	_____
PHTA 104	Clinical I (summer)	4	_____	_____
PHTA 105	Musculoskeletal Assessment Techniques	<u>1</u>	_____	_____
		19		

**Third Semester**

PHTA 204	Cardiopulmonary and Integumentary Pathologies	4	_____	_____
PHTA 205	Neuromuscular Pathologies	4	_____	_____
PHTA 206	Advanced PT Modalities	2	_____	_____
	Liberal Arts elective (GER 1,4,5,6,7,8,9)	3	_____	_____
PHTA 203	PTA Seminar I**	<u>2</u>	_____	_____
		15		

**Fourth Semester**

PHTA 207	Clinical II	6	_____	_____
PHTA 209	Clinical III	6	_____	_____
PHTA 210	PTA Seminar II	<u>2</u>	_____	_____
		14		

\*\*Writing Intensive course

**Graduation Requirements:** *Total Semester Credit Hours—64*



## PTA TECHNICAL COURSES

### **FIRST SEMESTER**

#### **PHTA 100 – Introduction to Physical Therapy**

##### Course Description

In this course, students are introduced and acclimated to the Physical Therapist Assistant program, and the physical therapy profession. Students are familiarized with the ICF Disablement Model and Patient/Client Management as a framework for guiding physical therapy practice. They receive introduction to a variety of practice settings and the team approach to rehabilitation. Students receive an introduction to the basic principles of medical terminology, physical therapy documentation, and reimbursement. Legal and ethical standards of conduct and the APTA's Core Values are identified and discussed. Students begin developing a greater awareness of and appreciation for the values and differences of others through self-reflection.

#### **PHTA 101 – Fundamental PT Skills and Modalities**

##### Course Description

In this course, students are introduced to basic physical therapy skills necessary for providing patient care across the continuum of physical therapy settings. Students develop competency in basic infection control procedures, data collection, bed mobility, transfers, gait training with assistive devices, wheelchair management, application of thermal modalities, and basic therapeutic exercise. Students develop professional communication and clinical problem-solving skills through weekly case study implementation.

### **SECOND SEMESTER**

#### **PHTA 102- Clinical Kinesiology**

##### Course Description:

In this course, students study aspects of human motion beginning with the structure and functions of the skeletal, muscular, articular, and nervous systems, as well as concepts of arthrokinematics and biomechanics. The course focuses on application of knowledge of origins, insertions, actions and innervations of extremity and trunk musculature and palpable surfaces of the same as they relate to functional human movement. Students will apply this knowledge to analysis of the gait cycle and posture.

#### **PHTA 103-Musculoskeletal Pathologies**

##### Course Description:

In this course students study specific musculoskeletal pathologies across the life span. Students learn their role in assisting the physical therapist with management of an orthopedic based patient population in relation to stages of tissue healing. They will apply a variety of exercise techniques when give the physical therapy plan of care and goals/expected outcomes. Focus is on providing quality instruction and education to the patient and/or caregiver throughout the course in the context of musculoskeletal case-based scenarios.

### **PHTA 104 – Clinical I**

#### Course Description

In this course, the student is assigned to a physical therapy clinical site where they work full time under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist or a registered physical therapist assistant. This provides the student with the opportunity to put the knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom and laboratory into practice in the clinical setting. A strong emphasis is placed on communication and professional behaviors.

### **PHTA 105 Musculoskeletal Assessment Techniques**

#### Course Description

In this course, students are introduced to data collection methods used to assist the physical therapist with assessment of the musculoskeletal system, including the role of the PTA in the assessment process. Students will develop skill in assessment of muscle strength and range of motion using goniometry and manual muscle testing. Students will be taught soft tissue mobilization techniques for assessment and treatment of common musculoskeletal impairments.

## **THIRD SEMESTER**

### **PHTA 203 – PTA Seminar I**

#### Course Description

This seminar course allows second year PTA students to engage in activities and discussions to foster the development of the Core Values of the PT and PTA, building on concepts introduced in PHTA 100. Guest speakers, class assignments and group discussion as well as outside activities will promote students' integration of the American Physical Therapy Association Core Values of accountability, altruism, collaboration, compassion/caring, duty, excellence, integrity, and social responsibility, in preparation for culminating clinical experiences and clinical practice as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

### **PHTA 204 - Cardiopulmonary and Integumentary Pathologies**

#### Course Description

In this course, students will apply musculoskeletal knowledge from the previous semester to amputee and prosthetic rehabilitation, and orthotics. Students will study the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems and related pathologies. Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation principles and management will be discussed and applied. Conditions of the integumentary system will be discussed with emphasis on physical therapy management of wounds and burns. Students will also receive an introduction to common conditions related to other body systems and their management from a physical therapy perspective. Other systems will include endocrine and metabolic, gastrointestinal, genital and reproductive, hematologic, hepatic and biliary, immune, lymphatic, renal and urologic.

### **PHTA 205 – Neuromuscular Pathologies**

#### Course Description

In this course, students will study neuroanatomy as applied to peripheral and central nervous system disorders. Principles of neurological rehabilitation and management of patients with neurological conditions are discussed and applied. Students learn about normal motor development, theories of motor control, and motor learning as applied to the rehabilitation of patients with neuromuscular conditions.

## **PHTA 206 - Advanced Physical Therapy Modalities**

### Course Description:

In this course students learn basic principles of electricity and electrotherapy. Application of electrotherapeutic agents for pain control, neuromuscular stimulation, and tissue healing are studied and applied. Students are introduced to spinal traction as a therapeutic modality.

## **FOURTH SEMESTER**

### **PHTA 207 – Clinical II**

#### Course Description

This clinical experience correlates with content taught in courses PHTA 100 through PHTA 206. The student is assigned to a physical therapy clinical site where they will work under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist or registered physical therapist assistant. This will provide the student with the opportunity to put the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom and laboratory into practice in a clinical setting. The PTA student will demonstrate clinical problem solving skills based on academic knowledge and previous lab and clinical experiences. This experience will take place during the fourth semester and will last six full time weeks.

### **PHTA 209 – Clinical III**

#### Course Descriptions

This clinical experience correlates with content taught in courses PHTA 100 through PHTA 207. The student is assigned to a physical therapy clinical site where they will work under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist or registered physical therapist assistant. This will provide the student with the opportunity to put the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom and laboratory into practice in a clinical setting. The PTA student will demonstrate clinical problem solving skills based on academic knowledge and previous lab and clinical experiences. This experience will take place during the fourth semester and will last six full time weeks.

### **PHTA 210—PTA Seminar II**

#### Course Description

This course is designed to provide for the transition from the student role to the graduate role. Review of national exam material on a weekly basis throughout the semester will help to prepare students for the licensing exam. Students will participate in transitional activities by preparing employment documents, completing licensure paperwork, participate in a mock interview and sit for a mock national exam. Students will be required to submit a self-directed plan for career development and lifelong learning. A student/faculty conference is required for each student prior to graduation.

## **REQUIRED LAB COMPETENCIES**

### PHTA 101 Fundamental PT Skills & Modalities

Body Mechanics  
Handwashing  
Vital Signs (heart rate, blood pressure, respiration rate, oxygen saturation, pain)  
Positioning  
Bed mobility  
PROM: all extremities  
Stand pivot transfer  
Transfer board transfer  
Wheelchair parts management  
Wheelchair transport: ramps, curbs  
Ambulation with assistive devices  
Sterile gloving/gowning  
Cryotherapy  
Superficial and deep thermal agents  
Ultrasound

### PHTA 103 Musculoskeletal Pathologies

THA Bed Mobility  
THA adaptive equipment  
Manual stretching  
Active inhibition (hold-relax)  
Assisted ROM exercises  
Self-stretching  
Manual resistance (RROM, isometrics)  
Resistance exercise open chain  
Resistance exercise closed chain  
Resisted stabilization  
Postural awareness training  
Spinal stabilization exercises

### PHTA 105 Musculoskeletal Assessment Techniques

Measurement of joint range of motion  
Manual muscle testing  
Limb length and girth  
Height/Weight  
Soft tissue mobilization/Massage

PHTA 204 Cardiopulmonary & Integumentary Pathologies

Diaphragmatic breathing training

Teaching an effective cough

Postural drainage (with percussion and vibration)

Residual limb wrapping (transtibial)

Application and removal of wound dressings

PHTA 205 Neuromuscular Pathologies

Sensory testing

PNF patterns

PNF exercise techniques

PHTA 206 Advanced Physical Therapy Modalities

Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation

Neuromuscular electrical stimulation

Interferential stimulation

High volt stimulation/ultrasound combination

Iontophoresis

Mechanical spinal traction

EMG biofeedback

### **Physical Therapist Assistant Program Specific Costs**

In addition to the cost of **instructional materials/texts** for each Physical Therapist Assistant course (**approx \$945.00 for 2 years**), students should be aware of curriculum specific costs. Please read the following list of Required and Potential costs so you can plan your budget accordingly.

#### **Required Costs**

APTA Association membership dues--2nd year students	\$86.00
CPR certification	\$20.00 – \$110.00
Transportation to/from clinical sites	variable
Name tag holder/lanyard	\$5.00
Professional liability insurance	\$40.00
Mock exam fee in fourth semester	\$79.00 – \$99.00

#### **Potential Costs**

Health physical, lab work, immunizations (If not covered by insurance)	\$100.00
Drug Screening/Criminal Background Check (if required by clinical facility)	\$100.00
Clothing and footwear to comply with clinical dress code	variable
Cost of emergency services in off-campus educational experiences	variable
Money for lodging during clinical affiliations	variable

#### **Anticipated costs upon completion of the PTA curriculum**

Licensure Examination fee	\$485.00
Prometric Testing Center sitting fee	\$82.60
State Licensure Fees (New York State requires a \$103 fee for licensure, \$50 fee for limited permit)	variable by state

## **SECTION V**

# **Clinical Education**

## GUIDE TO CLINICAL ROLES

- SPTA:**     **Student Physical Therapist Assistant** – Student enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant program. This abbreviation is not legally recognized for documentation purposes.
- DCE:**     **Director of Clinical Education** – The DCE is a PT or PTA faculty member who coordinates all clinical education. This includes development and evaluation of clinical experience sites, organizing and supervising student clinicals and acting as the main communication link between the academic and clinical physical therapy communities.
- SCCE:**    **Site Coordinator of Clinical Education** – One person at each clinical site who coordinates the assignments and activities for all the PT and PTA students at his/her facility.
- CI:**       **Clinical Instructor** – The PT or PTA with at least one-year clinical experience who is assigned by the SCCE to a particular PTA student. With the SCCE, the CI structures the clinical learning experience to best meet the student's needs and the school's clinical objectives according to opportunities available at the facility. The Clinical Instructor acts as a professional role model and is aware of the impact of this role on students.

Reference: APTA Clinical Education Glossary <https://acapt.org/glossary>

### **Supervision**

Initial application of a physical therapy method by a student is structured and supervised, with the level of supervision determined by awareness of the student's level of competency, the condition of the patient and the nature of the method used.

If the clinical instructor wishes to teach the student a technique that has not yet been covered in academic course work, this is permissible only if the student is under direct supervision and demonstrates appropriate clinical competence as determined by the supervising physical therapist.

Students are expected to be aware of and adhere to all state laws related to physical therapy practice in the state in which they are participating in their clinical experience.



## CLINICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND SEQUENCE

### Types of Experiences:

Students will complete three full-time clinical experiences. The first (4 weeks) will occur at the end of the first year. The second and third (6 weeks each) will occur during the spring semester of the second year. Placement in different types of facilities serves to ensure that the student gains exposure to a variety of patient diagnoses, as well as differences in health care delivery in various settings. The types of settings may include any of the following:

1. Acute care hospital
2. Hospital based outpatient PT department
3. Private practice outpatient clinic
4. Nursing Home--long term care and subacute rehab.
5. Acute care rehabilitation hospital
6. School system
7. Home health care agency
8. Developmental center

One of the second-year full time clinical experiences (PHTA 207 or PHTA 209) MUST be done in an inpatient environment (i.e. acute care hospital, nursing home, acute care rehabilitation hospital).

Throughout the three clinical experiences, the student should receive experience working with general medical/surgical, orthopedic, and neurological dysfunctions. Because several facilities in the local area are multifaceted, the student may gain exposure to several of these types of patients in one setting.

**Course Sequence:** Please refer to the PTA program website for current information regarding specific course objectives, assignments, & other requirements for each of the clinical courses. [http://www.canton.edu/sci\\_health/pta/instructors.html](http://www.canton.edu/sci_health/pta/instructors.html)

**Clinical I:** PHTA 104 (4 credit hours)  
Length: 4 weeks  
Time: End of Spring semester first year

**Clinical II:** PHTA 207 (6 credit hours)  
Length: 6 Weeks  
Time: Late January to early March 4th semester

**Clinic III:** PHTA 209 (6 credit hours)  
Length: 6 Weeks  
Time: Mid-March to Early May 4<sup>th</sup> semester

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE ASSIGNMENT

### Timeline for Assignment of Clinical Placements

March: DCE sends request forms for placements for the following year to all contracted clinical sites.

May: DCE will provide students with a list of available placements for **Clinicals II and III**. Updates to this list will be provided to students as they occur. 2<sup>nd</sup> year students will develop a “wish list” of 3-5 desired sites and submit the list in writing to the DCE with justification for each choice. Students are instructed to confer with DCE to assist in determining their wish list of experience sites.

June – Oct: The DCE will determine placements for **Clinicals II and III** based on clinical availability, academic requirements and student preferences. Every effort will be made to match each student to appropriate sites based on their goals, work-related experiences, abilities and preferences.

December: The DCE will provide 1<sup>st</sup> year students with a list of available placements for **Clinical I**. Students will develop a “wish list” of at least 3 desired sites and submit to the DCE with justification for each choice. Students are instructed to confer with DCE to assist in determining their wish list of clinical sites.

January: The DCE will determine placements for **Clinical I** based on clinical availability, academic requirements and student preferences. Every effort will be made to match each student to appropriate sites based on their goals, work-related experiences, abilities and preferences.

### Notification of placement

The DCE will notify sites of the desired student placements, and sites will provide the DCE with confirmation. At that time the student will be notified of the confirmation. The DCE may provide students with a tentative list of placements, however, **CLINICAL PLACEMENTS ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL CONFIRMED BY THE CLINICAL SITE**

Students may request to swap placements with another student following assignment, however, the request to change must be submitted in writing to the DCE and must be approved by the DCE.

A student who refuses an assigned clinical placement will be given an alternate placement only after all other students are placed, and if there is availability at an appropriate site. Refusal of an experience by the student may result in postponement of the clinical experience which could result in a delay in graduation date

Assignment of clinical placements will take into consideration the academic progress of each student at the time of assignment. Students in good academic standing will be given preference over students who are not in good academic standing. Assignment of a student to a clinical site may be delayed until there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the student will meet the academic expectations to progress to clinical at the end of a given semester.

**The PTA Program reserves the right to assign students to one or more distant clinical experiences (Distant is defined as a site more than 1.5 hours commute one way) as is necessary for sound clinical education experiences.**

Each student is responsible for his/her own transportation to and from the clinical site. Students are also responsible for their meals, room and board, and any parking fees, as necessary.

Students requesting placement at a site not currently contracted with SUNY Canton must do so at least six months, and ideally one year prior to the desired experience. This time frame is required for the development of contractual arrangements between SUNY Canton and the facility as well as for the development of mutual goals for the clinical experience between SUNY Canton and the facility. In order to request placement at a site not currently contracted with SUNY Canton, a student must be in good academic standing. Development of a contractual agreement with a new clinical site is done at the discretion of program faculty and is not guaranteed.

If extenuating circumstances arise that interfere with a student's ability to complete clinicals during program designated times, the student must submit, in writing, a request for an alternate clinical plan. Approval of the clinical plan is contingent upon approval of the Dean of the School of Science, Health, and Criminal Justice, the PTA Program Director, and the DCE, and clinical site availability.

### **PRE-CLINIC COMMUNICATION WITH CLINICAL SITE**

At least four weeks prior to each clinical experience, each student will complete a student profile form which is submitted to the DCE for review. Students are required to provide the site with information regarding previous clinical, volunteer or job-related experiences, as well as their individual learning needs and objectives. This will enable the SCCE and CI to coordinate an optimal clinical experience. The student profile will be emailed to the SCCE along with a letter of introduction. The student will contact the facility via telephone one to two weeks prior to the start of their experience to finalize all details.

## **SHARING OF STUDENT INFORMATION WITH CLINICAL SITES**

Upon confirmation of placement at a clinical site, the DCE will email the student's name and SUNY Canton email address to the site. Each student will provide additional information to their assigned site via the student profile form and health clearance form. If a site requests a background check, the program will share the status of the background check only (i.e. cleared or not cleared). The program does not share academic information with clinical sites, unless requested to do so by the student. Students are encouraged to share information with the clinical site, if the DCE believes that it is in their best interest to do so. Any additional sensitive student information will be shared with a clinical site only with the consent of the student.

## **COMMUNICATION DURING CLINICAL EXPERIENCES**

All students and their CI's will be contacted by a PTA faculty member at least once during each clinical experience. This contact will be made by phone, email, or by a virtual or onsite visit. The contact will be initiated by the DCE and will take place during the middle weeks of the clinical experience. Students, CIs, or SCCEs may also contact the DCE anytime during the clinical experience as needed.

The DCE will contact the facility to schedule all on-site visits. Visits allow time for the student, the DCE, the CI's and SCCE as necessary, to discuss the experience, both individually and as a group and allow the DCE to observe the student and the site. The DCE may provide training or education to the CI and/or site as needed during an on-site visit. Additional visits may be scheduled as needed to meet the needs of the student and/or clinical site.

Most students will receive at least one on-site visit during their experiences. Additional support via phone calls, emails or additional site visits will be provided as needed for any student who is experiencing difficulties with clinical performance.

## EVALUATION

Grades for full-time clinical experience courses will be based on the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) evaluations by the CI, oral communication between the clinical instructor and the DCE, and student assignments. These evaluations are completed using CPI web ([cpi.apta.org](http://cpi.apta.org)) at midterm for Clinicals II and III and final of all experiences. Students are expected to self-assess and receive feedback on an ongoing basis using the Weekly Planning Form during all full-time experiences.

Grades will be assigned after the clinical instructor and the DCE have consulted on the student's performance and all assignments have been completed and turned in to the DCE. The DCE is ultimately responsible for assigning the final grade.

At the end of each clinical experience, students will complete evaluations of the clinical site and clinical instruction. Completed forms will be maintained in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program clinical files at SUNY Canton and will be used for program, clinical site, and clinical faculty development.

### **Clinical Failure:**

Students who do not attain a passing grade in a clinical course will not be allowed to continue in the Physical Therapist Assistant program until that course is successfully repeated. Since clinical courses are not offered every semester, students who need to repeat a clinical course should realize that an extra semester or more may be required for completion of their degree.

Students will be required to complete appropriate remediation prior to repeating a clinical experience. This will consist of identification of areas requiring remediation by the student, CI and DCE. Goals and objectives will be established by the DCE and the student using a Learning Contract.

If a student's clinical performance has endangered the welfare of a patient or if a student exhibits a significant lapse of professional judgment, the student may need to be immediately removed from the clinic. The student will receive a grade of F for the experience. In this instance, the student will be required to demonstrate readiness to return to the clinical setting prior to reassignment.

### **Withdrawal from Clinical Experience:**

Withdrawal from a clinical experience is a rare occurrence. However, this is an option under certain situations such as:

1. The student is having significant difficulty due to concerns about the learning environment at the clinical site. In this instance, the student should express the concerns and/or problems immediately to the clinical instructor and/or SCCE. Problems often can be resolved by this approach. If problems persist the student should contact the DCE. Once the DCE is contacted, they will document the problem issues, the time, date and any recommendations made to the student. Within 1 to 2 clinical days from the student's contact, the DCE will follow up with the student and clinical instructor to discuss the status of the problem.

If the problem is still not resolved, the DCE will arrange a meeting with the student, CI and/or SCCE to discuss and develop a plan to provide a successful clinical learning experience. If all parties agree that a withdrawal is in the best interest of the student, then the student will be given a W (withdrawal) grade. The DCE will work with the student to assign a new clinical experience as soon as possible, based on clinical site availability. The student may have to repeat the clinical in the next regularly scheduled clinical time frame, which may delay their graduation.

2. The student has a medical, family, or other personal issue that limits their ability to complete the experience as scheduled. In this case, reassignment of the experience will be scheduled as soon as possible. However, students should keep in mind that dependent on site availability, the clinical may have to be repeated in the next regularly scheduled clinical time frame, which may delay graduation.

***Withdrawing from a clinical course in poor academic standing is considered the equivalent of not meeting the academic expectations of the course.***

### **STUDENT DISABILITY OR LIMITATION**

It is the responsibility of any PTA student who encounters a temporary medical condition or has a documented disability that could impact their ability to provide physical therapy service to inform the DCE of the disability and provide written documentation of the same. It is also the student's responsibility to request reasonable accommodation. A student may choose to inform the SCCE/CI at the assigned clinical site themselves or may ask the DCE to inform the SCCE/CI. The student must give written permission for the DCE to share this information with the SCCE/CI.

Following the student's written request and permission, the DCE will inform the SCCE at the clinical site of a student's documented disability and request for accommodation. The DCE will work with the facility to ensure that the student has an appropriate clinical learning experience. If the clinical site is unable to reasonably accommodate the student, then the DCE will arrange a reassignment.

If a temporary medical condition is significant whereas physical therapy essential skills are unattainable, with or without reasonable accommodations, the student will not be able to complete the clinical experience. The student may need to withdraw from the clinical experience and complete it at a later date, following the Withdrawal Policy in this handbook.

## **INSURANCE COVERAGE**

### **Accident/Sickness**

The State University of New York College of Technology at Canton requires that every full-time student have accident/sickness insurance. In addition, a student health fee, per semester, is charged for on-campus health services. (See Academic Catalog for specific charges.) A student may waive the college's insurance by signing a waiver of comparable accident/sickness insurance.

### **Insurance**

General liability insurance is covered by State University of New York College of Technology at Canton. Students are also required to purchase student liability insurance. The cost of the policy is approximately \$40.00 and will cover the student during all three full time clinical experiences.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

### **Physical and Immunizations**

PTA students are required to have a current physical on file at SUNY Canton Health Services prior to their first clinical experience. Students are required to provide each clinical site with a copy of the Health Status form on or before the first day of each clinical. It is important for students to keep one copy for their own records.

### **Immunization Requirements**

#### **SUNY Canton Requirements (also required by clinical sites)**

1. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella immunization/Titer demonstrating immunity/ or documented evidence of having had the disease.
2. Meningitis – within the past 5 years
3. Hepatitis B - the Hepatitis B series of immunizations is highly recommended although not required. If the student chooses not to have the immunization, they must sign a waiver stating that they are knowledgeable of the risks of Hepatitis B and have chosen not to receive the immunizations.

#### **Additional Clinical Requirements**

1. COVID-19 Vaccine. As many clinics do not allow exemptions, the COVID-19 vaccine is required for all students in the SUNY Canton PTA program.
2. Tetanus immunization - within the last ten (10) years.
3. Negative PPD or Mantoux Tuberculin test - two doses given at least one week apart.
4. Varicella immunization or titer demonstrating immunity.
5. Influenza vaccine for each flu season student will be in the clinical setting

***Occasionally, a facility requires additional health and/or immunization information. Students are expected to conform to the facility's required policy.***

### **Infection Control**

All students will receive training on infection control and OSHA bloodborne pathogens in the first semester of the PTA program. The program will provide verification of this training to clinical sites.

### **CPR Certification**

All Physical Therapist Assistant students must obtain certification in Basic Life Support for Healthcare providers before participating in PHTA104. Certification must remain current throughout all clinical experiences. Proof of certification must be provided to each clinical site.

### **Drug Screening/Criminal Background Checks**

Some clinical facilities mandate drug screening tests and/or criminal background checks for all employees and volunteers (including students). The DCE will inform students of this mandate upon clinical assignment. The expense of these may be borne by the clinical facility; however, depending on clinical facility policy, costs of the screening may be the responsibility of the student.



### **Orientation Checklists**

In order to ensure safety and consistency for students while on clinical experience, each student must receive an orientation to the clinical facility within the first week of each clinical experience. An Orientation Checklist must be completed and signed by both the student and clinical instructor. The checklist is to be submitted to the DCE by the end of the second week of the experience. Students are required to participate in any additional orientation activities as mandated by the clinical site.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Each clinical experience consists of an average of 36-40 hours per week or the full-time work week of the clinical facility.

The student is expected to attend each clinical on a full-time basis and to follow the facility's calendar, not the college calendar. For instance, if a holiday occurs during an assigned experience and the PT department is open, the student is expected to attend clinical.

Each student is to remain at the clinical site for the entire scheduled shift. If a student needs to leave the clinical site for any reason, they must have permission from the clinical instructor. Each student should make maximal use of clinical time (i.e., reading professional materials or observing with other staff members if the CI is busy).

Students must not expect or arrange for early release or altered clinical hours for reason of participation in paid employment or other personal obligations.

#### **Absences:**

Each student is allowed one full-day absence per clinical experience. Students should notify the clinical instructor of their absence at least 30 minutes prior to their scheduled arrival time. If the clinical instructor is not available, the student will leave a message with the secretary or a representative of the PT department or facility.

The student is required to make up missed time for absences greater than the equivalent of more than one clinical day. If the student who is ill misses three or more consecutive clinical days, a signed note from their physician clearing the student to return to the clinic must be submitted to the DCE and the CI in writing within one week of the absence. The note will be maintained in the student's clinical file.

***If a student is absent for more than five days during Clinical II, they will be required to postpone Clinical III until all obligations for Clinical II are met.***

#### **Absence without notice:**

If a student fails to report an absence as instructed above, the CI should contact the DCE immediately. The student will receive a warning from the DCE and a written report of the incident will be placed in their program file. A second occurrence will lead to dismissal from and failure of the clinical.

**Tardiness:**

Students are expected to be prompt at all times during clinical experiences. Tardiness demonstrates a lack of professionalism and is unacceptable. Repeat occurrences of tardiness will be addressed by the clinical instructor and may include notification/consultation with the DCE. Chronic tardiness may be reflected in the student's professional behavior rating and could result in failure of the clinical.

Make-up time for absenteeism and tardiness will be determined by the clinical instructor and DCE.

## **DRESS CODE**

**The dress code policies listed below will apply to SUNY Canton PTA students on clinical experiences and/or representing the PTA program during events such as health fairs or other volunteer activities. Guidelines for professional attire for SUNY Canton PTA students include the following:**

1. All students will adhere to the dress code standards set by the clinical facility.
2. Students are required to wear a nametag at all times. The SUNY Canton student ID (placed in a plastic holder) may be used as a nametag.
3. Recommended standard clinical attire includes chino, khaki, or dress pants; polo shirt; supportive closed toe footwear. Clean sneakers are acceptable.
4. Clothing will be worn and fit in such a manner that it does not expose the abdomen, chest, or buttocks area.
5. Clothing will not be transparent. Undergarments may not be visible.
6. Clothing will be well maintained and free from rips, holes, wrinkles, etc.
7. Jeans are not acceptable. Skirts or dress shorts (if allowed by clinic policy) will be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee. Casual shorts are not acceptable at any time.
8. Students will wear clean, safe, non-skid footwear at all times.
9. All students should wear hair neatly, in a manner consistent with professional appearance and may be only colored in conservative tones. Long hair should be pulled back from the face so it does not interfere with patient care.
10. All students are required to wear a watch with a second hand.
11. Minimal conservative makeup and nail polish are acceptable. Fingernails must be kept short and well-manicured. Acrylic nails are not acceptable.
12. For safety reasons jewelry should be kept to a minimum. Dangling jewelry is prohibited. Body piercing jewelry will only be worn on the ear. No other areas of the body containing piercing may be visible.
13. Tattoos must be appropriate in content and in keeping with a professional image. Students may be required to cover tattoos when in the clinical setting.
14. Hygiene needs to be consistent with close personal contact. Care should be taken when using scented products (i.e., perfume, cologne).

Any student who is found to be in violation of any of the above dress code standards by the clinical instructor and/or SUNY Canton College facility representative may be sent home and instructed to return dressed in accordance with the required dress code. At the time, the student will receive a written warning. If a second infraction occurs during a clinical experience, the Clinical Instructor will contact the DCE, and a learning contract will be implemented. In the event of a third dress code infraction, the student will fail the clinical. Failure of a clinical course may delay graduation for one year.

## APPENDICES

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AT CANTON**

**Physical Therapist Assistant**

**STUDENT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to participate as both a student physical therapist assistant and surrogate patient in the laboratory and clinical activities of the Physical Therapist Assistant program. These laboratory activities involve treatment procedures and modalities consistent with current physical therapy practice. These will be rendered according to standard protocol and under direct supervision of qualified physical therapy personnel.

Contraindications to physical therapy treatments will be clearly stated during class lectures. If I have a medical condition associated with any contraindication, I realize that it is my responsibility to speak privately with an instructor concerning this matter before the particular treatment is practiced in the lab. I understand that I may be excused from participating in the role of a student physical therapist assistant and/or patient during a lab due to a medical condition that is a contraindication to the particular physical therapy treatment being practiced. It is also understood that I will be required to perform all lab competencies, performing as a student physical therapist assistant, required in the course they are instructed, before being allowed to move on in the curriculum.

By reading and signing the Technical Standards list I understand what qualities I must possess to successfully complete SUNY Canton's Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Only reasonable accommodations will be considered in these cases and the final decision for such made by the PTA Program Director in collaboration with PTA faculty and the Student Accessibility Services department of the college. If my medical condition is temporary, I will receive an incomplete in the course. Completion of the PTA curriculum will follow the graduation requirement guidelines for an associate degree as stated in the college's Student Handbook.

Throughout the physical therapist assistant program, I will be provided with experiences in a variety of off-campus settings. I agree to participate in these off-campus educational experiences and assume full responsibility for my own safety while traveling to and from the experience and while participating in the experience.

I also agree to participate in videotaping, audiotaping, photography and/or digital imaging for the purpose of instruction, evaluation and PTA program marketing throughout the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AT CANTON**

**Physical Therapist Assistant**

**STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT**

Throughout the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at SUNY Canton I will have access to protected health information. In accordance with HIPAA regulations, I realize that protected health information should be kept confidential. I also realize that any unauthorized access or release of health information is punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

I will maintain confidentiality of other sensitive information about any persons or business encountered while engaging in activities during the PTA program.

I realize that adherence to confidentiality includes the use of social media and agree to abide by the PTA program's social media policy.

Throughout my training in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program I will at no time inappropriately release confidential information and I will adhere to the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant of the American Physical Therapy Association.

I understand that release of unauthorized information may result in immediate dismissal from SUNY Canton's Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AT CANTON**

**Physical Therapist Assistant**

**INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to participate in the following manner as part of an educational experience for the physical therapist assistant program at SUNY Canton:

Check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ Subject or patient simulator (Any physical therapy procedures will be rendered according to \_\_\_\_\_ standard protocol and under direct supervision of qualified physical therapy personnel)

Description of activity: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Videotaping

\_\_\_\_\_ Audiotaping

\_\_\_\_\_ Photography

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date