



**Institute  
of Technology**

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# PROSPECTIVE STUDENT HANDOUT

## PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Institute of Technology – Modesto is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditationsupport@apta.org](mailto:accreditationsupport@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call (209) 572-7800 or email [nmeyer@iot.edu](mailto:nmeyer@iot.edu).

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## **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at the Institute of Technology (IOT). As a prospective student, we would like to provide you with some information regarding the program and the profession. This handbook includes the following information: general PTA description, program mission, program philosophy, program goals/objectives, licensure information, graduation rates, exam pass rates, clinical experiences, immunization, financial commitments, admissions process, curriculum, anticipated schedule, and frequently asked questions. In the final pages are the Observation Verification Form and essay instructions which are required as part of your application to the program.

### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

IOT complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. These federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender, including sexual harassment; sexual orientation; genetic information; race; color; religion; national origin; age; veteran status; and disability in the education programs and activities that they operate. IOT requires all affiliates to comply with the same standards for nondiscrimination.

### **Description of the Physical Therapy Profession**

#### **Physical Therapy**

Physical therapy is a medical profession which focuses on the treatment of injury or impairments to improve a patient's physical function. The practice of physical therapy applies evidence-based medicine through a variety of interventions that includes, but is not limited to, modalities, manual therapy, therapeutic exercise and patient education.

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) House of Delegates adopted a vision statement in 2013 as a declaration of purpose for the profession. The vision, "Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience", is meant to inspire even beyond the profession to collaborate in the health and well-being of society.

#### **Physical Therapists**

A physical therapist (PT) is a licensed healthcare professional considered to be a movement specialist. The physical therapist's responsibilities include evaluation, diagnosis, and the development of a plan of care.

While physical therapy practice acts vary by state, the physical therapist is ultimately responsible for the overall management of patient care.

#### **Physical Therapist Assistants**

A physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a licensed healthcare professional and is a vital member of the rehabilitation team. They function as the only extender of care for physical therapy services. The physical therapist assistant's responsibilities include carrying out the treatment plan as determined by the physical therapist and monitoring patient progress through observation, tests, and measures. Treatment plans

may include interventions such as modalities, manual therapy, therapeutic exercise, and patient education.

Supervision guidelines and scope of work may vary and are determined by each state's physical therapy practice act.

For additional information on the physical therapy profession and PTA job outlook, please utilize the following sites:

- American Physical Therapy Association – <http://www.apta.org>
- O-Net – <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/31-2021.00>
- Bureau of Labor Statistics – <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes312021.htm>
- Choose PT – <https://www.choosept.com/AboutPTsPTAs>
- Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy – <https://www.fsbpt.org>

### **Institutional Mission**

At the Institute of Technology our family mission is to inspire, support, and empower students through education and career development.

### **Program Mission Statement**

The mission of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at IOT is to prepare entry-level physical therapist assistants competent in the contemporary practice of physical therapy by providing a quality education for our students and a qualified graduate to meet the needs of society.

### **Program Philosophy**

IOT promotes excellence in education by offering a comprehensive curriculum to prepare safe, competent, compassionate, and ethical PTAs to meet the needs of contemporary practice of physical therapy. The PTA faculty offers integrated learning experiences in the classroom, lab, and clinic to develop application of knowledge, communication, respect for others, ethical and legal judgment, critical thinking, and problem solving skills. The student must accept responsibility to actively engage in the learning process.

Graduation from the PTA Program is only the beginning of professional development. The faculty models life-long learning and the student is encouraged to commit to continued self-directed learning to provide evidence-based care and remain current in the practice of physical therapy.

### **Program Goals, Objectives, and Expected Outcomes**

The encompassing goal of the PTA Program is to educate and develop safe, competent, compassionate, knowledgeable, and ethical PTAs to secure an entry-level position as a licensed PTA to work under the supervision of a physical therapist. The PTA Program will offer a solid foundation for the PTA to continue self-directed learning experiences to remain contemporary in the practice of evidence-based physical therapy.

*Graduates of the program will:*

1. Competently integrate theoretical knowledge and clinical skills to provide safe and effective entry-level physical therapy interventions, data collection, and documentation under the supervision of a physical therapist and based on a plan of care developed by the physical therapist.
  - a. The ultimate FSBPT pass rate will be at least 85% averaged over two (2) years.
  - b. 85% of employers will rate graduates at a 4 or above regarding competence with interventions, data collection, and documentation.
  - c. The mean performance of the graduating class will be at or above the national mean for each area in the FSBPT Content Report.
  - d. 85% of graduates will rate themselves at a 4 or above regarding competence with interventions, data collection, and documentation.
  - e. When 15% or more of employers and/or graduates recommend program improvement in the areas of interventions, data collection, or documentation, a review will be conducted by the Program Advisory Committee.
2. Communicate effectively with all stakeholders, including patients/clients, family members, caregivers, practitioners, and interprofessional team members to achieve outcomes established in a plan of care.
  - a. 85% of employers will rate graduates at a 4 or above regarding their ability to effectively communicate with patient, families, and the healthcare team.
  - b. 85% of graduates will rate themselves at a 4 or above regarding their ability to effectively communicate with patient, families, and the healthcare team.
  - c. When 15% or more of employers and/or graduates recommend program improvement in the area of communication a review will be conducted by the Program Advisory Committee.
3. Demonstrate ethical values and legal behavior consistent with the expected behavior, responsibilities, and duties of a licensed physical therapist assistant.
  - a. Employers will rate graduates at a 4 or above regarding their ability to demonstrate ethical values and legal behavior 100% of the time.
  - b. Graduates will rate themselves at a 4 or above regarding their ability to demonstrate ethical values and legal behavior 100% of the time.
  - c. When 10% or more of employers and/or graduates recommend program improvement in the area of ethical values and legal behavior a review will be conducted by the Program Advisory Committee.
4. Assume responsibility for continued professional development and growth.
  - a. 85% of employers will indicate that graduates have the ability to implement a self-directed plan for continued professional development.
  - b. 85% of graduates will rate themselves at a 4 or above regarding their ability to implement a self-directed plan for continued professional development.
  - c. When 15% or more of employers and/or graduates recommend program improvement in the area of professional development a review will be conducted by the Program Advisory Committee.
5. Attain employment as a Physical Therapist Assistant to work under the supervision of a Physical Therapist.

- a. The employment rate will be at least 90% averaged over two (2) years based on students who passed the NPTE-PTA.

*PTA Program faculty will:*

1. Grow personally and professionally while creating community awareness of their capabilities.
  - a. Demonstrate a commitment to the profession of physical therapy through participation in life-long learning opportunities, professional organizations, or community involvement.
  - b. 85% of faculty will agree the program budget provides for adequate continuing professional development.
  - c. Faculty will maintain licensure in at least one state/territory
2. Instruct a contemporary, evidence-based curriculum.
  - a. Enhance the curriculum with the inclusion of evidence-based current literature and through sharing appropriate clinical experience.
  - b. 100% of instructors will be rated at a “Meets” the standard for instruction being contemporary and evidenced-based when evaluated by the Program Director.
  - c. 85% of employers will rate graduates at a 4 or above regarding utilization of current industry practices based on evidence.
  - d. 85% of graduates will rate instructors at a 4 or above regarding knowledge in current industry practices and provided evidenced-based curriculum.

*The PTA program will:*

1. Support the diverse physical therapy healthcare needs of California communities through employment as physical therapist assistants working under the supervision of physical therapists.
  - a. The employment rate will be at least 90% averaged over two (2) years based on students who passed the NPTE-PTA.
  - b. 85% of employers will rate graduates as “well prepared to highly prepared” for contemporary practice.
2. Prepare entry-level competent physical therapist assistants as evidenced by successful completion of the National Physical Therapy Exam and qualification for state licensure.
  - a. Ultimate licensure pass rate will be at least 85% averaged over two (2) years.
  - b. The mean performance of the graduating class will be at or above the national mean for each area in the FSBPT Content Report.
3. Collaborate with clinical sites to support the clinical instructors and provide educational opportunities for the instructors to develop skills to enhance the clinical education experience for the instructor and student.
  - a. Offer CCIP course to eligible graduates and/or Clinical Instructors, working toward 25% credentialed clinical instructors.
  - b. Sponsor Annual CI function.
4. Provide a non-threatening environment that is mindful of individual differences, free from discrimination, and respectful of people’s rights and dignity.
  - a. Graduation rate will be at least 60% averaged over two (2) years.
  - b. Students will positively rate at satisfied or above their experience at IOT (90%).

*Students in the program will:*

1. Score at least 550 on the Practice Examination Assessment Tool (PEAT) exam prior to graduation, as a component of the National Licensure Preparation course (PTA235).
2. Demonstrate ethical and professional behaviors and actions consistent with the Core Values for the PT and PTA at least 90% of the time, as assessed via student self-assessments of the Core Values for the PT and PTA document (beginning & end of program), and Professional Performance Standards (PPS) assessed end of each semester.
3. Participate in at least one (1) interdisciplinary activity featuring mock case studies or clinical simulations, with another discipline on Campus including but not limited to Medical Assistant and Vocational Nursing programs, prior to graduation from the program.
4. Submit signed forms demonstrating completion at least eight (8) hours of volunteerism in the community and/or related to promotion of the profession, prior to graduation.
5. Demonstrate didactic competency on all skills listed in the skill competency matrix by scoring at least 76% on each, prior to graduation (found in student & clinical education handbook).
6. Demonstrate proficiency in clinical practice skills by scoring “entry-level” on the clinical performance instrument (CPI) as applicable, by the conclusion of their terminal clinical practicum (PTA 270).

**Outcomes**

All programmatic outcomes data is maintained and available for all interested parties. This includes graduation rate, exam pass rate, employment rate, and acceptance rate. For current outcomes data, please refer to the PTA Program webpage (<https://www.iot.edu/career-training-programs/medical-programs/physical-therapist-assistant/>). This data is also available by contacting the PTA Program Director.

**Licensure**

Currently, PTAs are licensed in all 50 states. Licensure is required in each state in which a PTA works and must be renewed on a regular basis. Each state has established independent requirements and fees for the PTA to practice. Initial licensure is based on graduation from an accredited institution and successful completion of both the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) and a jurisprudence examination specific to a jurisdiction/state for which licensure is sought. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) develops and administers the NPTE for PTs and PTAs, as well as the jurisprudence examination for the State of California. More information regarding the national exam can be obtained by visiting <http://www.fsbpt.org/>.

**Drug Screen and Background Check**

A felony conviction, of any kind, is a potential limiting factor for clinical placements, future licensure, and/or employment. Most clinical facilities require evidence of a “clear” background check prior to participation in a clinical rotation. Clear is defined as without sexual/elder/child/spousal abuse, unacquainted felonies, embezzlement, misdemeanor which includes an element of monetary theft.

Institute of Technology utilizes an online source for background checks. Students may be required to undergo a background check prior to attending clinical rotations. Background checks are not performed as a condition of enrollment into the program.

During the clinical portion of study, the student may be subject to random drug testing at a clinic site based on the facility's policy.

**Essential Skills and Functions of a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) and Physical Therapist Assistant Student (SPTA)**

The following describes the knowledge, attitude, motor skills, abilities, and behaviors essential for completion of the PTA Program. These essential functions carry forward into the requirements of a licensed physical therapist assistant. The following list may not be all-inclusive and may be dependent on the specific work conditions at site of future employment. The abilities listed are the basis for safe and effective practice.

Institute of Technology complies with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will make reasonable accommodations per the policies found in the IOT Catalog and the PTA Policies and Procedures Manual. Applicants must be able to perform these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations in order to be successful in the PTA program and as a licensed PTA.

*Observation:*

Observation involves the functional use of vision, hearing, and somatic sensations.

**Standard:** The student must be able to observe lectures (both in-person and virtually), lab demonstrations, images, and patient presentation.

**Essential Functions:** The student must be able to observe and appraise a patient and their situation/environment accurately. Students must be able to observe therapeutic devices in order to determine a patient's treatment, condition, or response to treatment. Examples include, but are not limited to: patient's mental state and cognitive ability, palpation of peripheral pulses, bony prominences, physical presentation, posture and alignment, visual and tactile assessment of inflammation, swelling or edema, wound color and size, and gait analysis.

*Communication:*

Competence in communication is fundamental in the career of the PTA student. Verbal and non-verbal communication skills are required to effectively instruct patients, caregivers and family members in any part of the treatment plan. Effective communication is also vital to collaborate and integrate within the PT/PTA team.

**Standard:** Communication includes speech, language, reading and writing in English, and computer literacy.

**Essential Functions:** Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients to elicit necessary information regarding patients' status through both verbal and non-verbal cues. Students must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with other members of the health care team to convey essential information for continuity of safe, ethical

care. Students need to communicate with individuals in a culturally sensitive way, while considering individual differences. They need to give full attention while listening to others, ask relevant questions, and not interrupt. Students must be able to read, speak, and understand English at a level of competence consistent with successful course, clinical, and licensing completion.

*Motor Skills:*

Motor skills require the coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, balance, and the use of touch and vision.

**Standard:** Students must possess sufficient motor function to elicit responses and information from patients for use in assessment and interventions. Essential Functions: Students must be able to execute movements required to provide general and therapeutic interventions including, but not limited to: positioning patients of varying sizes and weights, draping and transferring patients, gait training with various assistive devices, applying orthotics and prosthetics, performing range of motion and other manual techniques, performing nonsurgical wound care, placing of electrodes onto body surfaces, and applying ultrasound applicators appropriately.

**Essential Functions:**

| Task                      | Level          | Weight      | Frequency                 |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Lifting/Lowering/Carrying | Hip Level      | 10 – 50 lbs | Occasionally – Frequently |
|                           | Waist Level    | 1 – 20 lbs  | Occasionally – Frequently |
|                           | Above Shoulder | 1 – 10 lbs  | Occasionally              |
| Pushing/Pulling           |                | 2 – 50 lbs  | Occasionally              |
| Reaching                  |                |             | Occasionally – Frequently |
| Standing                  |                |             | Frequently                |
| Walking                   |                |             | Frequently                |
| Climbing Stairs           |                |             | Occasionally              |
| Twisting/Bending          |                |             | Occasionally              |
| Sitting                   |                |             | Occasionally              |
| Kneeling                  |                |             | Occasionally              |
| Squatting/Crouching       |                |             | Occasionally              |
| Firm Grasping             |                |             | Frequently                |
| Feeling/Tactile Sensation |                |             | Frequently                |

*Intellectual and Conceptual:*

These abilities include tests and measurements, calculation, reasoning, analysis, judgment, numerical recognition and manipulation.

**Standard:** Problem-solving, critical thinking, and clinical decision-making are key skills required of the PTA. These abilities must be performed quickly, effectively, and efficiently, especially in emergency situations.

**Essential Functions:** Students must be able to identify significant findings from the patient chart, including the physical therapy plan of care to provide safe and appropriate interventions. Students must recall information in an efficient and timely manner. The ability to incorporate new

information from peers, instructors, medical literature, and courses into a lifelong learning plan is vital. Knowledge and skills gained in this area will maintain currency of treatment interventions. Sound judgment in patient assessment and therapeutic planning are essential. Students must understand their role and scope of work and communicate this to others when appropriate. Students must assist in collecting and managing data for the physical therapist's patient load.

*Behavioral and Social Attributes:*

Students must demonstrate legal and ethical behavior and recognize the psychosocial impact on the patient, as a result of impairment, functional limitation, or disabilities while integrating their needs into the plan of care. This includes patient, client, family, and caregiver education.

**Standard:** The student must possess the psychological ability to exercise of sound judgment, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities assigned. Additionally, it encompasses not only the care of the patients, but the development of mature, sensitive and effective professional relationships with them and other health care providers. The student must display respect for individual, social, and cultural differences in patients, caregivers, and peers.

**Essential Functions:** Students must be able to handle the stresses of a fulltime educational course load during the didactic portion of the PTA program, along with a fulltime patient caseload by their final clinical. They must be able to work effectively to manage stress and resources, displaying organization, time management, and flexibility as they learn to face future demands of the health care environment and patient management. Students must be able to accept criticism and feedback. They must apply professional attributes that include altruism, caring, compassion, integrity, responsibility, continuing competence, duty, PT/PTA collaboration, and social responsibility.

**Clinical Experience Sites**

As per accreditation requirements, the Institute of Technology must maintain a minimum of 150% contracted clinical sites for the PTA Program's clinical experiences. This ensures a variety of experiences are available to the students including: acute care, home health, out-patient, rehabilitation, pediatric, and skilled nursing facilities. Students will be placed in two (2) diverse settings to optimize the experiential learning. Clinical experiences (PTA 260 – Clinical Practicum I and PTA 270 – Clinical Practicum II) are 40 hours per week, lasting a total of 16 weeks. Students will likely be traveling to clinical sites outside of the greater Modesto area and are responsible for transportation and housing costs associated with long distance clinical placements.

**Health Records and Immunizations**

Prior to beginning clinical experiences, the student must provide the Director of Clinical Education with proof of the following information:

1. Documentation of immune status to measles, mumps, and rubella (Vaccination record or titer results)
2. Results of a current TB skin test and/or chest x-ray indicating no active disease if the TB test results are positive (This must be repeated on an annual basis)

3. Hepatitis B vaccination
4. Current Tetanus/Diphtheria immunization
5. Varicella titer or immunization
6. Current CPR card at the Health Care Provider level
7. Annual flu vaccine, if required by the facility
8. Additional requirements per clinical site

### **Health Insurance**

The Institute of Technology does not provide health insurance to students. Students are encouraged to seek their own health insurance through a recognized insurer or through a federal/state program. Clinical sites utilized for student clinical experiences are not responsible for health care costs of students who are injured while performing patient care services.

The Institute of Technology maintains medical malpractice insurance for PTA students participating in an assigned clinical practicum.

### **Financial Commitments**

Finances are often high on a list of student concerns. Listed below are some of the anticipated expenses in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Institute of Technology.

#### *Uniforms*

Each PTA student is provided with 4 sets of uniforms to include 2 polo shirts and 2 pairs of scrubs; khaki pants are required and will need to be purchased separately by the student at their expense. Additional uniforms can be purchased by the student at their expense.

#### *Clinical Experiences*

The student is responsible for transportation and housing costs associated with long distance clinical placements and is not included in above stated total costs.

For a complete breakdown of program costs including tuition, books, and fees, refer to the website ([www.iot.edu](http://www.iot.edu)) and/or the catalog addendum.

### **Admissions Process**

The admissions policy is designed to be fair and equitable for all persons applying to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program. Prior to consideration for admission to the PTA Program, the prospective student must first satisfy the admissions requirements for the Institute of Technology as stated in the Academic Catalog. An overview of the admissions process is represented in the graphic below followed by the specific requirements.

## Step 1: Admissions

**Receive:**

- Academic Catalog
- PTA Prospective Student Handout

**Complete:**

- Wonderlic Exam
- Math Exam
- CLIK Test
- FA Estimate/FASFA Application

**Submit:**

- Transcript(s)
- PT Observation Form

## Step 2: PTA Faculty

**Interview**

**Writing Sample**

## Step 3: Acceptance

**Enroll**

**Financial Aid**

**Orientation**

1. **Admissions** – schedule a meeting with admissions, where the prospective student will:
  - a. Receive:
    - Academic Catalog
    - Prospective PTA Student Handout
  - b. Complete:
    - Wonderlic Exam
      - The prospective candidate must score at least twenty out of fifty points (20/50).
      - Note: the prospective candidate may take the Wonderlic Exam no more than three times per application cycle. If the exam is taken more than once, the top two scores will be averaged for the PTA admissions rubric. One score must be above twenty (20), but the average may be below the minimum required.
    - Math Exam
      - The prospective candidate must score at least an eighty percent (80%) on the twenty-five (25) question IOT-generated math exam (20/25).
      - Note: the prospective candidate may take the Math Exam no more than two times per application cycle. If the exam is taken more than once, the two scores will be averaged for the PTA admissions rubric. One score must be above twenty (20), but the average may be below the minimum required. The Math Exam must be completed without the use of any technology (i.e. calculators, phones, etc.); there is no time-limit.
  - c. Submit:
    - Transcript(s)
      - Official high school and/or college transcripts must be submitted as proof of prior competency level(s).
    - Physical Therapy (PT) Observation Form
      - The prospective candidate must complete at least one-day (minimum of 4 hours) of observation of Physical Therapy practice at a location of their choosing. Please see observation sheet for additional hours.

\*Note: all of the above components must be completed and submitted prior to progressing through the admissions process.

2. **PTA Faculty** – once a successful application packet is submitted to admissions, the prospective student will have the following with the PTA faculty (Typically the PTA Program Director, Director of Clinical Education, and/or other PTA Faculty Member):
  - a. Interview
    - A brief interview with the PTA faculty will be conducted that will evaluate the prospective candidate’s communication skills, motivation for the program, knowledge and commitment to the profession, as well a technical standards (i.e. physical abilities and limitations).
  - b. Writing Sample

The prospective candidate will submit an essay that describes their willingness to enter the profession and provides an overview of their experience during their Physical Therapy Observation. This essay should be a minimum of 500 words and will be graded based on the candidate's ability to fully justify their response, organization, as well as grammar and spelling.

3. **Acceptance** – when a student has satisfactorily completed all of the requirements above, they will be notified by letter of acceptance into the program. Acceptance and admission is based on a rolling admissions process, so it is best to complete and submit all required components as soon as possible. If a class is full, a waiting list will be created from which students may enter if an accepted student is unable to matriculate.
  - a. **Enroll**

If the candidate wishes to acknowledge receipt of the acceptance letter and enroll in the program, they must respond within thirty (30) days or before the start of classes (whichever is less time) to reserve a seat in the class.
  - b. **Financial Aid**

The accepted student will meet with financial aid to finalize their tuition plan.  
Note: this step is available prior to enrollment if preferred.
  - c. **Orientation**

The accepted student will attend PTA orientation immediately prior to the start of semester one.

### **Curriculum**

The PTA program is presented over a period of 80 weeks. This period is divided into five (5) 15-week semesters consisting of 933 clock hours spent in the classroom and laboratories. Clinical experiences consist of 640 clock hours spent in clinical facilities at 40 hours per week. For a typical cohort, there is a one week recess between semesters and a two week winter recess from didactic courses. Students must maintain a minimum grade average of 70%. Failure to complete coursework in a given semester may require students to wait approximately 48 weeks to retake the coursework and only if a seat is available in the next cohort.

Upon successful completion of the PTA program, the graduate will receive an Associate in Applied Science (AAS). Graduates of a CAPTE accredited program are eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination for PTAs. The school will assist the graduate in finding employment. However, this is not a guarantee of employment or a minimum starting salary.

| Curriculum Requirement |  | Semester<br>Credit Hours | Contact Hours |     |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------|-----|
|                        |  |                          | Lecture       | Lab |
| Semester 1             |  |                          |               |     |
| BIO 105                | Anatomy & Physiology                           | 4.5                      | 60            | 15  |
| PSY 101                | *Introduction to Psychology                    | 3.0                      | 45            |     |
| PHYS 125               | *General Algebra & Physics                     | 3.0                      | 45            |     |
| ENG 101                | *English                                       | 3.0                      | 45            |     |
| PTA 101                | Introduction to Physical Therapy               | 2.0                      | 30            |     |
| Semester 2             |  |                          |               |     |
| PTA 150                | **Clinical Science I                           | 3.0                      | 45            |     |
| PTA 107                | Functional Anatomy                             | 1.5                      | 15            | 15  |
| COM 101                | Communication                                  | 3.0                      | 45            |     |
| PTA 108                | Kinesiology                                    | 1.5                      | 15            | 15  |
| PTA 110                | Patient Care                                   | 1.5                      | 15            | 15  |
| PTA 115                | **Therapeutic Interventions                    | 2.5                      | 15            | 45  |
| Semester 3             |  |                          |               |     |
| PTA 215                | Therapeutic Exercise I: Introduction and LE    | 3.5                      | 30            | 45  |
| PTA 201                | PT for the Pediatric Population                | 2.5                      | 30            | 15  |
| PTA 202                | PT for the Geriatric Population                | 1.5                      | 15            | 15  |
| PTA 250                | Clinical Science II                            | 1.0                      | 15            |     |
| PTA 251                | Neuromuscular Rehabilitation                   | 2.5                      | 15            | 45  |
| PTA 220                | **Professional Issues & Ethics I               | 1.0                      | 15            |     |
| Semester 4             |  |                          |               |     |
| PTA 225                | Therapeutic Exercise II: UE, Spine, and Pelvis | 3.0                      | 21            | 42  |
| PTA 210                | Clinical Simulations                           | 1.0                      |               | 30  |
| PTA 205                | Manual Therapy                                 | 1.5                      | 15            | 15  |
| PTA 260                | Clinical Practicum I (8 weeks)                 | 7.0                      | 320           |     |
| Semester 5             |  |                          |               |     |
| PTA 230                | Physical Therapy for Special Populations       | 2.5                      | 30            | 15  |
| PTA 235                | Preparation for National Exam                  | 1.0                      | 15            |     |
| PTA 240                | **Professional Issues & Ethics II              | 2.0                      | 30            |     |
| PTA 270                | Clinical Practicum II (8 weeks)                | 7.0                      | 320           |     |
| Total                  |  | 65.5                     | 1,573         |     |

\*This course will be presented in an online format.

\*\* This course will be offered in a hybrid format.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. How many students are admitted into the program?**

The Institute of Technology currently accepts no more than 36 students into each class for the PTA Program. Admission and acceptance into the program is in order of application, if a baseline score is obtained by the applicant during the admissions process.

### **2. Is there a deadline to complete the admissions process?**

Prospective applicants must notify the institution of intent to accept a seat in the upcoming cohort no more than 2 weeks after acceptance notification, and must complete the admissions process prior to the start date of each class.

### **3. What is the alternate/waiting list?**

If the quantity of applicants exceeds the number of openings, Institute of Technology finds it necessary to place some applicants on an alternate list. An alternate list is similar to a standby list, in which the school will move prospective students placed on the alternate list into acceptance as openings are made available. Those students placed on the alternate list will have the first opportunity to join the next class.

### **4. Is the program accredited?**

The institute has established institutional accreditation for the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) (November 14, 2018) and the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (August 15, 2016). The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Institute of Technology – Modesto is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call (209) 572-7800 or email [nmeyer@iot.edu](mailto:nmeyer@iot.edu).

### **5. What is the class schedule?**

The PTA Program admits one class/cohort every year with the regularly planned matriculation in February. For cohorts starting in an odd numbered year, the classes will generally run in the morning from 8AM to 12:30PM. For cohorts starting in an even numbered year, the classes will generally run from 1PM to 5:30PM. This schedule holds for Monday – Thursday, barring make-up days, other scheduled outside events, and community service opportunities. Open Lab is a standing schedule on Fridays from 10am – 2pm. While the schedule would appear “part-time”, there is approximately 1-2 hours of outside homework, assignments, projects and lab skills, for every 1-2 hours spent on campus. **Students should be prepared to accommodate this workload.**

### **6. Will my previous college credits transfer?**

This decision is determined on an individual basis by the Campus President and Director of Education. Institute of Technology recommends that each student completes the curriculum in its entirety, but exceptions will be made on preparatory/general education course work.

**7. Will credits from Institute of Technology transfer to another institution?**

The Institute of Technology does not guarantee transfer of credit. Transferring credit is up the receiving institution. It is not common for a regionally accredited university or community college to accept credits from a nationally accredited institution.

**8. Where can you complete the required Observation Day?**

Contact a therapy clinic, hospital, or skilled nursing facilities in your local community. Ask the secretary of the PT department if you can observe a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant for a day as a prospective PTA student.

**9. Is Financial Aid available?**

Financial Aid is available to eligible students. Please contact your Admission Representative to schedule a Financial Aid appointment.

## Application Confirmation Checklist

### Instructions:

Please read each statement, and then place a check mark to confirm your understanding. Retain a copy for your records.

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have received and read all of the material contained in the PTA Prospective Student Handout and understand the application and selection process.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have received Institute of Technology's Academic Catalog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my application will not be considered if it is incomplete, or does not meet the application/program requirements.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that it is my responsibility to follow proper application procedures and timelines, in addition to providing required transcripts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the PTA program admission policies are based on published college policies; program admission is an equal opportunity process and persons are not excluded based on ethnicity, age, gender, religion, disability or other legally protected statuses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that Institute of Technology reserves the right to make revisions to the PTA program requirements and/or selection procedures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I am notified of being admitted into the program, my failure to submit confirmation of acceptance in the allotted time frame constitutes grounds to withdraw my name from the eligibility list (2 weeks).

Thank you again for your interest in our program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) of Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:**

This form is to be **completed by a supervising Physical Therapist/Assistant** and will be reviewed as part of the admissions process for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Although applicants must only meet a minimum total of 4 hours, additional exposure to the profession is strongly encouraged and weighted toward the prospective student's knowledge of the profession and overall admissions score. The supervising PT/PTA must verify the hours; the facility cannot be owned or operated by a relative and the supervising PT/PTA cannot be a relative. Prospective students may also provide letter(s) of recommendation to admissions representative, to be considered as a reference of character & professionalism. Your participation in the verification process is important and we appreciate your willingness to promote higher learning, the practice of Physical Therapy, and entry into the profession.

If you have any questions, please contact Talwinder Samra, Director of Admissions, Institute of Technology, at [tsamra@iot.edu](mailto:tsamra@iot.edu) or (209) 572-7805.

**Facility Information:** (Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

**Type of Experience:** (Check all that apply)

Inpatient

Outpatient

Paid

Volunteer

**Type of Setting:** (Check all that apply)

Acute

Rehab/Subacute

Extended Care/Skilled Nursing Facility

Industrial/Occupational Health

Private Practice

School

Wellness/Prevention/Fitness

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your facility open to hosting PTA students as part of their clinical education?  Yes  No

If yes, who should we contact? (i.e. Director of Rehabilitation, CI, Site Coordinator of Clinical Education)

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone

Email

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT!**



Clinician's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours of Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

Based on your observation of the applicant's behavior while observing your facility, please complete the following evaluation.

|   | SA | A | U | D | SD |
|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| <b>Dependability</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant arrived on time for the scheduled observation.</li> </ul> <i>Comments:</i>   |    |   |   |   |    |
| <b>Professional Presentation</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant was dressed appropriately in professional attire.</li> </ul> <i>Comments:</i>                          |    |   |   |   |    |
| <b>Empathy</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant was sensitive and responsive to the feelings of others.</li> </ul> <i>Comments:</i>                                      |    |   |   |   |    |
| <b>Cultural Competence</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant was capable of interacting with individuals of varying cultures without bias.</li> </ul> <i>Comments:</i>    |    |   |   |   |    |
| <b>Communication</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant utilized appropriate body and verbal language with both staff and patients.</li> </ul> <i>Comments:</i>            |    |   |   |   |    |
| <b>Motivation</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant displayed a positive attitude and enthusiasm in becoming a physical therapy professional.</li> </ul> <i>Comments:</i> |    |   |   |   |    |
| <b>Recommendation</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I recommend this applicant for acceptance into the PTA program.</li> </ul> <i>Comments:</i>                                     |    |   |   |   |    |
| SA = Strongly Agree • A = Agree • U = Undecided • D = Disagree • SD = Strongly Disagree   |    |   |   |   |    |

Clinician's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the completed form to: Talwinder Samra, Director of Admissions, Institute of Technology, 5601 Stoddard Rd, Modesto, CA 95356 **OR** email to [tsamra@iot.edu](mailto:tsamra@iot.edu) **OR** send signed observation hours form with student for return to institution.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT!**

## **Application Essay**

The following essay is to be completed before your interview with the PTA faculty. Please bring it with you to your interview with the PTA faculty or give it to your admissions advisor to put in your file. This is a required component that is graded as part of the interview process in the areas of overall organization/formatting in traditional essay format, supporting evidence including citation of source(s) used, and error-free grammar/punctuation, to thoroughly answer each of the below questions.

### **Instructions:**

In a minimum of 500 typed words, please answer the following:

1. Why do you want to be a Physical Therapist Assistant?
2. Describe a situation or experience during your Physical Therapy Observation that represents “good” or “excellent” physical therapy; Provide evidence as to why.
3. Based on your knowledge of current evidence, what challenges or changes do you foresee for Physical Therapist Assistants in the future? Why?
4. As a prospective student, what is your plan to ensure you are ready to dedicate the time it takes to succeed in this accelerated PTA Program?

Cite at least 1 peer-reviewed reference in your response; provide reference list.

We look forward to reading your response! Good Luck.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT!**

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