Physical Therapist Assistant
Is this the career for you?
Thank You

• Thank you for your interest in the Southeast Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program. In order to be considered for admission, students must complete this professional awareness activity and fill out a survey that is linked at the end of this presentation by March 15th of the admission cycle.

• In addition to this activity, students must be accepted to the college and must fill out an on-line application for the PTA program which are all found on the SCC PTA program webpage

• Finally, students must complete an digital resume linked at the end of this presentation
Is physical therapist assistant the career for you?

- Please navigate the following presentation to learn about physical therapy and physical therapist assistants.
- At the end of the presentation you will be directed to click on a link to a survey inorder to answer a few questions. **This must be complete in order to provide documentation of completing the Professional Awareness Activity** for possible admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.
Is physical therapist assistant the career for you?

- At the end of the presentation prospective students will be able to answer the following questions about Physical Therapist Assistant (PTAs):
  - What do PTAs do?
  - Where can PTAs work?
  - What tools do PTAs use?
  - What skills should PTAs possess?
  - Are you a good candidate for the PTA program?
  - What is the job outlook for PTAs?
What is a Physical Therapist Assistant?

• The Physical Therapist Assistant is a technically educated health care provider who assists the Physical Therapist in the provision of physical therapy. The PTA is a graduate of a physical therapist assistant associate degree program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

• Physical therapist assistants assist the PT in treatment of individuals of all ages from newborns to people at the end of life. Many patients have injuries, disabilities, or other health conditions that need treatment.
What do Physical Therapist Assistants do?

- Physical Therapist Assistants:
  - Provide treatment
    - Therapeutic exercise for strength, flexibility, and balance
    - Functional training perhaps after a stroke, spinal cord injury, or traumatic brain injury
    - Gait training
    - Electrotherapeutic modalities
    - Mechanical modalities
    - Transfer training
    - Wound dressing
    - Airway clearance techniques
    - Manual therapy including soft tissue mobilization or massage

- Please click here to watch a short video
Where do physical therapist assistants work?

• According the American Physical Therapy Association, approximately 72% of PTAs work in hospitals or privately owned clinics.

• PTAs work in settings such as:
  • Rehabilitation facilities
  • Outpatient clinics
  • Acute care hospitals
  • Skilled nursing facilities
  • Long term care facilities
  • School systems
  • Home Health
Where do PTAs work?

**Rehabilitation Facilities**
- Functional Rehabilitation
  - Strengthening
  - Improving Range of Motion
  - Transfer Training
  - Wheelchair Training
- Gait Training
  - Assistive device training
- Bed Mobility
- Patient Education
- Post-Surgical Rehabilitation
- Wound Monitoring
- Prosthetic training

**Outpatient Clinics**
- Orthopedic Rehabilitation
- Functional Training
- Activity Modification
- Occupational (Work) Training
- Women’s Health
- Manual Therapy
- Modalities
  - Electrotherapeutic Modalities
  - Traction
  - Ultrasound
  - Heat/Cold Modalities
- Taping
Where do PTAs work?

**Acute Care Hospitals**
- Post surgical rehabilitation
- Traumatic rehabilitation
- Functional Training
- Mobility
  - Bed mobility
  - Transfer training
  - Gait training
    - Assistive device training
- Manage various medical equipment (lines and tubes)

**Skilled Nursing Facilities**
- Functional training
  - Strengthening
  - Range of Motion
- Mobility
  - Bed mobility
  - Transfer training
    - To chair, to bed, toilet
  - Gait training
    - Assistive device training
- Balance training
- Activities of daily living
- Edema control
- Prosthetic training
Where do PTAs work?

**Long Term Care Facilities**
- Functional training
  - Strengthening
  - Range of Motion
- Mobility
  - Bed mobility
  - Transfer training
    - To chair, to bed, toilet
  - Gait training
    - Assistive device training
- Balance training
- Activities of daily living
- Edema control

**School Systems**
- Modifying the environment to maximize participation
  - Adaptive seating
  - Activity modification
- Staff and patient education
- Work on motor development and basic functioning skills
Where do PTAs work?

**Home Health**
- Post surgical rehabilitation
- Functional training
  - Activities of daily living
  - Gait training
  - Strengthening
  - Range of motion
  - Transfer training
- Activity modification

Home Health Physical Therapy
School Based

Long Term Care
What tools do PTAs use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise bands</th>
<th>Assistive devices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hand weights</td>
<td>Cardio exercise equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical stimulation</td>
<td>Mechanical traction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermotherapy</td>
<td>Soft tissue mobilization instruments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cryotherapy</td>
<td>Orthotics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goniometer</td>
<td>Assistive devices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stethoscope</td>
<td>Blood pressure cuffs</td>
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<td>Pulse oximetry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laser or Light therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ultrasound</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What skills are necessary to be a PTA?

- Communication
- Compassion
- Detail oriented
- Multitasking
- Physical stamina
- Professionalism
PTA Skill: Communication

- Communicating within the healthcare team
  - Supervising Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Nursing, Physician
- Communication with Patient, Families, and caregivers
- Utilizing and understanding medical and scientific terminology and information
- Able to produce defensible patient documentation in a medical record
PTA Skill: Compassion

- Motivating patients
  - Overcoming patients’ resistance to therapies
- Empathy
  - Relating to patients in pain, with traumatic experiences or disabilities, and different life experiences
- Emotional intelligence
  - Being able to understand and manage your own and others’ emotions
- The ability to calm distressed patients
- Positive outlook
PTA Skill: Detail Oriented

- Assessing patient progress including progress toward goals, patients pain, and patient reaction to therapy
- The ability to monitor changes in patient vital signs
- The ability to recognize when interventions are outside the scope of practice of a PTA or when consultation with the supervising physical therapist is needed
- Following all infection control policies and procedures
PTA Skill: Multitasking

- Applying diagnostic muscle, nerve, joint, and functional abilities tests
- Data collection including strength, range of motion, and all data related to functional outcomes
- Maintaining equipment
- Time management skills
- Organization
- Treating or interacting with multiple patients or multiple members of the healthcare team
- Working with minimal supervision
- Be flexible and adaptive to change
PTA Skill: Physical Stamina

- The ability to perform prolonged manual therapy including passive range of motion, stretching, and manual traction
- Applying manual resistance during therapeutic exercise
- Ability to perform testing for multiple muscle groups
- The ability to perform assisted transfers and bed mobility
- The ability to perform prolonged soft tissue mobilization
- Demonstrating multiple exercises for the patients
- The ability to be on feet for extended periods of time
PTA Skill: Professionalism

- The ability to perform in a safe and ethical manner
- The ability to perform in a responsible manner
- The ability to interact with other healthcare professionals
- The ability to interact with patients in a respectful manner
- The ability to maintain patient confidentiality
PTA Job Outlook

- According to the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics
  - Median pay national $23.55 per hour
  - Expected 29% job growth in the next 10 years which is much faster than average

- Please Watch Video Here

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Skills You will Learn

- In 2008, the American Physical Therapy Association created a document outlining the Minimum Skills of Physical Therapist Assistant Graduates at Entry Level

- Click here to explore the APTA document
Are you a good candidate to be a PTA?

• Do you like science? PTAs must have a solid understanding of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and kinesiology
• Do you like to interact with people? Clinicians in physical therapy spend a large amount of time interacting with their patients
• Are you empathetic? PTAs must be patient centered and understand the hope, fears, and goals of each individual patient
• Are you disciplined and motivated? PTA schooling is difficult. There is a lot to know when it comes to treating patients in a skillful manner
What you need to know

- Program Options: Face to Face Only
- Class Times: Routinely Monday-Friday 9am-4pm but class obligations may fall outside of typical class times
- Program Start Term: Fall (August) every year.
- There will be a summer term
- Courses must be taken in order
- Clinical Affiliations: Student will complete 3 clinicals during their time in the program and travel may be required. Clinicals are full time and may include weekends or holidays
What is next?

- Complete Placement Testing: Submit test scores showing eligibility to take College Algebra. For details related to placement testing: [https://www.southeast.edu/nextgenerationaccuplacer/](https://www.southeast.edu/nextgenerationaccuplacer/) . To schedule placement testing refer to: [https://www.southeast.edu/testingcenter/](https://www.southeast.edu/testingcenter/)

- Complete Program General Education Requirements: Students must receive a grade point average of 2.75 for the sciences (Anatomy and Physiology) and 2.5 general education courses for admission into the program. Submit official transcripts showing college coursework completed at a college/university other than SCC, to SCC Admissions Office 8800 O Street Lincoln, NE 68520.
What is next?

- Complete Program Professional Awareness Activity
- Complete Digital Resume: Using the following link, provide your experiences requested. Paper resumes are not accepted. Digital Resume: [https://tinyurl.com/SCC-Digital-Resume](https://tinyurl.com/SCC-Digital-Resume)
- Complete Program Application: Online application link will be available during the application period. Fall: February 1 to March 15. Notification of acceptance will be on or after April 15. To apply: [https://www.southeast.edu/applynow/](https://www.southeast.edu/applynow/)
- *Please read the application carefully and make sure to apply for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program (Not the AS of Health Sciences Pre-PTA)*
Professional Awareness Survey

- Thank you for participating in the SCC PTA professional awareness activity. Please take your time and fill out this survey in order to complete this activity and to be considered for admission to the program.
QUESTIONS?

For questions on this document or the admission process, please contact one of the following:
Bridget Clark, PT bclark@southeast.edu 402-437-2771
Ian Thompson, PTA ithompson@southeast.edu 402-437-2430