



[AAS-PTA; CIP Code 51.0806]

Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) – Career

The Physical Therapist Assistant program prepares the physical therapist assistant (PTA) to provide physical therapy interventions and components of therapeutic measurement under the direction and supervision of a *licensed physical therapist*.

Program Information

- Upon graduation from the PTA program, students will be eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination for Physical Therapist Assistants to determine competence for licensure application and thus will be able to work in a variety of patient settings. Students receive acceptance into the program once, yearly, for the Spring semester. Petitions for entry into the program will be made available to students during the preceding Spring/Summer semester.
- PTA technical coursework begins during the Spring semester and concludes with two six-week, full-time clinical affiliations in the subsequent Spring semester, just prior to graduating in May. Students should contact their advisor to clarify four-year degree transfer requirements and refer to the College catalog for course pre-requisites. HPE 106 is a PTA required course available to program participants only.

Program Contact

Brooke Malloy, M.A., Counseling Advisor,
 Selective Admission Programs
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Physical Therapist Assistant, A.A.S.

FIRST YEAR –Summer Semester

<input type="checkbox"/> ENG 101 English Composition I	3
<input type="checkbox"/> MAT 115 College Geometry	3
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Fall Semester

<input type="checkbox"/> ENG 102 English Composition II	3
<input type="checkbox"/> PSY 101 General Psychology	3

Fall 1 - 7 weeks

<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 105 Anatomy and Physiology I*	4
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Fall 2 - 7 weeks

<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 106 Anatomy and Physiology II	4
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Spring Semester

<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 101 Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting	1
<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 102 Kinesiology and Measurement	6
<input type="checkbox"/> HPE 106 Health and Wellness Promotion in PT**	1
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Summer Semester

<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 105 Pathophysiology for the PTA	2
<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 107 Essential Skills I: Patient Care	4
<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 210 Orthopedics for the PTA	1
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SECOND YEAR – Fall Semester

<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 207 Essential Skills II: Biophysical Agents	4
<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 208 Neurological d/o Across the Lifespan	4
<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 209 Clinical Experience I	2
<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 216 Cardiovascular and Pulmonary PT	2
	<hr/> 12

Spring Semester

<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 229 Clinical Experience II	6
<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 239 Clinical Experience III	6
<input type="checkbox"/> PTA 240 Seminar in PTA Professionalism	1
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TOTAL MINIMUM CREDITS: 60

Program Notes

*Refer to the course description section of this catalog for prerequisite and co-requisite course requirements.

** HPE 106 is only offered to students who are accepted into the PTA program.

Program Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant program, a graduate will:

1. Qualify to take the National Physical Therapy Examination for Physical Therapist Assistants
2. Demonstrate behavior consistent with the PTA's established core values of accountability, altruism, compassion and caring, cultural competence, duty, integrity and social responsibility
3. Work within the scope of practice as defined by the physical therapy licensing act and all pertaining laws and regulations of the state of practice
4. Use sound judgment for evidence-informed decision making through critical thinking and problem solving
5. Identify career development and lifelong learning opportunities

Physical Therapist Assistant continued

In addition, as an entry-level physical therapist assistant, under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist, and within the patient's established plan of care, a RCSJ graduate will be able to:

6. Exhibit professional behaviors in the role as a responsible physical therapist assistant by providing safe, ethical and legal care
7. Demonstrate entry-level competency in all required intervention skills of a PTA including:
 - a. Performance of manual techniques and application of biophysical agents
 - b. Provision of transfer, gait, activities of daily living and functional training
 - c. Instruction of therapeutic exercise and of patient and care giver education, and
 - d. Progression of therapy interventions to achieve long term and short term goals
8. Communicate with patients/clients, caregivers and members of the health care team about the plan of care required in the rehabilitation process
9. Identify characteristics of pathology, patient diseases and conditions and pharmacology that will affect patient's therapy outcomes
10. Complete and report patient data collection which communicates the need and rationale for continued physical therapy intervention
11. Document a patient's progress in the health record to comply with facility and payer regulations consistent with the health care delivery system
12. Act in accordance with all emergency procedures related to the setting of practice

Special Program Admission Requirements

Physical Therapist Assistant is a selective admission program. Students must be accepted into the program prior to registering for HPE 106 or any PTA courses. Please contact the Enrollment Services office for an admission packet.

Clinical agencies require criminal history background checks (CHBC) and urine drug screening (UDS) for all individuals engaged in patient care. All students must undergo a CHBC and UDS upon acceptance into the PTA Program. CHBC and UDS results may be sent to the clinical agencies, who have the sole discretion to decide if the student may engage in patient care at the agency. If a student is denied the opportunity to participate in the clinical agency as a result of the findings of the CHBC and UDS, the student will be dismissed from the PTA Program.

A minimum grade of "C+" is required in all BIO courses, and a minimum grade of "C" is required in all other courses. A minimum grade of 76% is required in all PTA designated courses, and in order to progress through the PTA program, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher.

*Refer to the course description section of this catalog for prerequisite and co-requisite course requirements.

** HPE 106 is only offered to students who are accepted into the PTA program

Admission Requirements

Prospective applicants will be required to include with the admission packet documentation of observation in a physical therapy clinic or department. A minimum of 25 hours must be completed in no less than two different settings (outpatient and inpatient or hospital.) Documentation must contain the date of observation, the start and stop times, the supervising clinician's signature and the clinician's legibly written name and license number.

Applicants must also pass the HESI exam with the minimum required scores.

The most up-to-date application information is on the College's website at RCSJ.edu/gc/SelectiveAdmissions.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Rowan College of South Jersey is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085, phone: 703-706-3245, email: accreditation@apta.org, website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

Program Goals

1. Program graduates will be entry-level prepared physical therapist assistants who are able to work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist in a professional manner.
2. Program graduates will value life-long learning and commitment through continued education and professional development.
3. The program will prepare graduates to deliver safe, ethical, and effective physical therapy services to the diverse surrounding community.
4. Program faculty will provide instruction based on current evidence-based practice within an innovative and supportive learning environment.

✦ Are you ready to get started at RCSJ? ✦
Visit RCSJ.edu/Enroll and complete the interest form. ✦