

**MCC-Penn Valley-HSI  
Physical Therapist Assistant  
Prospective Student Information**

# **Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley-HSI PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

## **Physical Therapist Assistant as a Career**

**Source: U.S. Department of Labor**

**<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos167.htm>**

- Median annual earnings of physical therapist assistants were \$46,140 in 2008. The middle 50 percent earned between \$37,140 and \$54,900. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$28,580 and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$68,300.
- Physical therapist assistants perform components of physical therapy procedures and related tasks selected by a supervising physical therapist. These workers assist physical therapists in providing services that help improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients suffering from injuries or disease. Patients include accident victims and individuals with disabling conditions such as low-back pain, arthritis, heart disease, fractures, head injuries, and cerebral palsy.
- Physical therapist assistants need a moderate degree of strength because of the physical exertion required in assisting patients with their treatment. In some cases, assistants and aides need to lift patients. Constant kneeling, stooping and standing for long periods also are part of the job.
- Employment in the occupation is projected to increase much faster than the average, through the year of 2014.
- Approximately 71% of jobs are in hospitals or offices of physical therapists.

Other information about Physical Therapy can be found at the American Physical Therapy Association's web site at <http://www.apta.org>

## **Physical Therapist Assistant Program Information**

- Established in 1973.
- Located at MCC-Penn Valley's Health Science Institute, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
- The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, (CAPTE).
- The program is affiliated with Johnson County Community College, allowing residents of Johnson County to take physical therapy courses at MCC-Penn Valley, while paying tuition at JCCC tuition rate. Further information can be received by calling JCCC's Counseling Department.
- The program is two years in length, with a total of 72 credit hours, awarding an Associate in Applied Science Degree.
- The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is located in a state of the art facility, the Health Sciences Institute, which opened in January 2010. The Health Sciences Institute is close to MCC-Penn Valley at 3444 Broadway.
- Coursework includes lecture and laboratory classes. During laboratory classes, students are expected to perform physical therapy procedures on each other in a safe manner.
- Offers 720 hours of clinical experience at four different clinical sites. Students may be required to drive within a radius of 50 miles to travel to the clinical rotations. The Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education will determine the clinical sites for the student considering clinical availability, student needs, and the variety of clinical experiences. Students should understand that while working in a health care setting, they may be exposed to blood and body fluids, however, the risk should be minimal if standard precautions are observed.

- Sixty five to seventy five percent of entering students typically graduate at the end of the two year program, consistent with national statistics.
- Graduates are eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination, which is required to practice in most states.
- 100 % of the Class of 2010 passed the licensure examination and were employed in a physical therapy related field within approximately 6 months of graduation.

### **PTA On-line Program**

1. The application process is the same as the land based program, however, applications will be due October 1<sup>st</sup> with students entering the program the following January. Approximately 14-16 students will be admitted. Students will be given a formal orientation to the program in the fall that includes orientation to on-line learning.
2. Lecture classes will be taken on-line. Approximately 1/3 of the 72 credit hours needed for the degree will be administered through distance education.
3. Written examinations will be administered at the college.
4. Laboratory experiences will be the same as the land based program and will be scheduled each Friday at the Health Science Institute.
5. Clinical experiences will be the same as the land based program.
6. Program policies are the same as the land based program.

The on-line program would be ideal for the student that would normally need to travel a significant distance for classes, has time constraints, or has a background in health. The student should be adept in the use of computers, have a reliable computer, and be disciplined in study habits. The student should expect to spend the same amount of time on-line as they would in class as well as spending time studying the material as they would if they were enrolled in a class. Allied health programs involve a great deal of time for study and therefore, the student should be prepared to commit enough time for successful completion of the program.

### **Program Requirements for Students:**

#### **Academic Requirements**

- Allow time for study to be successful in a challenging program.
- Receive a grade of “C” or better in all coursework. Students not receiving a minimum grade of “C” in any program or biology course once admitted to the program will not be allowed to continue in the program. **In order to achieve a “C” in physical therapy courses, a student must achieve a minimum score of 75% in both laboratory and lecture portions of the class in order to pass the course. If a student receives a “D” or below in a physical therapy course or biology course once in the program, the student must reapply to the program, enrolling in all previous physical therapy coursework. In addition, students will be required to maintain a 2.0 grade point average while in the program. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program.**
- Students will perform practical examinations that will be graded according to a performance checklist and students must meet minimum standards in order to proceed to clinical rotations.
- Students will be expected to participate in field trips to area facilities several times/semester in order to supplement classroom instruction. Students will be expected to participate in clinical rotations which are scheduled 40 hours/week. Students may be scheduled at a clinical rotation site within 50 miles radius. Transportation to and from the site is the responsibility of the student. Access to and responsibility for the cost of emergency services in off campus educational experiences is the responsibility of the student.
- The program has attendance policies that result in point deductions for absences. Attendance in class is required and continued absences may result in dismissal from the program.

- Students will be responsible for completing a student portfolio.
- For more detailed information about program policies, consult the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Handbook on-line at [http://www.mcckc.edu/main.asp?P=DP\\_PTHA](http://www.mcckc.edu/main.asp?P=DP_PTHA)

### **Requirements to Advance to Clinical Component of the Program**

- Successful completion of prior coursework in the program with a minimum grade of “C” in both the lecture and laboratory portions of the course and completion of related portfolio components. Overall grade point average no lower than 2.0.
- Successful completion of pre-clinical written and practical examinations.
- Complete physical examination (prior to clinicals).
- Verification of vaccinations or acquired immunity to specific disorders
- Annual TB test required. (information will be provided once in program)
- Carry health insurance or sign a waiver.
- Obtain Hepatitis B vaccination or sign a waiver. (information provided once in program)
- Purchase liability insurance through the college for clinical rotations.
- Students may be required to complete a drug screen for a clinical rotation and may be dismissed from the clinical site as a result of a positive drug screen.
- Criminal Background Check (CBC): Clinical sites require that only students with an acceptable consumer report, as it relates to criminal background, be allowed to participate in clinical rotations. Therefore, prior to commencing the clinical portion of your program, MCC will have a security agency conduct a criminal background check. You are responsible for completing the required application information with the credit reporting agency and paying the cost. Criminal background checks will be conducted prior to beginning clinical rotations.

MCC shall not use the results of a background check as criteria for admission to any program or course. However, you should know that you will not be able to obtain a license to practice or be allowed to participate in clinicals should you have an unacceptable background as defined by state law regarding health care providers. An unacceptable background includes a felony and/or class "A" misdemeanor conviction. See documents: *Listing of Criminal Offenses and Summary of Rights* located in this packet.

### **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:**

- PTA coursework will not transfer to a Doctorate level program for a physical therapist, however, some general education courses may transfer. There are currently only a few bridge programs in the United States.
- Many students are employed while in the program, however, it may be difficult to work more than 24 hours per week.
- Science courses must have been completed within the past five (5) years.

### **Complaints/Suggestions**

If you would like to lodge a complaint or make a suggestion about the program other than that related to instruction, please direct those comments to Sandy.McIlnay at [Sandy.McIlnay@mcckc.edu](mailto:Sandy.McIlnay@mcckc.edu) or Randy Leighton at [Randy.Leighton@mcckc.edu](mailto:Randy.Leighton@mcckc.edu)

# Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley-HSI

## Physical Therapist Assistant Program - Curriculum Checklist

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student ID#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please consult the Program Coordinator, Gwen Robertson, for any changes in curriculum sequencing.**

			Hours	Grade	Hours Earned	Grade Points
<b>PROGRAM PREREQUISITES</b>						
ENGL	101	*Composition & Reading I (JCCC: ENGL 121, 3 Cr)	3			
BIOL	100	Intro to Cell Biology (OR: CHEM 105, 5 Cr) (JCCC: CHEM 122, 5 Cr)	3			
BIOL	150	Medical Terminology (JCCC: LC 130, 3 Cr)	2			
PTHA	151	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>10</b>			
<b>First Semester</b>						
BIOL	109	<sup>1</sup> Anatomy & Physiology	6			
PSYC	140	*General Psychology (JCCC: PHYC 130, 3 Cr)	3			
SPDR	100	*Fundamentals of Speech (JCCC: SPDR 121, 3 Cr)	3			
PTHA	152	Physical Therapy Fundamentals I	4			
PTHA	160	Medical Diseases	2			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>18</b>			
<b>Second Semester</b>						
		*American Institutions (HIST 120, 121 or POLS 135, 136, 137)	3			
EMS	100	<sup>2</sup> Basic Emergency Patient Care	1			
PTHA	153	Kinesiology	4			
PTHA	154	Applied Neurology	2			
PTHA	159	Orthopedic Pathology	2			
PTHA	161	Physical Therapy Fundamentals II	4			
PTHA	162	Clinical Experience I (2 weeks full-time)	2			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>18</b>			
<b>Third Semester</b>						
PTHA	155	Rehabilitation	4			
PHA	158	Therapeutic Exercise	4			
PTHA	164	Pediatrics & Gerontology	2			
PTHA	171	Clinical Seminar	2			
PTHA	170	Clinical Experience II (2 weeks full-time)	2			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>14</b>			
<b>Fourth Semester</b>						
PTHA	172	Clinical Experience III (14 weeks full-time)	12			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>12</b>			
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM CREDIT HOURS</b>			<b>72</b>			

\*General education courses can be sequenced in any manner, however, should be completed prior to the second fall semester.

<sup>1</sup>For MCC-PV, BIOL 109 Anatomy & Physiology requirement, two JCCC options are available:

Option 1 - BIOL 144 Human Anatomy & Physiology ( 5 cr) AND BIOL 145 Human Anatomy/Physiology Dissection (1 cr). (NOTE: BIOL 144 must be taken before BIOL 145.)

Option 2 - BIOL 140 Human Anatomy (4 cr) AND BIOL 225 Human Physiology (4 cr). (NOTE: CHEM 122 and BIOL 140 must be taken before BIOL 225.)

<sup>2</sup>CPR Certification **will not** exempt you from class – **MUST** be taken when scheduled.

**ADDENDUM TO CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley-HSI**

1. History or the American Institutions requirement must be completed at an accredited Missouri college. This is true for all students, including those attending through JCCC. Students who have completed History at an institution outside the State of Missouri may enroll in a 1-credit hour course (POLS 153)
2. Chemistry 105 may be substituted for BIOL 100 (Cell Biology). Students should seek approval prior to enrolling in any other chemistry course since they are unlikely to match course descriptions. Those students enrolling through JCCC should take JCCC's Chemistry 122 instead of Introduction to Cell Biology.
3. Students may elect to complete the required coursework for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program in three years rather than two. This can be accomplished by completing all non-PTHA coursework prior to entering the program. Once admitted, all PTHA coursework must be taken in sequence, in the semester that it is offered. It is strongly suggested that those with other significant responsibilities such as working or family commitments consider this three-year time framework.

Non-PTHA coursework includes:

BIOL 100 - Introduction to Cell Biology or Chemistry 105 (PVCC)  
BIOL 109 - Anatomy & Physiology  
BIOL 150 - Medical Terminology  
PSYC 140 - General Psychology  
ENGL 101 - Composition and Reading  
SPDR 100 - Speech  
HIST 120 or 121, or POLS 135, 136, 137

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE-PENN VALLEY-HSI  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENTS**

**Student Responsibilities:**

Applicants to this program should be aware of the technical standards required for completion of this program. These performance standards are provided to prospective students to assist them in determining whether they will be able to successfully complete the program. It is the policy of MCC-Penn Valley-HSI to provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you need an accommodation due to a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the Access Resource Coordinator at <http://www.mcckc.edu/main.asp?P=SADAOverview> Two to six weeks advance notice is required for some accommodations.

Upon completion of the Associate Degree in Applied Science in Physical Therapy, the graduate will have met the following standards:

1. Completion of an academically rigorous program, requiring a minimum grade of 75% in both laboratory and lecture components of each course.
2. Achieved competency of 80% or above in lab competency checks and practical examinations without critical safety errors.

<b>ABILITY</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>SOME EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES</b>
Mobility and Dexterity	Physical ability and fine motor skills to provide safe and effective patient treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assist clients in activities of daily living including bed mobility, transferring from one surface to another and walking with and without assistive devices on levels or stairs using minimum, moderate and maximum assistance. Transport clients in wheelchairs</li> <li>● Physically assist clients in exercise programs.</li> <li>● Apply modalities, therapeutic exercise equipment, prosthetics and braces.</li> <li>● Perform manual techniques such as manual resistance, passive range of motion, massage, CPR, debride and bandage wounds.</li> <li>● Use instruments such as goniometers, strength gauges.</li> <li>● Complete clinical rotations for 8 hours/day, 40 hours/week.</li> </ul>
Sensory Ability	Sensory ability sufficient to monitor client status and use equipment in order to administer safe and effective patient treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Detect and respond to monitoring alarms, client's and other health professionals communications.</li> <li>● Read dials and monitor equipment, interpret facial expressions, assess the environment, and observe changes in patient status that require attention.</li> <li>● Detect patient physical structure and function abnormalities.</li> </ul>
Critical Thinking	Cognitive ability to demonstrate effective problem solving skills and clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prioritize tasks and make appropriate decisions related to situations</li> <li>● Identify cause-effect relationship to apply safe and effective intervention strategies within the physical therapy plan of care</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply information in classroom to clinical setting, adapting the treatment as needed</li> <li>● Effectively manage time</li> </ul>
Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities to interact with clients, families, groups, team members from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish rapport and maintain professional relationships with clients/families and colleagues that optimizes treatment effectiveness</li> </ul>
Communication	Communication abilities for interaction with others orally and in writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Comprehend instructions and written documentation</li> <li>● Instruct client/family</li> <li>● Document progress notes</li> <li>● Communication with supervising physical therapist and others</li> </ul>
Professional Behavior	Behavior consistent with the standards and core values of the physical therapy profession.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regular attendance and timeliness</li> <li>● Ability to self-assess and implement self-improvement strategies</li> <li>● Attendance at one continuing education meeting</li> <li>● Completion of one activity to increase public awareness of physical therapy and/or health</li> <li>● Participation in one community service activity.</li> </ul>

Candidates for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program are required to certify that these standards have been provided to them.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Metropolitan Community College is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, marital or parental status, national origin, race, religion, or gender in admissions, educational programs or activities, and employment, as specified by federal laws Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state laws and regulations.

**Drug-Free Workplace, Campus and Community  
Drug Screen Policy**

MCC – Penn Valley is committed to maintaining high standards in all programs including allied health and nursing education and practice. Safe practice includes efficient, reliable, and unimpaired student performance at all times including in the classroom and in a clinical setting. Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol poses serious safety and health risks not only to the user but also to all persons who come in contact with the user. Students are required to perform all education related activities in appropriate mental and physical condition

MCC-PV has adopted the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. The policy is one of zero tolerance. Together with the college’s Drug-Free policy, the Code of Student Conduct imposes prohibited conduct and possible disciplinary action. If in violation of these policies, students subject themselves to disciplinary actions up to and including suspension or expulsion from the college and its programs.

Clinical facilities are committed to providing a safe environment in order to protect its patients, residents, employees and visitors; to provide the highest level of service; and to minimize the potential for accidents and injuries. Therefore, many of the clinical contracts between MCC – PV and hospitals, clinics, and other facilities have a component requiring drug screening for allied health and/or nursing students. The clinical site might require that an MCC – PV allied health and/or nursing student complete and pass a drug screen prior to being admitted into the facility as a student. Additionally, some clinical facilities require random drug testing during the duration of a clinical rotation. Refusal to submit to a drug screen or testing positive can make a student ineligible to participate in clinical training.

The cost for a drug screen may be covered by the clinical facility. If not, the student is responsible for the cost.

I understand the policy as outlined above and agree to abide by this policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student’s Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM STEPS TO ENTRANCE**

1. Apply to the college on-line by filling out an application at <http://www.mccck.edu> and click on Get Started and follow those steps.
2. Have formal transcripts sent to the Student Data Center, 3200 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri, 64111. Your transcript will be evaluated by the Student Data Center. The college will mail you a student ID number that will allow you to access your transcript information and determine what classes have transferred from other schools.
3. Enroll as directed on the web site.
4. Complete 10 credit hours of coursework toward the degree that must include:
  - A. One of the following general education requirements:
    1. ENGL 101 Composition & Reading (3 credits) (JCCC: ENGL 121, 3 credits), PSYC 140 (3 credits) (JCCC: PHYC 130, 3 credits), SPDR 100 Fundamentals of Speech (3 credits) (JCCC: SPDR 121, 3 credits), or American Institutions (HIST 120, 121 or POLS 135, 136, 137 (3 credits)
  - B. Each of the following:
    1. BIOL 100 Introduction to Cell Biology or Chemistry 105 (5 credits) (JCCC: CHEM 122, 5 credits)
    2. BIOL 150 Medical Terminology (2 credits) (JCCC: LC 130, 3 credits)
    3. PTHA 151 Introduction to Physical Therapy (2 credits)
4. Any changes in prerequisites as outlined in #3 should be approved by **the Program Coordinator, Randy Leighton, at (816) 604-4808.**
5. Download the program application from MCC's web site, found under Physical Therapist Assistant. Fill out the application exactly as directed. The preliminary deadline for applications is June 10<sup>th</sup>. Applications for the on-line program are due October 1.
6. As part of the application process, you will be required to complete 2 separate 4 hour observations in two different physical therapy settings, an in-patient facility(hospital, nursing home, in-patient rehab facility) and the second in a facility of your choosing. Instructions are provided in the application packet.
7. Applications will be reviewed and applicants will be notified of formal acceptance into the program 2-3 weeks following the application deadline. To qualify for acceptance into the program, applicants must have completed 10 credit hours of specified prerequisites with a grade point average of 2.5 or above and minimum grade of "C" in all PTHA and biological courses completed for the degree. If the number of qualified individuals applying exceeds slots in the program, the best qualified applicants will be selected based on:
  - a. Academic performance ( including, but not limited to: GPA in courses for degree, Intro to PT and biology grades, degrees, demonstrated ability to handle full course load, history of repeated coursework)
  - b. Volunteer or work experience in health care
  - c. Written communication
  - d. Reference questionnaires
  - e. Interview

In 2011, approximately 50% of qualified applicants were admitted to the program. The goal class size is approximately 20 students for the traditional land based program and 14-16 for the web based program.. Of applicants offered a position in the class during 2011, the majority of students had a GPA of 3.5 or better (in courses required for the degree), more than ½ had a Bachelor's degree..
8. Students will be invited to an orientation session soon after admittance for enrollment.

*This college does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in its programs and activities-MCC-PV provides a range of services to allow persons with disabilities to participate in educational programs and activities. If you desire support services for the application process or course work, contact the Access Counselor at (816) 604-4089 to request assistance, or call TDD at (816) 604-4383.*

**PROJECTED PROGRAM COSTS  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

**TUITION**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Cost/Credit Hour</b>
In-District Resident	\$ 87.00
Out of District MO Resident	\$156.00
Out of State Resident	\$210.00

NOTE: Estimated cost to attend Physical Therapist Assistant Program at MCC-PV. Costs reflect the tuition rate effective June 2011 and are subject to change; obtain current rates from Cashier's Office.. The Allied Health fee is assessed for each PTHA course in the amount of \$20/credit hour.

**OTHER EXPENSES**

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>+\$500.00</b>
	<b>Annual TB Tests</b>	<b>50.00</b>
	<b>Criminal Background Check</b>	<b>46.50</b>
	<b>Lab Coat/Scrubs</b>	<b>+30.00</b>
	<b>Allied Health Fee</b>	<b>120.00</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>+\$320.00</b>
	<b>Allied Health Fee</b>	<b>280.00</b>
	<b>Liability Insurance</b>	<b>35.00</b>
<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>+\$175.00</b>
	<b>Annual TB Tests</b>	<b>50.00</b>
	<b>Criminal Background Check</b>	<b>46.50</b>
	<b>Liability Insurance</b>	<b>35.00</b>
	<b>Allied Health Fee</b>	<b>280.00</b>
	<b>APTA Membership</b>	<b>90.00</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Allied Health Fee</b>	<b>240.00</b>
	<b>Liability Insurance</b>	<b>**35.00</b>

+Approximate

\*\*Liability insurance charges are included with other fees and paid with tuition.

**In addition, a physical examination must be performed prior to clinical rotations. A standard physical form will be provided to students at that time.**

**FINANCIAL AID**

Questions concerning scholarships or any other form of financial aid should be directed to the Financial Aid office, MCC-PV, (816) 604-4067.