PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

OVERVIEW

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is a technically-educated, licensed health care provider who works under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist (PT). The PTA performs duties and carries out treatment plans as directed by the PT. Physical requirements for PTAs utilize various rehabilitative techniques to help patients whose abilities have been impaired by an accident, injury, illness, disease or other health-related conditions that limit movement and functional abilities. Clients include adult and pediatric patients with orthopedic and neurologic injuries and various medical conditions. Employment settings include acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient clinics, schools, nursing homes, home health, sports medicine clinics, and even academic institutions.

DEGREE EARNED

Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

3 Semesters (67 semester hours of which 29 semester hours of prerequisite course work are required for admission).

CREDENTIALS EARNED

Students who graduate in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program will be eligible to sit for the national licensure exam. Graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave, Suite 100, Alexandria, VA, 22305-3085; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

ACCREDITATION

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Southern Union State Community College 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;
website: http://www.capteonline.org.

If you need to contact the program/institution directly, please call Taylor Childs, PT, DPT Program Director at 334-756-4121 x 5254 or email tchilds@suscc.edu.

CURRICULUM

Prerequisites: Must be completed prior to application with a grade of C or higher.

PREREQUISITES

BIO 201	**Anatomy & Physiology I**	**4**
BIO 202	**Anatomy & Physiology II**	**4**
ENG 101	**English Composition I**	**3**
MTH 100	**Intermediate Algebra or higher**	**3**
SPH 107	**Fund. of Public Speaking or SPH 106**	**3**
PSY 200	**General Psychology**	**3**
PSY 210	**Growth and Development**	**3**
HPS 105	**Medical Terminology**	**3**
IDS 102	**Ethics (preferred) or a Humanities Elective**	**3**
		29

Optional SUSCC courses:
PTA 100 Introduction to Physical Therapy
PTA 120 Introduction to Kinesiology
HED 231 First Aid

SEMESTER I – SPRING

PTA 220	Functional Anatomy & Kinesiology	3
PTA 222	Functional Anatomy & Kinesiology Lab	2
PTA 250	Therapeutic Procedures I	4
PTA 202	Communication Skills	2
PTA 240	Physical Disabilities I	2
Total Semester Hours		13

SEMESTER II – SUMMER

PTA 241	Physical Disabilities II	2
PTA 251	Therapeutic Procedures II	4
PTA 230	Neuroscience	2
PTA 231	Rehab Techniques	2
PTA 232	Orthopedics for the PTA	2
PTA 260	Clinical Education I	1
Total Semester Hours		13

SEMESTER III – FALL

PTA 200	PT Issues & Trends	2
PTA 201	PTA Seminar	2
PTA 263	Clinical Affiliation I	3
PTA 268	Clinical Practicum	5
Total Semester Hours		12

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 67

(Hours include prerequisite courses)

APPLICATION DATES:

Valley Campus classes are admitted once per year (spring semester). Application window is January through September only. An email indicating acceptance or denial will be sent to your SUSCC email account after 6 weeks from the application deadline.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general admission requirements of the College, application to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program requires:

1. Minimum 20 hrs of PT Observation experience with signed documentation from licensed PT/PTA. See PTA observation form.
2. Completion of prerequisite academic core courses with a minimum grade of "C" or higher meeting a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
3. Minimum 2.0 gpa at Southern Union if previously enrolled. Transfer students must enter the College on clear status.
4. Official transcripts in Records Office from all postsecondary institutions attended and high school transcript.
5. Official score on ACT National or ACT Residual with a minimum composite score of 18. (No superscores. No time limit on when the test was taken.) Will accept a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution which will be equivalent to 18 points.
6. Submission of application for Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Meeting minimal requirements does not guarantee acceptance.

Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant program is competitive, and the number of students admitted is limited by the number of clinical facilities available. After meeting minimal requirements, applicants are rankordered for acceptance using a points system based on score on ACT/ACT Residual and quality points from selected college courses. Students may be eligible to earn additional points.

For more information, please refer to the College Catalog or Student Handbook or visit the website at www. suscc.edu.

Revised October 19, 2026

For more information about admission to the program contact:
Health Sciences Division (334)745-6437 ext. 5509/5519
healthsciences@suscc.edu

SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE