

SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

INSTITUTIONAL MISSION

Southern Union State Community College, an open admission, public two-year college and member of the Alabama Community College System, provides quality and relevant teaching and learning in academic, technical, and health science programs that are affordable, accessible, equitable, and responsive to the diverse needs of its students, community, business, industry, and government.

PROGRAMMATIC MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

In keeping with the stated purpose of Southern Union State Community College, the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program strives to produce physical therapist assistants who, under the direction and supervision of physical therapists, reflect the highest standards of practice and conduct within the profession of physical therapy.

To complete our programmatic mission, we must prepare students to practice safe, competent, patient-centered care in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing health care system. We seek to provide full and equal access to opportunities for educational success to meet the community needs.

We believe that physical therapy is a dynamic profession, blending science with the use of evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning and the art of caring and compassion to provide quality, patient-centered care.

We believe learning is an interactive process in which faculty and students share responsibility to meet program outcomes. We believe in using educational methods that are current and supportive of students in the teaching and learning environment. Learning is enhanced by the presentation of information from simple to complex.

PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES (PLO)

1. Provide safe, efficient, efficacious interventions within the plan of care established by the physical therapist.

- a. Review the plan of care established by the physical therapist prior to initiating an intervention.
- b. Administer safe interventions as directed in the therapist's plan of care.
- c. Provide proper instruction to the patient/client and others to promote the outcomes described in the plan of care.

- d. Correctly administer data collection instruments to quantify the response to the intervention as directed and supervised by the physical therapist.
- e. Progress the patient/client interventions as directed by the plan of care and clinical criteria for progression.
- f. Respond effectively to patient/client and environmental emergencies in the clinical setting.
- g. Complete correct documentation of the interventions and patient response within the therapists' plan of care.

2. Communicate using effective and culturally-competent verbal, nonverbal, written, and digital communication.

- a. Demonstrate active listening and communication.
- b. Consult with the physical therapist as to appropriate method of, and content of, communication with persons other than the therapist.
- c. Demonstrate correct use of terminology and communication method as required by the therapist's plan of care, payer standards, and goals of the communication.

3. Provide effective education to patients, caregivers and members of the healthcare team.

- a. Identify situations that require instruction and correctly determine if the assistant is the appropriate individual to provide the instruction.
- b. Implement, assess, and modify instructional strategies based on learner needs.

4. Demonstrate the ability to appropriately and efficiently utilize resources to provide high-value physical therapy services.

- a. Accurately describes various work environments and the resource needs characteristic of each.
- b. Manage time efficiently and effectively.
- c. Utilize support personnel effectively and consistent with applicable regulations and workplace practice.
- d. Operate within the organization's chain of command structure.
- e. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between documentation and reimbursement.

5. Recognize the importance of maintaining competence in applicable areas of physical therapy practice.

- a. Participate in learning and development activities to ensure continued clinical competence.
- b. Effectively incorporate self-evaluation and feedback from others to determine educational needs.
- c. Demonstrate understanding of the importance of clinical education in education, role modeling, and mentoring.

6. Demonstrate the ability to work within the guidelines and standards established by regulatory, professional, and organizational entities.

- a. Consistently practice according to standards established by regulatory, reimbursement, and work authorities.
- b. Demonstrate compliance with security, privacy, and information protection standards.
- c. Act in a manner consistent with the APTA Core Documents which apply to the physical therapist assistant.

7. Demonstrate behaviors consistent with the Core Values of the profession of physical therapy.

- a. Demonstrate accountability for his/her actions.
- b. Place patient/client needs above his or her own self-interest.
- c. Exhibit caring and empathy in dealing with all patient/clients, their care givers and families.
- d. Demonstrate conduct and values consistent with the duties of the physical therapist assistant.
- e. Demonstrate integrity in all interactions as directed in the APTA Core Documents. f. Demonstrate understanding of the role of physical therapy in societal well-being.
- g. Perform all interventions with a goal of providing excellent care and attention to the role of the physical therapist assistant within the plan of care developed by and supervised by the physical therapist.

FACULTY GOALS

The faculty will maintain a contemporary and comprehensive curriculum in accordance with CAPTE and Federation of State Boards for Physical Therapy guidelines, and SUSCC's mission.

1. Faculty will participate in continuing education each year.
2. Faculty will participate in APTA meetings each year.
3. Faculty will attend college professional development workshops each year.
4. The faculty will integrate current professional physical therapy research/topics into the academic curriculum.
5. The faculty will participate in college level service.
6. The faculty will participate in community service activities and promote student involvement.
7. The faculty will participate in outreach and leadership opportunities within and outside of the college.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

1. At least 85% of PTA graduates will pass the licensure exam on the first attempt.
2. The attrition rate of enrolled students in the PTA Program will be 30% or less per cohort.
3. At least 90% of licensed PTA graduates seeking employment will be employed in-field within one year of graduation.
4. At least 90% of PTA graduates will indicate satisfaction with the program within one year of graduation.
5. At least 80% of employers will rate the SUSCC PTA graduates as being adequately prepared for entry into practice.
6. The PTA Program will attain and maintain full CAPTE accreditation status at all times.

Graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Effective November 3, 2020, Southern Union State Community College has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 334-756-4151 Ext 5254 or email Jeff Leatherman, MS, PT, DPT, Program Director at jleatherman@suscc.edu.

Candidate for Accreditation is an accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status does not assure that the program will be granted Initial Accreditation.

Should the program fail to be awarded fully accredited status within the planned timeframe, students that have successfully met the PTA admissions requirements and/or completed PTA courses may be referred to other accredited, established PTA programs in the Alabama Community College System.