



The Physical Therapist Assistant program (PTA) reserves the right to make any revisions, deletions, or additions to the regulations or procedures which, in the opinion of the faculty and/or Indian River State College, serves in the best interest of the program and its students.

IRSC is an EA/EO educational institution.

# PREFACE

Indian River State College offers a Physical Therapist Assistant program leading to a two-year Associate in Science Degree. The program is designed to provide students with the basic physical therapy knowledge, procedures and related tasks to assist the supervising Physical Therapist in a variety of healthcare settings. This is a professional program and students are expected to conduct themselves ethnically and professionally as in the role of the physical therapist assistant demonstrating the “preferred relationship” with the physical therapist. (Refer to: APTA Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist, APTA Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant, APTA Guide for Professional conduct [APTA], The Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant [APTA], Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy [APTA], Florida Laws and Rules [FS-486 Physical Therapy Practice Act]).

Students accepted in the program are regarded as mature, responsible individuals seeking a formal education in the field of physical therapy to maintain a professional behavior and appearance during all classes, laboratories, scheduled field trips and/or any situation in which the student is identifiable as an Indian River State College Physical Therapist Assistant program student, whether on campus or in the community. Students are not considered employees of the program’s designated clinical education sites or facilities. This handbook has been prepared to inform the student of the regulations and

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**Appendix:**

The following items are found in the Health Science Division Student Handbook.  
(This list has been updated as of 3/2024.)

1. Health Science Division Purpose Statement
2. Health Science Statement of Ethics
3. Health Science Plagiarism Regulation
4. Email/Contact Information
5. Health Science Use of Electronic Regulation
6. Health Science Confidentiality Statement
7. Health Science Grading
8. Health Science Retention Regulation
9. Health Science Probation Regulation
10. Health Science Readmission and Dismissal Regulation
11. Health Science Complaint Guidelines
12. Health Science Liability, Accident and Insurance Regulation
13. Health Requirements
14. Health Science Post Exposure Protocol
15. Health Science Background Check Regulation
16. Health Science Substance Abuse Regulation
17. Health Science Dress Code/Professional Standards
18. Health Science Student Parking Regulation

# PROGRAM INFORMATION

## 1.01 PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

Successful completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Indian River State College leads to an Associate in Science Degree. Graduates are eligible for application to take the Florida Jurisprudence Examination and the national licensing examination given by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy <http://www.fsbpt.org>

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Indian River State College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) 3030 Potomac Avenue, Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085; phone 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: [www.capteonline.org](http://www.capteonline.org).

## 1.02 CAREER DESCRIPTION

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Indian River State College is a two-year program requiring 74 credit hours (76 weeks) including five 15-week semesters and one 7-week summer session. Graduates will receive an Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant degree. The Program curriculum includes courses in general education and basic science as well as technical physical therapy coursework. Students will be introduced to direct patient care through two, seven-week clinical education experiences during the second year of the program.

The physical therapist assistant (PTA) is an educated individual who works under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. Duties of the assistant include relieving pain and/or increasing function in clients/patients through the use of therapeutic application of heat, light, water, electricity, sound, massage, exercise, gait and functional activity. Physical therapist assistants practice in a variety of health care settings, including hospitals, ambulatory health clinics, home health, private practices, specialized clinics, schools and institutions of higher education, research centers, industries, wellness and fitness centers, health maintenance organizations, extended-care facilities and nursing homes.

## 1.03 ADMISSION CRITERIA

The PTA program admission procedure is outlined in the Physical Therapist Assistant Application Booklet found on the IRSC website at <https://irsc.edu/programs/physical-therapist-assistant.html>.

## 1.04 COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY TRANSFER POSSIBILITIES

Refer to the Physical Therapist Assistant Application Booklet located on the IRSC website at <https://irsc.edu/programs/physical-therapist-assistant.html> on page 11.

## 1.05 CURRICULUM

The general education courses that are components of the Associate in Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant may be taken concurrent with or prior to the required physical therapy courses. The courses synthesize with the program philosophy and purpose to reach the program goals. The required general education courses and course descriptions may be found in the current *Indian River State College Course Catalog*.

The technical physical therapy courses consist of lecture and lab to enhance the educational development of the student to achieve competency skills necessary for placement in the educational clinical site. The comprehensive courses along with course descriptions can be found in the current *Indian River State College Course Catalog*.

The PTA program is committed to the advancement of students to attain **critical thinking** and **problem-solving skills, self-discipline, creativity** and **ethical values** to make decisions in their personal and professional lives. The integrated curriculum plan of general education courses of humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, social and behavioral sciences and technical physical therapy courses enhance the social, cultural and intellectual development of the student to meet the needs of the health care delivery system.

**Communication – Utilize** proper verbal, non-verbal and written communication

**Critical thinking/problem solving – Select** appropriate patient/client interventions within the plan of care established by the Physical Therapist

**Problem solving** – Demonstrate clinical problem solving when determining patient status, change in status and need for modification of the established treatment plan.

**Work cooperatively – Exhibit** expected clinical behaviors in a professional and culturally competent and sensitive manner and that are consistent with established core professional values and established ethical and legal guidelines.

**Plan of Care/Intervention – Demonstrate** entry level competency s9 (tion )]]TJETQA -13.24612 79



# ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Academic standards are those measures by which, the faculty of the program, determine a student's quality of performance. They are composed of guidelines for advancement in the program as well as the regulations for grading, re-admission and dismissal.

## 2.01 REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRESSION

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is a cohort-based, meaning that students work through a curriculum together to achieve the same degree. Students must progress through the curriculum with their cohort. If a student is not able to take the required courses as scheduled, the student will be withdrawn from the program and will have to reapply for admission to the program with a future cohort.

Due to the sequential nature of the curriculum, students must successfully complete all courses for a given semester before becoming eligible to take courses in the subsequent semester. It is essential that students master the knowledge and skills of each Physical Therapist Assistant course (determined by a minimum grade of "C" or better.) In the event that the student obtains a grade lower than a "C" in any of the Physical Therapist Assistant courses, they will be required to withdraw from the program and will have to reapply for admission to the program with a future cohort.

## 2.02 GRADING SCALE

1. Students must achieve a minimum of "C" for the final grade in **ALL COURSES** (technical core curriculum and natural science courses) that are required for completion of the degree.

A grade of "D" or "F" may be given in any course; however, such a grade is not considered as having met the prerequisite standard for advancement to the next term of academic study nor will it permit continuation of enrollment in the program. (Refer to Student Readmission Regulation.)

If a student achieves **below a 76%** on any quiz or exam in a PHT course, the student **MUST** meet with the instructor to complete the Student Counseling Form.

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4. The student must meet minimal performance standards as detailed in the Clinical Performance Instrument in order to successfully pass the clinical educational component of the program. A student who receives one or more red flags on the **final** clinical performance instrument in Clinical Practice I and II, will be given an unsatisfactory grade and will be withdrawn from the program. (Refer to PTA Clinical Education Manual.)
5. Clinical Practice I and II are graded on a satisfactory or unsatisfactory basis - final determination of grade depends on satisfactory performance report and other assigned requirements (attendance at class conferences, journals, etc.) as outlined in the clinical syllabi.
6. The grading scale utilized by the program is:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100
B	85-92
C	76-84
D	70-75
F	69 and below

7. An incomplete grade (I) is given to a student, who although passing the majority of the given course, has not completed the full class requirements. At the time that grades are submitted, the student will be given a list of work not yet completed and an explanation of how completion of the requirements will contribute to the final grade.
8. If a student withdraws from or fails a PHT course or general education course during the first semester, he/she must reapply to the program. The student's application will be given the same consideration as all other applicants applying for the Physical Therapist Assistant program.
9. All clinical and classroom assignments are to be handed in on time.
10. Grades will be lowered per course syllabi for all late assignments unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor. No assignments will be accepted after one week past due date.
11. Individual course syllabi further detail specific academic standards relative to any given course.

### 2.03 OPEN LAB

Open Lab is an opportunity for students to practice skills learned during lecture/lab. **Students must be dressed in laboratory attire.** Students are encouraged to attend all open lab sessions to practice skills in a supervised setting that are offered at various times each week.

### 2.04 REVIEW OF TESTS/QUIZZES

Tests, quizzes and special project grades are available on Blackboard. Due to curriculum content, tests and quizzes are not reviewed during lecture time. Students are able to review test/quizzes and projects during OPEN LAB or students may request individual appointments with instructor for test question review.

All tests, quizzes, practicals, special projects and a copy of performance standards skills will be kept in a student file in the PTA Faculty Office and/or electronically in the Student File Cabinet. Student folders are available for review during OPEN LAB or a scheduled appointment with the faculty.

## **2.05 STUDENT PROBATION REGULATION**

**Refer to the Health Sciences Division handbook for Probation, Readmission, and Dismissal Regulations**

## **2.06 PTA STUDENT RE-ADMISSION REGULATION**

If a student falls below minimum academic standards and fails a PTA core course during the first semester, they must re apply as a new applicant of the next academic year. Their application will be given the same consideration as all the other applicants applying for the PTA program.

Upon receiving notice of readmission, the student will be required to demonstrate competency for previously completed courses as determined by successful completion of a comprehensive written exam (score of 76% or greater) and lab practical for skills documentation (score of 76% or greater).

It will be the student's responsibility to contact the Program Director within 10 days of receipt of readmission and make arrangements for a comprehensive exam and lab practical prior to the scheduled orientation for the following fall semester.

Students who have failed a course during the first semester will have only one opportunity to re-apply to the program.

Students who have UNSUCCESSFULLY repeated a course WILL NOT be re admitted to the PTA program.

Students may repeat one core PTA course for purposes of re entry. A course withdrawal with an average grade below 76% is considered a course failure if the student has completed 75% of the course.

A student may only register for the same core PTA course twice. A second course failure will require that the student be withdrawn from the PTA program. The student will not be eligible for reentry at the point of withdrawal.

### **CONDITIONS FOR READMISSION**

1. Students who withdraw from the program for one of the following reasons:
  - a. Pregnancy
  - b. Illness, injury or disability of the student or an immediate family member as verified by a physician's written statement.
  - c. Non academic reasons
  - d. The student received a "D" or lower in one technical course (PTA core curriculum) and/ or natural science course.
  - e. The student received a failing grade on a lab practical or final lab practical.
  - f. The student received an unsatisfactory grade in the clinical component of the Program.

- g. The student is unable to participate in the clinical educational component of the program due to health issues or failure to otherwise meet qualifications for participation.
2. The student has completed at least one full semester of enrollment in the program and maintained the required academic standards of the program.
3. The student was in good standing and has met all financial obligations to the program and IRSC at the time of withdrawal.
4. The conditions necessitating the student's withdrawal have been alleviated.

## **RE ADMISSION PROCESS**

The program reserves the right to require readmitted students to repeat one or more courses.

Students wishing to be re admitted to the program due to withdrawal, incomplete or failure must do so by the next application deadline.

A written request to be re admitted should be addressed to the PTA Program Director at least 6 weeks prior to the next PTA application deadline date.

The Program director evaluates the request and verifies that the student satisfies the conditions for re admission.

The Dean of Health Science and/or the Program Director informs the student of the decision. The decision to be re admitted will be made by the Program Director and Faculty. Students who have received a "D" or lower in a PTA course must withdraw from the PTA program. They may be re admitted subject to the following:

- a. Available space in the PTA program, as determined by the Program Director.
- b. If the re entry point in PTA program will allow for the normal sequence of courses to be followed.
- c. Student must successfully complete a comprehensive exam (score of 76% or greater) to verify retention of information covered in all previous courses during the designated time frame for the upcoming semester.
- d. Once the student has successfully completed the comprehensive exam, the student will be required to demonstrate competency in all lab proficiencies previously performed.

Faculty will determine competency based on satisfactory completion of all of the steps identified in the lab exercise competency evaluation. The student must demonstrate competency in all previously completed lab proficiencies prior to being permitted to enroll in any core PTA courses.

A student will have only one opportunity for re admission into the program.

# ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

The rigorous and complex nature of the lecture and laboratory portions of the curriculum demand that specific guidelines be set and adhered to regarding student attendance. The continuity of patient/client care requires that the student attend all lecture/laboratory sessions.

## 3.01 ATTENDANCE

1. All technical lecture/laboratory classes are **MANDATORY**.
2. The student should be seated and ready to begin class at the designated class time. Students will not be permitted to enter the class after it begins - admission will be permitted at the first break. Tardiness is considered unprofessional conduct.
3. If the student is late to class, the student should inform the instructor at the end of the class period indicating a reason for the tardiness. It is the responsibility of the student to be certain that all information, assignments, etc. be obtained.
4. If the student is absent on an exam day, the exam will be given on a day the student and instructor agree upon.
5. It is the responsibility of the student to reschedule all lab practicals/performance standards missed on absent days with an instructor.
6. Each tardy and/or unexcused absence will result in a 5-point deduction per incident from the student's final grade in a course.

## 3.02 PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The student is **REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL IRSC PTA** program activities/events (e.g., Health Career Day, Health Division Open House). The program Faculty will inform students of these upcoming events in the beginning of each semester.

## 3.03 ABSENCE FROM LECTURE OR LABORATORY CLASSES

The following is defined as an **EXCUSED ABSENCE**.

- "A student's serious illness" means a condition such as pneumonia, surgery, hospital confinement or valid medical reason. A physician's note verifying illness must be presented by the student should the faculty member request it.
  - "Death in the immediate family" will be interpreted to mean mother, father, spouse, child, brother, sister, grandparents or significant other. Documentation must be provided.
  - "Statutory governmental responsibilities" refer to such matters as jury duty or subpoenas for court appearances. Documentation must be provided.
1. If the student expects to be absent from a given class, the student must contact the instructor directly or by leaving a message for the instructor within an appropriate time prior to the scheduled class time. An Absent/Tardy Form must be completed. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.
  2. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain all lecture/laboratory materials and if necessary, schedule a time to meet with the instructor for specifics.



### **3.07 CLASSROOM/LAB SAFETY REGULATIONS**

Indian River State College is committed to providing a safe environment for its employees and students. The College publishes a *Safety Management Manual* on an annual basis. A copy of the manual is available from the Program Director and the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education. A copy of the *Safety Management Manual* is also kept in the PTA Lab. A first aid kit is located in the PTA lab storage closet.

Safety regulations regarding the use of all equipment are presented at the start of each semester. It is imperative that these standards be adhered to in order for a safe environment to be maintained in the classroom and in the lab area. In the event that a student notices any potential hazards, (e.g., exposed electrical wires on devices located in the classroom, lab or any other area), the student is to discontinue usage and notify the Program Director or any other faculty member immediately. In the absence of a faculty member, the student is to ask the Health Science Division Administrative Assistant (772) 462-7544 to notify the IRSC Maintenance Department.

Students are to practice only those techniques presented in lecture. Electrical calibration and testing of all equipment are performed on an annual basis prior to utilization in lab.

In the event of any fire, the student should activate the nearest emergency alarm located at the closest classroom or building exit. All students should leave the area immediately. Students are prohibited from working with any classroom or lab equipment until they are given an "all clear." If any injury occurs while the student is present in the PTA lab/classroom area, the student must inform the faculty immediately. Refer to the *IRSC Student Handbook/Planner*.

**Food and drinks are not permitted within the lecture/laboratory classrooms.**

Refer to Health Science Division Study Handbook and *IRSC Student Handbook/Planner* for regulation of electronics including cell phones.

### **3.08 SMOKING REGULATION**

Refer to *IRSC Student Handbook/Planner* for the smoking regulations and Board policy.

### **3.09 INFORMED CONSENT**

Students enrolled in the PTA program are expected to perform a variety of physical therapy procedures on each other in the classroom and laboratory for education purposes. Participation is an important component of the learning process. Students must sign informed consent forms at the start of the program regarding potential risks, discomfort, and expectations that remain in effect throughout their tenure in the PTA program. Additionally, students have the right to refuse participation based on religious, personal, or health reasons.

Safety in application of treatments is a primary emphasis in the PTA program as expected in the future practice of physical therapy. Students are instructed to apply the least amount of force or intensity to achieve the physical therapy treatment goals. As with any treatment, students must understand that there exists the possibility of discomfort, pain, muscle soreness, freezing or burning tissue, or other unexpected phenomenon. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to safety guidelines and immediately report any problems or feelings of discomfort to the instructor.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Professional ethics are essential qualities in the practice of physical therapy. The Physical Therapist Assistant student at Indian River State College assumes an obligation to conduct himself/herself in a manner compatible with the College's function as an educational institution as described in the *IRSC Student Handbook/Planner* under Standard of Student Conduct and Administration of Student Discipline. A student's academic work must be the result of the student's thought, self-expression or research. Any student that is caught for academic dishonesty may be dismissed from the program.

## **PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS**



## 5.01 Professional Behaviors Defined

According to the APTA's Core Values for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist

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## 5.02 Development of Professionalism Guidelines

Students are expected to demonstrate behaviors consistent with the expectations of the Physical Therapy profession. The following are some examples of expected behaviors:

Value Based Behavior	Sample expected behavior
x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seeks and responds to feedback</li><li>• Acknowledges and accepts consequences for actions</li><li>• Meets deadlines, including being on time for class</li><li>• rJ1onds TmOr/LBody 4MCID 28 BDC /32Q 1 Tf-1.5 -1.25 Td0078Tj/TT1 1 Tf( )Tj/</li></ul>

Accountability

Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates safe practice and maintains confidentiality</li> <li>• Shows commitment to learning</li> <li>• Demonstrates flexibility and is adaptable to change</li> <li>• Schedules and keeps appointments</li> <li>• States the component parts of a problem clearly</li> <li>• Identifies resources needed to develop solutions for identified problems</li> <li>• Analyzes possible solutions to problem</li> <li>• Determines which solutions are realistic, likely to succeed, and effective choices</li> <li>• Considers the consequence of each possible solutions</li> </ul>
Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greets classmates, instructors, and patients authentically</li> <li>• Listens attentively and respectfully without judgment</li> <li>• Seeks to work with all classmates</li> <li>• Works for shared success</li> </ul>
Integrity  Social Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintains academic honesty</li> <li>• Is trustworthy</li> <li>• Recognizes own limits and acts accordingly</li> <li>• Contributes to a positive academic environment</li> <li>• Maintains appropriate and effective professional relationships</li> <li>• Participates in volunteer activities</li> <li>• Promotes cultural competence</li> <li>• Promotes health/wellness</li> <li>• Advocates</li> </ul>

- Send attachments in Word only unless told to use a different program.
- If a person is cc'd hit "reply to all" if the information you are sending is pertinent to that person as well as the sender.
- If a large group has received an E-mail and you are sending information that is only pertinent to you and the sender hit "reply".
- Refrain from sending any chain letters.
- Refrain from sending jokes, uplifting messages, cute pictures, web links etc., unless instructed to do so.
- Maintain confidentiality of patients, fellow students and faculty.
- Do not share another person's E-mail address unless you have their permission.
- Use a title in the subject line.
- Please use E-mail for necessary questions. Problem solve first, rely on others, then request information from instructors. This prevents too many E-mails and slows down the ability to reply in an efficient manner.
- Use please, thank you, you're welcome, etc.

#### **5.04 Implementing for Breach of Professional Behaviors**

Consistent and effective professional behaviors are expected in classroom, labs, and clinical settings at all times. Behaviors not conforming to those expected of an entry level PTA are considered a breach of professional behaviors. A breach of professional behaviors will be brought to the student's attention and addressed based on the level of attention and concern indicated. In contrast, other behaviors that compromise the educational experience for the student or their peers may place the student "at risk" of point deductions but would not require disciplinary action or dismissal unless the behaviors remain uncorrected after sufficient notification and opportunity for improvement has occurred.

##### **Step one**

A 10%-point deduction is applied to the student's overall course grade in accordance with the grading procedure outlined by the course instructor.

- The student and course instructor identify what course of action must be taken to resolve the concern and to prevent further occurrences. The plan and consequences of a failure to demonstrate improvement are identified in a student success plan which is entered into the student record.
- A method of tracking concerns across all program settings (class/lab/clinic) is initiated to ensure that the problem is addressed and corrected by the student in all program settings.
- The student may be required to meet periodically with one or more of --program instructor, program director, or program advisor --to address and document progress or lack of progress related to professional behaviors.

**Ideally, concerns are addressed satisfactorily at step two. Student and faculty establish the plan and agree on positive and negative consequences.**

### **Step three: Recommendation for a change in program status**

Problems are ongoing and have not been resolved. This student has not demonstrated acceptable levels of improvements in the identified behaviors established by the student and program faculty. The program faculty feels the student is not competent to provide therapy services at this time.

- An additional 10% deduction is applied to the summative grade for the course.
- PTA program may recommend the student exit or modify participation at the program level and establish a plan for this change. Participants in this step may include - student, program director, & program counselor, Dean.
- If the student's status in the program changes, he or she may request re-entry in the PTA program. This petition would follow the Health Sciences Division Readmission Process.

# HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

## ADDITIONAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must provide evidence of certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) from American Heart Association for the Health Care provider BLS certification providers, by the start of the first semester of core PTA technical courses.
2. The Physical Therapist Assistant program recognizes that a physical therapist assistant student who is not physically or mentally well can pose a threat to the patient/client/student/faculty safety.
  - a. Students who have a change in health status while enrolled in the program must report the nature of their change in status to the Program Director and/or Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education, ACCE)
  - b. Students may be requested by Program Director or PTA Program Faculty to seek assistance with the IRSC Health and Wellness Center if a change in health status occurs.
  - c. Any student who exhibits symptoms of illness which pose such a threat and/or who is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs may be immediately removed from the clinical area and will be referred to their private physician. (Refer to the Health Science Division Student Handbook.)
  - d. After any change in health status (i.e. hospitalization, infectious disease, injury, musculoskeletal, etc.), the student must submit a statement from their physician to the effect that their condition is not detrimental to the safety or health of himself/herself nor patients/clients before returning to the program. (Refer to Appendix for Change in Health Status form).
  - e. In cases where absences caused by a change in health status interfere with student's progress, students will be asked to withdraw from the program.
  - f. Students who withdraw from the program due to a change in health status may apply to re-enter the program after resolution of the health problem and submission of an updated health record.
3. The student must provide updates to health record. Changes in medical condition should be promptly reported to the Physical Therapist Assistant program office. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## 7.01 CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS

Refer to Health Science Division Student Handbook and Indian River State College Student Handbook/Planner for information regarding confidentiality of records.

A student program file that includes information related to academic records and professional development is maintained on each student in the PTA program. These files are located in the PTA program director's office and ACCE's office. An electronic student file cabinet is maintained on the secure shared drive for the PTA program only accessible by the Dean of Health Sciences and PTA core program faculty. Information from these files is released only to PTA faculty members, the Health Sciences Dean, and the student.

- Program files are maintained for five years after graduation from the program.
- Program files for students leaving the program due to academic failure or voluntarily





## 7.12 LICENSING EXAMINATION

The National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination serves to evaluate the minimum level of competence of the graduate. Information can be obtained through the g

# Appendix

## Resources and Forms

# PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS (ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS)

The role of the Physical Therapist Assistant in the various health care settings requires academic, physical, mental and environmental work/demands. To be successful as a PTA student and PTA graduate, the following requirements are expected to be performed **safely, ethically** and **legally** under the supervision of a physical therapist.

## ACADEMIC

- Graduate of an accredited Physical Therapist Assistant program achieving an Associate in Science Degree.
- Obtain State Licensure to practice in Florida.

## PHYSICAL

- Demonstrate coordination of small and large muscle groups to provide safe and effective care including transfers, ambulation and positioning of patient/client using minimum, moderate and maximum assistance techniques.
- Ability to sit, stand and walk for extended periods of time (3-5 hours), negotiating environmental barriers and safely with a patient/client.
- Demonstrate volitional and utilize movement to perform proper body mechanics of all patient/client treatment techniques and related procedures (e.g., stooping, kneeling, crouching, crawling, reaching and handling)
- Perform heavy work as defined by U.S. Department of Labor "exerting 50 to 100 pounds of force.
- Perform range of motion and graded manual resistance of patient/client muscle groups for determining strength, for strengthening and stretching exercises.
- Ability to resist and support a patient/client with poor balance and weakened muscle groups on uneven surfaces, inclines, declines, stairs, curbs, etc.
- Perform manual hand dexterity and coordination to manipulate and calibrate equipment, (dials, probes, ultrasound heads, switches, scissors, tweezers, etc.) individually or simultaneously for modality and wound procedures.
- Respond to auditory emergency medical situations sufficiently with patients/clients (e.g., hearing monitor alarms, emergency signals, CPR, auscultatory sounds, verbal communication).
- Assess and observe patient/client condition (blood pressure and heart rate, respiration, etc.) response to treatment including near and far acuity (up to 10 feet away recognizing color discrimination).
- Perform physical assessment of structure, size, shape and muscle tone through tactile feeling (palpation).

## **MENTAL**

- Demonstrate sufficient and accurate use of verbal, non-verbal and written communication effectively with staff, patient/client and families concerning treatment procedures.
- Receive and interpret verbal, nonverbal and written communication skills effectively with other health care provider.
- Ability to manage and function emotionally during stresses of an intensive academic training program for preparation of clinical situations with a variety of patients/clients (terminally ill, psychosocial responses of disabled individuals and families, etc.).
- Respect patient/client/family confidentiality.
- Ability to make appropriate judgments and decisions by set priorities in clinical situations.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

- Demonstrate the ability to apply universal precautions including the use of personal protective equipment (rubber gloves, gown, goggles, masks, etc.) when indicated.

Indian River State College provides reasonable accommodations to PTA students with documented disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations made in the academic setting at IRSC may not be available in all clinical sites for Clinic I & II (PHT 2810 & PHT 2820). [Refer to Appendix for Release of Information to Clinical Site Form]. Contact the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director and Student Disabilities Services following acceptance to the program and before the first day of classes in the Fall, to declare your need for reasonable accommodations.

# Indian River State College

## Physical Therapist Assistant Program

### Safety Considerations

Patient safety is an important consideration during skills competencies and lab practical exams. Placing a simulated patient at risk during a practical exam, may result in failure of that exam.

#### **Safety Considerations and Precautions including but not limited to:**

- Perform hand washing before and after treating patients
- Identifying yourself to the patient and explain the procedure to be performed to reduce anxiety and promote safety
- Correctly identify the patient (ask name, check ID band)
- Check the medical records and health history for potential contraindications, tests and procedures, weight bearing status etc.
- Determine the patient's safe of health and physical ability to perform the task(s) (example: check vital signs, muscle testing, etc.)
- Ensure there is sufficient space and unobstructed view for task(s); Keep the floor clear of lines, cords, rugs, mats, liquids and other hazards
- Guard the patient at all times; be prepared for the worst; be alert for unexpected movements
- Maintain equipment & secure properly
- Obtain necessary equipment and prepare for the procedure or task; prepare treatment area BEFORE patient arrives to avoid leaving the patient unattended

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## INFORMED CONSENT FOR LABORATORY, LAB PRACTICALS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Review and sign the following consent, then return to the Program Director for review. There are two sections, one containing guidelines as Patient-Simulators and Student PTA-Simulators during laboratory, lab practicals and Performance Standard testing. If you have any cultural or individual differences that need attention or adjustment to the following, seek immediate advisement with the Program Director.

### Patient-Simulators

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to be treated by the PTA faculty, Clinical Supervisor, guest lecturers or classmates during any or all labs, practicals and Performance Standard testing as required throughout the two-year curriculum of the PTA program. I am responsible to provide constructive verbal and non-verbal feedback to my classmates, simulating the PTA, concerning draping, safe conditions, etc. following the treatment session.

### Student PTA-Simulators

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to follow the APTA Guide for Conduct of the PTA during laboratory, lab practicals and Performance Standard testing as required throughout the two-year curriculum of the PTA program. I agree to protect the modesty and safety of all patient-simulators treated.

Student (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**INFORMED CONSENT OF VARIOUS FORMS OF MEDIA**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am willing to appear in photographs,  
transparencies, film, tape, video, or any other form of media.



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## CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

*The patient has a right to every consideration of privacy concerning his/her own medical care program. Case discussion, consultation, examination and treatment are confidential and should be conducted discreetly. Those not directly involved in his/her care must have the permission of the patient to be present. The patient has the right to expect that all communications and records pertaining to his/her care should be treated as confidential.*

*A Patient's Bill of Rights (1975)*

I am aware that as a student of the Indian River State College Physical Therapist Assistant program (PTA), I have access to patient information that is protected by state and federal law. I understand that state law prohibits me from making any disclosure of medical information without the specific written consent of the person to whom such information pertains, or as otherwise permitted by federal, state or local laws. I also understand that failure to maintain appropriate confidentiality will result in my dismissal from the PTA program.

Student (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENT AGREEMENT

**READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BEFORE SIGNING:**

I have received the Physical Therapist Assistant Student Handbook, and it has been explained to me. I agree to reread the handbook and affirm that I will be responsible for all the data therein. I understand and am aware of the following:

**INITIAL:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ ALL GUIDELINES PROVIDED IN THE PTA STUDENT HANDBOOK
- \_\_\_\_\_ PROGRAM ACCREDITATION
- \_\_\_\_\_ PROGRAM INFORMATION
- \_\_\_\_\_ PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS
- \_\_\_\_\_ CONFIDENTIALITY AND STUDENT RECORD GUIDELINES
- \_\_\_\_\_ PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
- \_\_\_\_\_ ACADEMIC STANDARDS
- \_\_\_\_\_ ACADEMIC REGULATIONS
- \_\_\_\_\_ PROGRAM ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS
- \_\_\_\_\_ PROGRAM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS
- \_\_\_\_\_ PROGRAM EXPENSES

I agree to abide by all the rules, regulations and procedures of the program.

I am also aware that this handbook is intended as a guide and that regulations and procedures described herein may be changed.

I understand that I have access to the IRSC College Catalog.

In addition, I have read the *IRSC Student Handbook/Planner and IRSC Health Science Division Student Handbook*, and agree to abide by all the college rules, regulations and procedures.

I must return this signed form on or before the first day of class.

Student (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_