

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Learn more about the PTA program mission, goals, and outcomes.

Degree awarded: Associate in Applied Science

Mission

The mission of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) is to assist in meeting the healthcare needs of this region by preparing competent, knowledgeable and caring individuals as entry-level Physical Therapist Assistants who administer physical therapy interventions in a legal, safe and effective manner under the direction of a physical therapist.

Philosophy

Physical therapy is a health profession with the primary purpose of promoting optimal human health and function through the application of scientific principles to prevent, identify, assess, correct, or alleviate acute or prolonged movement dysfunction. The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at CVTC believes that we must:

- Prepare graduates to enter the profession of physical therapy and assist physical therapists in the provision of physical therapy services in a safe, effective, ethical and legal manner to persons of all ages and diverse backgrounds.
- Encourage and support students to be lifelong learners including encouragement of continuing education, professional literature, and networking as part of their professional life.
- Expose students to the diverse field of physical therapy by including experiences in a variety of settings such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, schools, clinics, and home care.
- Develop students' ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and act responsibly.
- Provide all students with a stimulating and comprehensive learning experience
- Follow Statewide curriculum which was developed in response to current and future workforce needs and is a means to assist facility to coordinate the academic program and clinical education.
- Identify that learning is the responsibility of the student, and this process is facilitated by the College.
- Delineate the role of the physical therapist assistant from that of the physical therapist within the Wisconsin State Practice Act and guidelines established by the American Physical Therapy Association.
- Embody the core values of CVTC in all interactions with students, faculty, patients, and the general public.

Goals

- Develop the highest level of professional education by maintaining compliance with all criteria set forth by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
- Acquire and maintain state-of-the art equipment and technology to appropriately train students in current physical therapy practices
- Graduate competent entry-level Physical Therapist Assistants that are prepared to pass the National Licensing Exam

Outcomes

The graduate of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective communication with patients, families, and the health care team
- Exhibit behaviors and conduct that reflect respect and sensitivity according to physical therapy practice standards
- Function under the supervision of a physical therapist in a safe, legal, ethical manner
- Produce documentation to support the delivery of physical therapy services
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills to implement and adjust a plan of care under the direction and supervision of a Physical therapist
- Perform technically competent data collection under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist
- Perform technically competent physical therapy interventions under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist
- Educate patients, families and other health providers
- Integrate components of administrative, operational, and fiscal practices of physical therapy service in a variety of settings
- Implement a self-directed plan for career development, credentialing, and lifelong learning

Essential Functions

To meet program objectives and perform job duties required in the profession, PTA students must be able to demonstrate critical, logical and analytical thinking. They must enjoy working with people with varied backgrounds and disabilities. Students must be able to teach manual skills, motivating patients to learn and perform. In addition, PTA students must possess motor and visual skills that enable them to meet program objectives and perform job duties required by the profession.

Students must:

- have sufficient hearing ability to respond appropriately to patients, physicians, and coworkers.
- communicate verbally and in writing in order to communicate effectively with patients, their families, coworkers and the general public.
- be physically able to transfer patients to and from wheelchairs, beds, mats, etc., and effectively provide patient care.
- have sufficient visual acuity to read English in regular and fine print on goniometers and other measuring devices.
- have sufficient manual dexterity to allow handling of small objects, palpate muscles and/or bony prominences and monitor patients.
- complete tasks/examinations within required time limits in the classroom, laboratory, and in the clinical setting.
- demonstrate emotional health required for utilization of intellectual abilities and exercise of good judgment.
- The above essential functions must be able to be met with reasonable accommodations.

Accrediting Body

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Chippewa Valley Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street Alexandria, VA, 22314; telephone: (703) 706-3245; Email: accreditation@apta.org; Website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program directly, please call 715-830-5575 or email kreeves1@cvtc.edu.

Policies & Procedures

Policies & Procedures Policies and procedures can be requested by contacting the program director at: kreeves1@cvtc.edu or by mail at: PTA Program, 620 W. Clairemont Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701

Complaints

Any complaints via the program, faculty or students can be reported to one of the contacts below. Complaints may also be sent to CAPTE via the contact information above.

Contact Information

Krissa Reeves, Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director (715) 830-5575, kreeves1@cvtc.edu

Shelly Olson, Executive Dean-Health, Emergency Services and River Falls Campus; (715) 833-6675; solson@cvtc.edu

Amy Olson, Associate Dean of Health; (715) 831-7236; aolson133@cvtc.edu