

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE

History

In response to the community need for licensed practitioners of physical therapy, Our Lady of the Lake College offers an Associate of Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assisting (PTA). The PTA program accepted its first class in June 1997. The PTA program continues to offer a three-semester full-time program of integrated didactic, laboratory and clinical experiences for the development of knowledge and skills related to physical therapy procedures.

Purpose

The Associate of Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assisting is designed to prepare individuals to effectively assist in treatment and assessment of physical therapy patients under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Both pre-requisite and physical therapy courses are included in the curriculum.

Enrollment

Application to the PTA Program at Our Lady of the Lake College is due on or before March 15th for the June class. A maximum of 24 students every year is accepted into the program.

Length of Program

The Associate of Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assisting is designed in two parts. Part one is made up of 34 hours in pre-requisite courses, which can be completed on a part-time basis or within 1 year as a full-time student. The completed arts and sciences courses are considered the first year of the PTA associate degree program. Students are enrolled in the clinical portion of the curriculum on a competitive entry basis. Once enrolled, a student attends three consecutive full-time semesters (36 credit hours) in order to complete the degree requirements.

Application Procedures

Visit Our Lady of the Lake College any Wednesday at 4:00 P.M. for our College Admission Planning Session (CAPS) or contact the Office of Admissions. Students must be admitted to the College prior to applying to the PTA program.

Tuition

See the Published Tuition & Fee Schedule, available in the application packet, catalog or Business Office.

Financial Assistance

Our Lady of the Lake College has financial aid counselors available to assist students with the financial aid process. All students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Transferability

Credit earned at a regionally accredited college or university is transferable, provided the course is equivalent in content to the course offered at Our Lady of the Lake College. Credit for college level achievement may be awarded through the CLEP and/or ACT/PEP examination. Time limits for transferability of some courses may exist. Information is available in the Office of Admissions.

Graduation Rate/Licensure Passage/Employment Outlook

The 3 year average (2005-2007) program retention rate is 97%; licensure passage rate is 87.6% and employment of licensed graduates is 100%. PTA positions are available in a variety of clinical settings across the state and throughout the country.

Accreditation

Our Lady of the Lake College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Our Lady of the Lake College. The Physical Therapist Assistant Associate of Science Degree Program at Our Lady of the Lake College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 706-3245).

Revised 7-2008

Admission Criteria

To be considered for admission to the PTA Program, all applicants must complete the entire PTA application process by March 15th and meet the minimum admissions criteria listed below:

I. ACADEMIC/COGNITIVE FACTORS

- Meet all College minimum admission criteria at the time of application
- Minimum grade of C in all pre-requisite course work in the degree plan
- Recommended Minimum GPA of:
- 2.0 in all college level courses pursued
- 2.75 in Arts and Science pre-requisite courses listed in the PTA Curriculum Plan
(Applicants who fail to meet minimum GPA requirements may be enrolled in the PTA Program after consideration by the program director, but may be required to take additional course work.)
- Completion of, or enrollment in, at least 26 credit hours of pre-requisite course work at the time of application, including:
- ENGL 1310
- ACSM 1110
- MATH 1315
- BIOL 2310
- BIOL 2311
- Priority is given to:
- Applicants who complete all pre-requisite courses prior to enrollment in the PTA Program
- Applicants who have completed Arts and Science pre-requisite courses at Our Lady of the Lake College

II. NON-ACADEMIC FACTORS

- Volunteer or Work Experience in a Physical Therapy Department
- This provides the opportunity to explore the practice of physical therapy, roles of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, and settings in which physical therapy is practiced
- Applicants must document the recommended minimum of 100 hours in at least one Physical Therapy Department (forms are provided in the application packet)
- Volunteer hours must be completed prior to enrollment in the program
- Preferential consideration is given to applicants who have experience in more than one physical therapy setting and who have completed the minimum hours at the time of application
- Three letters of reference from employers, counselors, advisors, mentors, or instructors, who can attest to the applicants academic abilities, personal characteristics and perseverance (reference forms provided in the application packet)
- Completed application form, with official transcripts of college grades from all colleges/ universities attended
- Additional documentation of evidence of life experiences, extraordinary accomplishments and personal attributes that attest to the applicant's ability to successfully complete the PTA Program
- Personal Characteristics
- Proven leadership experiences
- Effective communication skills
- Effective time management and organizational skills
- Ability to overcome academic challenges
- Community service activities
- Motivation and initiative
- Application of critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Cross cultural experiences
- Life Experiences that may have prohibited academic success but contributed to overall personal development. The following are provided as examples only.
- Family crisis
- Financial hardships
- Educational hardships
- Peer pressure
- Personal conflict
- Other
- Extraordinary Educational Achievements/Accomplishments
- Honors courses
- Participation in Academic Clubs
- Additional degree or certification
- Other academic achievements
- Recipient of academic scholarships

| Curriculum Plan for an Associate of Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assisting | | | |
|---|--------|--|-----------------|
| Course | Number | Title | CREDIT HOURS |
| SEMESTER I | | | |
| ACSM | 1110 | Academic Seminar | 1 |
| ENGL | 1310 | English Composition | 3 |
| MATH | 1315 | College Algebra | 3 |
| BIOL | 1110 | Medical Terminology | 1 |
| BIOL | 2310 | Anatomy and Physiology I | 3 |
| CHEM | 1110 | Introduction to Chemistry | 3 |
| BIOL | 1310 | Introduction to Biology | 3 |
| TOTAL | | | 17 |
| SEMESTER II | | | |
| CSCI | 1310 | Computer Science | 3 |
| PTAP | 1110 | Introduction to Patient Care | 1 |
| PTAP | 2310 | Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology | 3 |
| PTAP | 2310L | Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology Lab | 1 |
| BIOL | 2311 | Anatomy and Physiology II | 3 |
| PHIL ELECTIVE | | Philosophy | 3 |
| PSYC | 1310 | Psychology | 3 |
| TOTAL | | | 17 |
| SEMESTER III | | | |
| PTAP | 2710 | Introduction to Physical Therapy | 3 |
| PTAP | 2720 | Clinical Science I | 2 |
| PTAP | 2715 | Neuroscience of Rehabilitation | 2 |
| PTAP | 2718 | Human Development | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | 8 |
| SEMESTER IV | | | |
| PTAP | 2725 | Clinical Science II | 3 |
| PTAP | 2730 | Clinical Science III | 4 |
| PTAP | 2740 | Pathophysiology | 3 |
| PTAP | 2735 | Clinical Education I | 6 |
| TOTAL | | | 16 |
| SEMESTER V | | | |
| PTAP | 2745 | Clinical Science IV | 2 |
| PTAP | 2750 | Clinical Education II | 10 |
| TOTAL | | | 12 |

Pre-Requisite Courses
Clinical Sequence Courses
Total Hours for Associate of Science Degree

33-34 Credit Hours
36 Credit Hours
69-70 Credit Hours