

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Information

Program Mission:

The mission of the Trident Technical College Physical Therapist Assistant Program is to provide a community based two year educational program that prepares students for opportunities and responsibilities in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. The program seeks to graduate physical therapist assistants who have acquired the necessary entry level competencies that will enhance the economic, social and cultural life.

Philosophy:

The faculty believes that quality health care is a right of all mankind. Physical therapy plays an essential role in the health care system and as such makes significant contributions to the wellness of individuals.

The faculty are committed to developing an environment that is conducive to lifelong learning and success for all students. Education not only occurs in the academic setting, but learning is also fostered through life experiences and professional pursuits.

The faculty pursue a philosophy that encourages open communication, teamwork, mutual respect and continual assessment and improvement of our educational process.

Program Student Learning Outcomes:

The Physical Therapist Assistant faculty have established student learning outcomes in accordance with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Student learning outcomes are assessed using benchmarks utilizing a variety of tools including student assignments, clinical evaluations, competency checkoffs, laboratory practical exams, employer follow-up surveys, graduate follow-up surveys, etc.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, the entry-level graduate will:

1. Demonstrate competency in physical therapy interventions including therapeutic exercise techniques, gait and transfer training, modalities/electro modalities, and functional training and applications of devices and equipment.
2. Accurately collect relevant physical therapy data to be used in the determination of treatment progression working toward the PT's short- and long-term goals.
3. Plan and execute appropriate and safe treatment interventions for the patient within the physical therapist's plan of care and under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving ability sufficient for clinical judgement in the determination of accurate patient progression through the PT plan of care.
5. Appropriately report changes to the supervising physical therapist to modify or withhold interventions according to data collected, patient observations, and critical thinking judgments.
6. Demonstrate appropriate and effective written, oral, and nonverbal communication with patients and their families, colleagues, faculty and the public.

7. Exhibit professional behavior relative to self-responsibility, work behaviors, time management, interpersonal skills, and cultural competence.
8. Practice within the legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks of physical therapy and standards of practice.
9. Accurately utilize self-assessment practices to determine strengths and weaknesses in order to grow as a para-professional.
10. Demonstrate understanding of the need for lifelong learning for self-improvement.