

**Florida Department of Education
Curriculum Framework**

Program Title: Physical Therapist Assistant
Career Cluster: Health Science

AS	
CIP Number	1351080601
Program Type	College Credit
Standard Length	74 credit hours
CTSO	HOSA: Future Health Professionals; APTA
SOC Codes (all applicable)	31-2021 Physical Therapist Assistants
Targeted Occupation List	http://www.labormarketinfo.com/wec/TargetOccupationList.htm
Perkins Technical Skill Attainment Inventory	http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/perkins/perkins_resources.asp
Statewide Articulation	http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/artic_frame.asp

Purpose

This program offers a sequence of courses that provides coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in the Health Science career cluster; provides technical skill proficiency, and includes competency-based applied learning that contributes to the academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills, technical skills, and occupation-specific skills, and knowledge of all aspects of Health Science career cluster.

The purpose of this program is to prepare students for employment as physical therapist assistants SOC Code 31-2021 (Physical Therapist Assistants).

The content includes but is not limited to the requirements of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education/American Physical Therapy Association, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 684-2782.

Additional Information relevant to this Career and Technical Education (CTE) program is provided at the end of this document.

Program Structure

This program is a planned sequence of instruction consisting of 74 credit hours.

Standards

After successfully completing this program, the student will be able to perform the following:

- 01.0 Demonstrate knowledge of the healthcare delivery system and health occupations.
- 02.0 Demonstrate the ability to communicate and use interpersonal skills effectively.
- 03.0 Demonstrate legal and ethical responsibilities.
- 04.0 Demonstrate an understanding of and apply wellness and disease concepts.
- 05.0 Recognize and practice safety and security procedures.
- 06.0 Recognize and respond to emergency situations.
- 07.0 Recognize and practice infection control procedures.
- 08.0 Demonstrate an understanding of information technology applications in healthcare.
- 09.0 Demonstrate employability skills.
- 10.0 Demonstrate knowledge of blood borne diseases, including HIV/AIDS.
- 11.0 Apply basic math and science skills.
- 12.0 Describe anatomical structure, function and dysfunction of the human body related to the practice of physical therapy.
- 13.0 Assist the physical therapist with various treatments/procedures.
- 14.0 Demonstrate ethical and legal practice as a physical therapist assistant.
- 15.0 Respond to patient's needs as reflected in the Patient's Bill of Rights.
- 16.0 Demonstrate safe administration of all physical agents.
- 17.0 Demonstrate use of exercise, assistive/supportive devices and specialized equipment.
- 18.0 Perform routine maintenance of equipment.
- 19.0 Disinfect and sterilize materials and equipment.
- 20.0 Respond to acute changes in physiological state.
- 21.0 Teach other health care providers, patients and families to perform selected treatment procedures and functional activities.
- 22.0 Identify architectural barriers.
- 23.0 Interact with patients and families in a manner which provides desired psycho-social support.
- 24.0 Define scope of practice.
- 25.0 Describe basic concepts related to the health care system including multidisciplinary team approach, quality care, governmental agencies, private sector, role of other health care providers, health care facilities, issues and problems.
- 26.0 Identify basic principles of levels of authority and responsibility, planning, time management, supervisory process, performance evaluations and fiscal consideration (provider and consumer).

**Florida Department of Education
Student Performance Standards**

Program Title: Physical Therapist Assistant
CIP Number: 1351080601
Program Length: 74 credit hours
SOC Code(s): 31-2021

The AS degree requires the inclusion of a minimum of 15 credits of general education coursework according to SACS, and it must be transferable according to Rule 6A-14.030 (2), F.A.C. At the completion of this program, the student will be able to:

01.0	Demonstrate knowledge of the healthcare delivery system and health occupations–The student will be able to:
01.01	Identify the basic components of the healthcare delivery system including public, private, government and non-profit.
01.02	Identify common methods of payment for healthcare services.
01.03	Describe the various types of healthcare providers and the range of services available including resources to victims of domestic violence.
01.04	Describe the composition and functions of a healthcare team.
01.05	Identify the general roles and responsibilities of the individual members of the healthcare team.
01.06	Identify the roles and responsibilities of the consumer within the healthcare delivery system.
01.07	Identify characteristics of effective teams.
01.08	Recognize methods for building positive team relationships.
01.09	Analyze attributes and attitudes of an effective leader.
01.10	Recognize factors and situations that may lead to conflict.
01.11	Demonstrate effective techniques for managing team conflict.
01.12	Describe factors that influence the current delivery system of healthcare.
01.13	Explain the impact of emerging issues including technology, epidemiology, bioethics and socioeconomics on healthcare delivery systems.
02.0	Demonstrate the ability to communicate and use interpersonal skills effectively–The student will be able to:
02.01	Develop basic speaking and active listening skills.

02.02	Develop basic observational skills and related documentation strategies in written and oral form.
02.03	Identify characteristics of successful and unsuccessful communication including communication styles and barriers.
02.04	Respond to verbal and non-verbal cues.
02.05	Compose written communication using correct spelling, grammar, a formatting and confidentiality and specific formats of letter writing.
02.06	Use appropriate medical terminology and abbreviations.
02.07	Recognize the importance of courtesy and respect for patients and other healthcare workers and maintain good interpersonal relationships.
02.08	Recognize the importance of patient/client educations regarding healthcare.
02.09	Adapt communication skills to varied levels of understanding and cultural orientation including diverse age, cultural, economic, ethnic and religious groups.
02.10	Analyze elements of communication using a sender-receiver model.
02.11	Distinguish between and report subjective and objective information.
02.12	Report relevant information in order of occurrence.
03.0	Demonstrate legal and ethical responsibilities–The student will be able to:
03.01	Discuss the legal framework of the healthcare occupations including scope of practice legislation.
03.02	Explain practices that could result in malpractice, liability, negligence, abandonment, false imprisonment and fraud.
03.03	Demonstrate procedures for accurate documentation and record keeping.
03.04	Interpret healthcare facility policy and procedures.
03.05	Explain the “Patient’s Bill of Rights”.
03.06	Identify standards of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
03.07	Describe advance directives.
03.08	Describe informed consent.
03.09	Explain the laws governing harassment, labor and employment.
03.10	Differentiate between legal and ethical issues in healthcare.
03.11	Describe a code of ethics consistent with the healthcare occupation.

03.12	Identify and compare personal, professional, and organizational ethics.
03.13	Recognize the limits of authority and responsibility of health care workers including legislated scope of practice.
03.14	Recognize and report illegal and/or unethical practices of healthcare workers.
03.15	Recognize and report abuse including domestic violence and neglect.
03.16	Distinguish among the five schedules of controlled substances.
04.0	Demonstrate an understanding of and apply wellness and disease concepts–The student will be able to:
04.01	Describe strategies for prevention of diseases including health screenings and examinations.
04.02	Identify personal health practices and environmental factors which affect optimal function of each of the major body systems.
04.03	Identify psychological reactions to illness including defense mechanisms.
04.04	Identify complementary and alternative health practices.
04.05	Discuss the adverse effects of the use of alcohol, tobacco, and both legal and illegal drugs on the human body and apply safety practices related to these and other high risk behaviors.
04.06	Explain the basic concepts of positive self image, wellness and stress.
04.07	Develop a wellness and stress control plan that can be used in personal and professional life.
04.08	Explore and utilize the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s MyPlate food guide (www.choosemyplate.gov).
04.09	Recognize the steps in the grief process.
05.0	Recognize and practice safety and security procedures–The student will be able to:
05.01	Recognize safe and unsafe working conditions and report safety hazards.
05.02	Demonstrate the safe use of medical equipment.
05.03	Explain and apply the theory of root- cause analysis.
05.04	Identify and describe methods in medical error reduction and prevention in the various healthcare settings.
05.05	Identify and practice security procedures for medical supplies and equipment.
05.06	Demonstrate personal safety procedures based on Occupations Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regulations (including standard precautions).
05.07	Recognize Materials Data Safety Sheets (MSDS) and comply with safety signs, symbols and labels.

05.08	Demonstrate proper body mechanics and ergonomics.
05.09	Demonstrate the procedure for properly identifying patients.
05.10	Demonstrate procedures for the safe transport and transfer of patients.
05.11	Describe fire, safety, disaster and evacuations procedures.
05.12	Discuss The Joint Commission patient safety goals (www.jointcommission.org).
06.0	Recognize and respond to emergency situations–The student will be able to:
06.01	Monitor and record vital signs.
06.02	Describe legal parameters relating to the administration of emergency care.
06.03	Obtain and maintain training or certification on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillator (AED), foreign body airway obstruction (FBAO) and first aid.
06.04	Recognize adverse drug related emergencies and take appropriate first aid action.
07.0	Recognize and practice infection control procedures–The student will be able to:
07.01	Define principles of infection control including standard and transmission based precautions.
07.02	Demonstrate knowledge of medical asepsis and practice procedures such as hand-washing and isolation.
07.03	Demonstrate knowledge of surgical asepsis.
07.04	Describe how to dispose correctly of biohazardous materials according to appropriate government guidelines such as OSHA.
08.0	Demonstrate an understanding of information technology applications in healthcare–The student will be able to:
08.01	Describe technology applications in healthcare.
08.02	Define terms and demonstrate basic computer skills.
08.03	Recognize technology applications in healthcare.
08.04	Interpret information from electronic medical documents.
08.05	Identify methods of communication to access and distribute data such as fax, e-mail and internet.
09.0	Demonstrate employability skills–The student will be able to:
09.01	Identify personal traits or attitudes desirable in a member of the healthcare team.

09.02	Exemplify basic professional standards of healthcare workers as they apply to hygiene, dress, language, confidentiality and behavior (i.e. telephone etiquette, courtesy and self-introductions).
09.03	Identify documents that may be required when applying for a job.
09.04	Write an appropriate resume.
09.05	Conduct a job search.
09.06	Complete a job application form correctly.
09.07	Examine levels of education, credentialing requirements including licensure and certification, employment opportunities, workplace environments and career growth potential.
09.08	Recognize levels of education, credentialing requirements, employment opportunities, workplace environments and career growth potential.
09.09	Identify acceptable work habits.
09.10	Recognize appropriate affective/professional behavior.
09.11	Compare careers within the health science career pathways (diagnostic services, therapeutic services, health informatics, support services or biotechnology research and development).
10.0	Demonstrate knowledge of blood borne diseases, including HIV/AIDS–The student will be able to:
10.01	Recognize emerging diseases and disorders.
10.02	Distinguish between fact and fallacy about the transmission and treatment of diseases caused by blood borne pathogens including Hepatitis B.
10.03	Identify community resources and services available to the individuals with diseases caused by blood borne pathogens.
10.04	Identify "at risk" behaviors which promote the spread of diseases caused by blood borne pathogens and the public education necessary to combat the spread of these diseases.
10.05	Apply infection control techniques designed to prevent the spread of diseases caused by blood borne pathogens to the care of all patients following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.
10.06	Demonstrate knowledge of the legal aspects of HIV/AIDS, including testing.
11.0	Apply basic math and science skills–The student will be able to:
11.01	Draw, read, and report on graphs, charts and tables.
11.02	Measure time, temperature, distance, capacity, and mass/weight.
11.03	Make, use and convert using both traditional and metric units.
11.04	Make estimations and approximations and judge the reasonableness of the result.

11.05	Convert from regular to 24 hour time.
11.06	Demonstrate ability to evaluate and draw conclusions.
11.07	Organize and communicate the results obtained by observation and experimentation.
11.08	Ask appropriate scientific questions and recognize what is involved in experimental approaches to the solution of such questions.
11.09	Calculate ratios.
Physical Therapist Assistant: Intended outcomes (12-26) lead to the occupational completion point of Physical Therapist Assistant.	
12.0	Describe anatomical structure, function and dysfunction of the human body related to the practice of physical therapy–The student will be able to:
12.01	Describe normal and abnormal motor behavior.
12.02	Describe orthopedic disabilities and related treatment.
12.03	Describe neurological disabilities and related treatment.
12.04	Describe medical/surgical conditions related to physical therapy care.
12.05	Assist physical therapist in evaluation and assessment of disabilities and conditions.
13.0	Assist the physical therapist with various treatments/ procedures–The student will be able to:
13.01	Implement a comprehensive treatment plan developed by a physical therapist.
13.02	Perform appropriate measurement and assessment techniques within the knowledge and limits of practice to assist the supervising physical therapist in monitoring and modifying the plan of care.
13.03	Prepare patients, treatment areas and equipment.
13.04	Recognize gait deviations.
13.05	Perform gait training and postural training techniques.
13.06	Administer activities of daily living and functional training to patients/clients.
13.07	Apply external bandages, dressings and support devices.
13.08	Implement therapeutic exercise programs.
13.09	Measure for and fit assistive devices.
13.10	Perform therapeutic massage.

13.11	Perform balance and coordination activities.
13.12	Perform wound care techniques.
13.13	Perform developmental activities.
13.14	Participate in discharge planning and follow up care.
14.0	Demonstrate ethical and legal practice as a physical therapist assistant–The student will be able to:
14.01	Practice under the direction of a physical therapist.
14.02	Cite indications and contradictions for each treatment/procedure.
14.03	Record treatment/results in progress notes using correct format, content and terminology.
14.04	Read and draw pertinent information from patient charts.
15.0	Respond to patient's needs as reflected in the patient's bill of rights–The student will be able to:
15.01	Demonstrate awareness of the patient's need for dignity and independence.
15.02	Recognize patient expressions of discomfort, spoken or unspoken (body language).
15.03	Deal effectively with patient's emotional responses.
16.0	Demonstrate safe administration of all physical agents–The student will be able to:
16.01	Read a variety of thermometers, Fahrenheit or Centigrade (Celsius).
16.02	State normal body temperature and measure an oral or axillary temperature.
16.03	Measure the temperature of liquids, oils, solids.
16.04	State the therapeutic temperature range for modalities in which temperature is a guideline for application.
16.05	Identify physiological effects of heat vs. cold applications.
16.06	Administer therapeutic ultrasound.
16.07	Describe therapeutic use of ultra-violet light.
16.08	Demonstrate therapeutic use of physical agents such as water, heat, cold and electricity.
17.0	Demonstrate use of exercise, assistive/supportive devices and specialized equipment–The student will be able to:

17.01	State the benefits of exercise.
17.02	Define orthotics and state the importance of proper fit.
17.03	Perform crutch walking, stair climbing, use of wheelchair.
17.04	Describe differences in wheelchairs.
17.05	Discuss upper and lower extremity prosthetics in terms of types of amputations and prosthetics.
17.06	Identify common problems in prosthetic management and apply managerial skills in dealing effectively with them.
17.07	Recognize and assist in exercise techniques used in physical therapy.
17.08	Perform postural drainage and instruct patient in proper coughing and breathing exercises.
17.09	Apply mechanical traction.
17.10	Apply intermittent venous compression.
17.11	Perform goniometric measurement.
17.12	Assist patient in use of orthotic/prosthetic devices.
18.0	Perform routine maintenance of equipment–The student will be able to:
18.01	Recognize the importance of routine maintenance.
18.02	Clean and check operation of wheelchairs, stretchers, treatment tables, etc.
19.0	Disinfect and sterilize materials and equipment–The student will be able to:
19.01	Define disinfect, sterilize, germicide, vaccinate, immunize, antiseptic, septic.
19.02	Disinfect used equipment.
19.03	Prepare materials for sterilization.
20.0	Respond to acute changes in physiological state–The student will be able to:
20.01	Determine baseline physiological state.
20.02	Recognize change in baseline physiological state.
20.03	Determine significance of change in physiological state.

	20.04 Apply guidelines in the assessment of blood pressure, pulse, respiration, sweating, skin color, mental alertness, skin temp, pupil size and pupil reaction.
21.0	Teach other health care providers, patients and families to perform selected treatment procedures and functional activities–The student will be able to:
	21.01 Detail equipment or treatment preparation methods.
	21.02 Instruct in safety rules for equipment or treatment.
	21.03 Utilize proper teaching techniques relative to level of individual's understanding.
	21.04 Describe desired outcomes of the selected treatment procedure or functional activity.
	21.05 Use appropriate medical terminology.
22.0	Identify architectural barriers–The student will be able to:
	22.01 Identify which environmental factors are potential architectural barriers.
	22.02 Determine which aspects of the patient's functional level and ambulatory/mobility equipment are germane to architectural problems.
	22.03 Describe action required to remediate barriers.
23.0	Interact with patients and families in a manner which provides the desired psycho-social support–The student will be able to:
	23.01 Recognize own reaction to the patient's illness or disability.
	23.02 Recognize patient's and family's reactions to illness and disability.
	23.03 Respect individual, cultural, religious and socio-economic differences in people.
	23.04 Utilize appropriate communicative processes.
24.0	Define scope of practice–The student will be able to:
	24.01 Demonstrate awareness of his/her own role.
	24.02 Identify scope of responsibility as it relates to patient care, departmental function, physical therapist and physical therapist aide.
25.0	Describe basic concepts related to the health care system including multi-disciplinary team approach, quality care, governmental agencies, private sector, role of other health care providers, health care facilities, issues and problems–The student will be able to:
	25.01 Describe disciplines within medical care arena and the roles served.
	25.02 Describe the categories of health care agencies.
	25.03 Recognize current issues and problems affecting the delivery of health care.

25.04	Implement appropriate The Joint Commission patient safety goals.
26.0	Identify basic principles of levels of authority and responsibility, planning, time management, supervisory process, performance evaluations and fiscal consideration (provider and consumer)–The student will be able to:
26.01	Organize time effectively.
26.02	Communicate information to correct individual understanding the proper chain of command.
26.03	Prepare daily work schedule for effective, efficient delivery of care.
26.04	Utilize resources efficiently and conservatively in the delivery of healthcare.

Additional Information

Laboratory Activities

Laboratory activities are an integral part of this program. These activities include instruction in the use of safety procedures, tools, equipment, materials, and processes related to these occupations. Equipment and supplies should be provided to enhance hands-on experiences for students.

Laboratory work is structured so that students begin with basic patient care skills, progress to basic physical therapy skills and then to more advanced physical therapy application and techniques.

Special Notes

The graduate of this program is prepared to make an application to the Florida Physical Therapist Assistant licensing examination which is given by the Florida Department of Health, Board of Physical Therapy Practice.

This program meets the Department of Health HIV/AIDS Domestic Violence and Prevention of Medical Errors education requirements. Upon completion of this program, the instructor will provide a certificate to the student verifying that these requirements have been met.

If students in this program are seeking a licensure, certificate or registration through the Department of Health, please refer to 456.0635 F.S. for more information on disqualification for a license, certificate, or registration through the Department of Health.

The Health Careers Core must be taken by all students (secondary, postsecondary adult and postsecondary vocational) planning to complete any Health Occupations program. Once successfully completed, the core does not need to be repeated at any instructional level.

This program focuses on broad, transferable skills and stresses understanding and demonstration of the following elements of the health care industry; planning, management, finance, technical and production skills, underlying principles of technology, labor issues, community issues and health, safety, and environmental issues.

The cooperative method of instruction is not appropriate for this program.

Outcomes 01-11 are referred to as the Health Careers Core and do not have to be completed if the student has previously completed the Core in another health science program. The CORE should be taken first or concurrently with the first course in the program. Following the successful completion of the core, the student is eligible to take the National Health Care Foundation Skill Standards Assessment with instructor approval and the completion of a portfolio.

Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO)

HOSA: Future Health Professionals is the appropriate career and technical student organization for providing leadership training and reinforcing specific career and technical skills. Career and Technical Student Organizations provide activities for students as an integral part of the instruction offered. The activities of such organizations are defined as part of the curriculum in accordance with Rule 6A-6.065, F.A.C.

Accommodations

Federal and state legislation requires the provision of accommodations for students with disabilities as identified on the secondary student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 plan or postsecondary student's accommodations' plan to meet individual needs and ensure equal access. Postsecondary students with disabilities must self-identify, present documentation, request accommodations if needed, and develop a plan with their counselor and/or instructors. Accommodations received in postsecondary education may differ from those received in secondary education. Accommodations change the way the student is instructed. Students with disabilities may need accommodations in such areas as instructional methods and materials, assignments and assessments, time demands and schedules, learning environment, assistive technology and special communication systems. Documentation of the accommodations requested and provided should be maintained in a confidential file.

Articulation

To be transferable statewide between institutions, this program must have been reviewed, and a "transfer value" assigned the curriculum content by the appropriate Statewide Course Numbering System discipline committee. This does not preclude institutions from developing specific articulation agreements with each other.

For details on articulation agreements which correlate to programs and industry certifications refer to http://www.fl DOE.org/workforce/dwdframe/artic_frame.asp .

Program Length

The AS degree requires the inclusion of a minimum of 15 credits of general education coursework according to SACS, and it must be transferable according to Rule 6A-14.030 (2), F.A.C. The standard length of this program is 74 credit hours according to Rule 6A-14.030, F.A.C.