

**COMMITMENT FORM for PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENTS**

Those admitted to the PTA Program at Oakton Community College are entering a program of study that requires significant time and energy, and a significant monetary expenditure related to tuition and fees, textbooks and supplies, and travel and other costs associated with clinical education. Students are expected to commit the time and effort needed to be successful. PTA at Oakton requires participation in clinical education, laboratory activities, and extensive classroom work.

**Minimum** requirements for program participation are reflected in the statements below.

**General Program Requirements:**

An intense, two year (including 2 summers) program of study. Attendance at all classes, labs, and clinicals is mandatory. Missed class time will be penalized. Missed clinical time must be made up.

Classes that require a high level of problem solving and critical thinking.

Written and lab practical examinations require application of learned knowledge to various scenarios and situations. Students are required to analyze, synthesize, and apply information. Rote memorization will not assist in applying information to real life situations. Class work also includes research projects, group assignments, homework, and outside reading.

Time spent outside of regularly scheduled class/lab to learn material and master necessary skills. This includes extra time spent in open lab to practice skills. Students should also plan on spending at least 2 hours in preparation for each hour of class.

Helping others without bias against cultural background, age, gender, religious conviction, sexual orientations, or race.

A physically and mentally demanding profession (see Essential Skills Requirements)

Carrying health insurance throughout the 2 year program.

**Laboratory Participation Requirements:**

Enrolling in the PTA Program involves participation in all laboratory activities. Laboratory activities that simulate clinical physical therapy treatments and interventions require that students receive actual physical therapy treatments and interventions as a patient simulator. These are faculty/staff supervised activities and laboratory instructors will provide information about conditions and situations when certain treatments and interventions should not be administered.

Participation in laboratory activities as a patient simulator also requires students to wear specific attire and expose skin and body parts necessary for the teaching and learning of physical therapy assessments, treatments, and interventions.

## **Laboratory Participation Requirements continued:**

Act as a patient simulator.

Inform the instructor if I have any of the conditions or situations for which the treatment or intervention being practiced in lab is contraindicated.

Expose skin and body parts necessary to participate as a patient simulator in experiencing and learning laboratory class content.

## **Clinical Education Requirements:**

Clinical education experience consisting of two part-time rotations in which 8 hours (two 4 hour or one 8 hour session) per week is spent at an assigned off-campus clinical site in addition to regular on-campus classes and labs.

Summer clinical education experiences consisting of two full-time rotations of 40 hours per week for 5 weeks during the first summer of the program and 40 hours per week for 6 weeks the final summer of the program spent at an assigned off-campus clinical site.

Provide my own transportation to each clinical as assigned which may require driving up to 1 ½ hours in each direction.

Undergo a criminal background check which may represent an additional cost to me.

Undergo substance abuse testing which may represent an additional cost to me.

Show evidence of satisfactory health by

- a. Providing proof of immunity to, but not limited to, rubella (measles) rubeola (German measles) varicella (chicken pox), mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), Hepatitis B
- b. Provide evidence of a yearly flu vaccination
- c. Provide evidence of yearly TB testing which may include skin test, blood test, and/or chest x-ray

Provide copies of my health and physical exam reports to the clinical education site.

If you are unable to commit to any of the preceding requirements, you should reconsider your desire to becoming a PTA at this time.