The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Jefferson College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; (703)706-3245; accreditation@apta.org

What is a Physical Therapist Assistant?
Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) hold an Associate's degree and pass a national licensure examination before they begin to work as members of the health care team. PTAs provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist (PT). The PT performs each initial patient examination and develops a plan of care to achieve patient-centered goals such as pain reduction, mobility improvement, restoration of function, and/or reduction or prevention of disability. PTAs assist the PTs in providing the interventions that help patients achieve these goals. Interventions may include, but are not limited to, exercise instruction and progression, data collection to ensure proper response to exercise, use of physical agents, and functional training/retraining in gross motor tasks like rolling, walking, and balance-improvement.

What are the Program Admission Requirements?
• Minimum Cumulative GPA of 2.5
• A grade of “B” or better in each Anatomy & Physiology I (PTA100 or BIO211) and English Composition I (ENG101)
• Completion of the Work Keys Assessment for health care with a score of at least 4 in each of the three sections: Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information
• Completion of an on-site essay
• Minimum of 16 total observation hours with a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in at least two different types of clinical settings
• A Letter of Recommendation
• Completion of the Application and payment of the application fee which covers the cost of the background checks and drug screening
• Check the PTA Program Website for all forms and due dates associated with the application process

What Other General Education Courses are Required Throughout the Physical Therapist Assistant Program?
• Anatomy & Physiology II (PTA105 or BIO212)
• Technical Math (MTH121) or higher
• Oral Communication (SPD105)
• General Psychology (PSY101)
• Human Development (PSY205)
• Pathophysiology (BIO245)
• Computer Literacy (met by exam or coursework)

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