



Physical Therapist Assistant Student Manual

This Manual and its contents have been reviewed and approved by the administration of Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

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This manual has been prepared for the use of the Physical Therapist Assistant students at Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

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HGTC PTA Prospective and Current Students

We are delighted that you are considering a career as a Physical Therapist Assistant. We hope you will enjoy this chapter in your educational experience as you learn more about one of the most exciting areas of the human services professions.

Career Opportunities for PTA's:

For more information about careers, visit [O*Net Online](#) for an overview of South Carolina and National earnings statistics, and Horry-Georgetown Technical College's [Career Services](#) for more employment resources.

Professional Resources:

American Physical Therapy Association: <http://www.apta.org/AboutPTAs/>

South Carolina APTA: www.aptasc.org

To assist in orientation to the PTA program, we have prepared this student manual which we hope will answer many of your questions. You may also check the web site at www.hgtc.edu, and or call the Program Director at 843-477-2075 or ACCE at 843-477-2000.

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I. Horry-Georgetown Technical College

A. Accreditation Status

Horry-Georgetown Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees. Horry-Georgetown Technical College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Horry-Georgetown Technical College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org) [Accreditation Status](#)

B. Mission Statement

Horry-Georgetown Technical College is dedicated to enriching the lives of students and empowering communities through accessible and affordable education. We are committed to fostering economic development and innovation by providing a premiere, comprehensive two-year collegiate and workforce education experience that will leave a lasting positive impact on our students and the regions we serve.

C. Vision

Horry-Georgetown Technical College will be recognized as a leader in workforce development, intellectual growth, and life improvement.

D. Core Values

To fulfill its mission, Horry-Georgetown Technical College is committed to the following values:

Accountability – We create an environment that promotes responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted upon us.

Collaboration – We develop and nurture partnerships among student, faculty, staff, and community to promote open and effective communication, decision-making, and implementation of ideas and processes.

Excellence – We set high and challenging standards for teaching and professional leadership, advocate continuous improvement of programs and services, and encourage a results-oriented organization.

Honor – We promote and foster openness, respect, sharing, and fairness in personal and professional interactions, and exemplify the highest standards in ethics and institutional governance.

Service – We embrace a customer focus to ensure that all College stakeholders needs and expectations are consistently met.

E. Statement of Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination

Our sincere commitment to both effective business management and equitable treatment of our employees requires that we present this Policy Statement as an embodiment of that commitment to the fullest.

Discrimination is conduct that includes unjust or prejudicial treatment based upon an individual's sex, race/color, religion, national origin, age, disability, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including, but not limited to, lactation, genetic information, genetic identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation that excludes an individual from participation in, denies the individual the benefits of, treats the individual differently, or otherwise adversely affects a term or condition of a person's working or learning environment. This includes failing to provide reasonable accommodation, consistent with state and federal law, to persons with disabilities.

All inquiries regarding the federal laws as they relate to discrimination on the basis of sex may be directed to Dr. Melissa Batten, Vice President for Student Affairs, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107A, 2050 Hwy 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066, 843-349-5228, Melissa.Batten@hgtc.edu.

Other employee and applicant inquiries concerning the federal laws and their application to the College may be directed to Jacquelyne Snyder, Vice President, Human Resources and Employee Relations & the College's Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer, Horry- Georgetown Technical College, Building 200C, Room 205B, 2050 Hwy 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066, 843-349-5212, Jacquelyne.Snyder@hgtc.edu.

Other student and prospective student inquiries concerning the federal laws and their application to the College or any student decision may be directed to Dr. Melissa Batten, Vice President, Student Affairs, Section 504 & Title II Coordinator Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107A, 2050 Hwy 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528- 6066, 843-349-5228, Melissa.Batten@hgtc.edu.

II. PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

A. Accreditation Status

Horry-Georgetown Technical College PTA Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

Accreditation Status: [Accreditation Status](#)

B. Philosophy

The student faces numerous choices and challenges, opportunities, and obstacles through the Physical Therapist Assistant education process. The faculty recognizes that student centered learning is the foundation of the PTA's program.

To provide all students with effective strategies and resources to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to them.

The program promotes cutting-edge professional practice including evidenced-based practice, critical thinking, skill acquisition, anxiety and personal management decisions, ethics, and legal considerations and service-learning opportunities.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program recognizes the tenet that the students should assume the responsibility for the quality of their own lives and are responsible to themselves for their accomplishments, behavior, and academic achievements.

It is the policy of HGTC to encourage members of its faculty to join and actively participate in professional organizations. They are particularly encouraged to join organizations directly related to their employment positions so that they will always be aware of current trends, developments, and accomplishments.

C. Mission

Consistent with the mission of Horry-Georgetown Technical College, the Physical Therapist Assistant program provides evidence-based didactic and clinical education to prepare graduates from diverse cultures and backgrounds to enter the physical therapy profession. The comprehensive learning opportunities of the program will enhance the lives of HGTC students, strengthen the physical therapy workforce and contribute to the health and well-being of the community we serve. Faculty and graduates of the program will exemplify the Core Values of the Physical Therapy profession and demonstrate dedication to the profession and professional growth through life-long learning.

D. Program Goals

1. The program will support diversity and inclusion to meet the needs of Horry and Georgetown communities.
2. Students and faculty will exemplify the Core Values of the Physical Therapy profession to provide highest quality of physical therapist services.
3. Prepare competent graduates to be successful on the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) to qualify for state licensure and meet the community's employment needs.

4. Students and faculty will demonstrate dedication to the profession and professional growth through lifelong learning.
5. Produce graduates who work effectively as a member of the health care team to provide high quality contemporary patient-centered care.

E. Program Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Physical Therapist Assistant Program, the graduate will be able to achieve the following program learning outcomes (PLO's).

PLO1: Students will demonstrate competence in implementing interventions and performing data collection within the parameters of the physical therapist plan of care based on the review of medical and physical therapy documentation for common pathologies seen by physical therapist assistants.

PLO2: Students will comply with policies and procedures and participate in quality assurance to ensure safety for all stakeholders and effective response to patient/client and environmental emergencies that occur in the healthcare setting.

PLO3: Students will use information and technology to communicate, document, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and support decision making for effective operation of the organization.

PLO4: Students will demonstrate professional and ethical behaviors consistent with the core values for the physical therapist assistant.

PLO5: Students will communicate effectively with all stakeholders for patient-centered, interprofessional collaborative care with respect for individual, socioeconomic, cultural, and psychological differences.

F. Admissions

Horry Georgetown Technical College does not discriminate in employment or personnel decisions, or in student admissions, or in student decisions, or in all other segments of the College community on the basis of race, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, religion, disability, ancestry, political affiliation, marital status or unfavorable discharge from military service, in the educational program and activities which it operates, and the College is prohibited from discrimination in such manner by applicable laws. The Office of Student Affairs ensures that admissions procedures are applied equitably to program applicants by informing applicants of the requirements and process for admissions into the PTA program. Objective criteria are used throughout the admissions process. All students are required to meet certain minimum grade and GPA requirements to be considered for admission. The final determination for entry into the technical phase of the PTA program is the use of scores on a weighted criteria checklist to ensure that students are admitted to the program based on their qualifications. The PTA program requires that applicants complete an online STEPS session for an overview of the program.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is included in the listing of all HGTC programs in paper and electronic promotional materials that are distributed on paper and electronically. Additionally, the program is included in presentations to high school students during such activities as Senior Career Day, Educational Opportunity Day, and other recruitment activities sponsored by the College. Admissions

Health Science advisors are informed about the PTA program and make this information available to students expressing an interest in related health care fields.

To view the weighted criteria checklist and additional requirements see the link below:

PTA Program Admissions Application: [Sample Application](#)

G. Degree Awarded

Associate in Applied Science, with a Major in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)

H. Licensure

PTA's are licensed or certified in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Licensure or certification is required in each state/jurisdiction in which a PTA works and must be renewed on a regular basis, with a majority of states requiring continuing education as a condition for license renewal. PTAs' scope of work and supervision requirements are defined by the physical therapy practice act in each state.

PTA's must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination to become licensed in the United States.

Notification of Disclosure Regarding Felony Convictions, Substance Abuse and Malpractice:

Applicants should know when applying for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE), questions regarding any felony convictions are included. Additionally, applicants should know that most states have regulations regarding an applicant's eligibility to practice as a PTA in each state. As part of the application process, states may request information regarding the history of chemical and/or drug abuse, felony convictions and malpractice. Finally, applicants should know that passing a background check is a prerequisite to being accepted as a student intern by a growing number of hospitals, schools, and institutions for field work clinical experiences. A felony conviction may seriously limit the availability of fieldwork opportunities while a student, resulting in an inability to complete all requirements necessary for graduation.

I. Overview of Curriculum

Please review the PTA program curriculum at the following link:

[PTA Program Curriculum](#)

J. PTA Program Faculty

Program Director: The faculty member who is designated as and has responsibility for the management of the PTA program. The Program Director is employed full-time by the institution that houses the PTA program and usually has a faculty appointment.

Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE): The Faculty member who has responsibility in the program for coordinating the clinical education portion of the curriculum.

Adjunct Faculty: those individuals who have classroom and/or laboratory teaching responsibilities in the program and who are employed by the institution.

Guest Lecturers: those individuals who have classroom and/or laboratory teaching responsibilities in the program and who are not employed by the institution.

Clinical Education Faculty: those individuals who provide the clinical instruction and supervision of students when students are engaged in the clinical education portion of the curriculum. Clinical Education Faculty are generally comprised of the Site Coordinators of Clinical Education (SCCEs) and Clinical Instructors (CIs). While these individuals are not usually employed by the institution that houses the PTA program, they do agree to certain standards of behavior through contractual arrangements for their services.

K. Program Outcomes:

Refer to the following link for the PTA Program Outcomes:

[PTA Program Outcomes](#)

L. Program Costs:

Refer to the College's and Program website: [Tuition and Fees](#) and [PTA Program Financial Fact Sheet](#)

M. Financial Aid

Refer the College's website www.hgtc.edu and click on Financial Aid under the Quick Links.

III. PTA Student Policies

Included in this section are the policies and procedures related to the academic program. Please refer to the Clinical Manual for policies and procedures related to the clinical portion of the program.

Student Expectations

Come to class: Physical Therapy cannot be learned entirely from a book.

PTA is a hands-on profession, and you may gain many insights from your highly prepared faculty and other classmates.

Prepare for the class: read the material ahead of time, not all material may be covered in a class. Remember that your questions are helpful to classmates and by participating you enhance the learning experience. Questions should be directed to clear up points of confusion rather than a general lack of knowledge.

Keep up with the class. Allow sufficient time so you do not fall behind. There is voluminous information that you will be expected to comprehend, organize your life, and prioritize your commitments.

Be active: your educational experience will be enhanced by working with other members of the class and faculty, college, and the professional association.

Give feedback: your perceptions, opinions, compliments, and criticisms in a responsible manner will help the program. Make appointments with faculty and staff to offer feedback in a timely manner to make your views known.

Be prompt: get to your class and clinics on time. This is not only a common courtesy, but a requirement as a Physical Therapist Assistant student.

Stay healthy: take care of yourself, watch your diet, sleep, and exercise levels. Practice stress management strategies and identify and use your support system.

Be courteous: even under times of stress, treat others as you would like to be treated.

Be responsible for yourself: You are an adult and mature and are expected to behave in a responsible manner.

Time Commitments for Employment and Volunteer Service

Being a college student in a health care service education program requires many hours of study outside the actual class time spent in classes and labs. Thus, we discourage full-time employment. Please consider study needs when making vocational educational choices. Campus job opportunities are routinely posted by the Financial Aid office and around the campus. We encourage volunteer and/or paid employment at facilities that offer physical therapy services. However, to maximize student learning experiences, we will not allow field clinical experiences at facilities where a student has had previous volunteer or work experience.

Student Policy 1

Title: Technical Standards, Essential Eligibility Requirements, and Essential Program Requirements of the PTA Program

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2008

REVISION DATE(S): NONE

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

1. Since the Associate of Applied Science Degree from an accredited PTA Program signifies that the holder is eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) and is prepared to practice physical therapy, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical, community, or school-based situations and to render a wide spectrum of physical therapy services.

Policy:

1. All students admitted to the PTA program at HGTC must meet the following abilities and expectations. These expectations may be met with or without accommodations. The student's ability to perform these expectations is evaluated by a qualified medical professional and documented on the student health record. If a student requires an accommodation noted by a qualified medical professional, the student must contact the Program Director. Once a student has self-identified their mental or physical limitation(s), the Program Director will begin an interactive process with a student affairs representative to review and determine if the program can make reasonable academic accommodations to allow the student to progress in the program.

I. Sensory Processing: The student is required to have functional use of vision, hearing, and touch along with an awareness of body position and movement. Specific visual skills require near and far vision, peripheral vision, and depth perception. Information from the sensory systems must be accurately perceived and interpreted to provide quality patient care.

II. Cognitive Demands: The successful PTA student maintains a high level of alertness and responsiveness during classroom, laboratory, and field work situations. The student must possess the ability to focus on a task for a prolonged time to allow for successful learning to take place. In addition, the PTA student must be able to recall information and organize information in an efficient and useful manner. This includes the ability to acquire, retain, and prioritize informational data, conceptualize, and integrate abstract information, apply theoretical knowledge to specific patient populations, justify a rationale for therapeutic interventions, problem-solve to create innovative and practical solutions.

III. Physical Demands: The successful PTA student must possess sufficient motor skills to allow for treatment intervention with a variety of clients. This includes functional use of all (four) extremities

which would allow the student to carry out assessments and to provide therapeutic interventions in a safe and efficient manner. Quick reactions are necessary not only for safety, but for one to respond therapeutically in most clinical situations. The student needs to demonstrate good mobility skills including the ability to walk, climb, stoop, kneel, crouch, and crawl to allow for one to complete therapeutic intervention on all types of surfaces. The student is required to maintain positions for extended periods of time such as sitting, standing, writing, and grasping. The student is frequently required to demonstrate good arm placement for reaching and positioning of hands to successfully manipulate large and small objects, lift and or move up to 10 lbs. and occasionally lift and or move up to 100 pounds. Physical endurance must be sufficient for the provision of direct, hands-on patient treatment for six or more hours per day.

IV. Psychosocial demands: The student must display emotional maturity to interact with a variety of individuals with diverse age, diagnoses, culture, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The student frequently needs to address multiple, demanding tasks simultaneously and therefore needs to have established effective strategies for stress management.

V. Communication Demands:

Written: The student must be able to effectively communicate in written English. The format may be from a brief note with appropriate abbreviations to a descriptive narrative.

Verbal and Non-Verbal: The student must be able to produce the spoken word and to interpret verbal information along with non-verbal cues of mood, temperament and social responses from patients/clients, supervisors, and peers. Response to emergency/crisis situations, as well as more routine communication must be appropriate to the situation. Communication must be accurate, sensitive, and effective.

Reading: The student must be able to read and comprehend information in English from a variety of written sources (e.g. textbooks, professional journals, medical/school records, and government regulations).

Computer: The student must be competent in basic computer use including the ability to use databases and search engines to access information, perform word processing for writing; and utilize media software (e.g. MS Power Point) for developing presentations.

VI. Environmental Demands: The PTA student must be able to successfully negotiate, achieve access to, and function successfully within multiple environments. These environments may be physical, social and or cultural.

The physical environment would consist of non-human aspects. The student is exposed to wet/humid conditions (non-weather); work near moving mechanical parts, fumes or airborne particles, hazardous materials, blood borne pathogens, outdoor weather conditions, risk of electrical shock, risk of electromagnetic radiation and vibration. The noise level in the work environment will range from a

classroom situation in which the noise level is low to an industrial or clinical environment where the noise level may be high.

The social environment consists of the norms, expectations, and routines of different environments. The PTA student will be exposed to multiple treatment environments that may have implicit and explicit rules and regulations for professional behavior.

The PTA student must demonstrate multicultural competency skills to allow one to function within multiple client populations. Multicultural skills include awareness of one's culture, willingness to explore and become knowledgeable about another culture, being respectful to individual diversities, and being able to select culturally sensitive therapeutic interventions.

VII. Professional Behaviors: The student is expected to demonstrate the core values of the physical therapy profession. The student will demonstrate behaviors that meet the standards of ethical conduct for the physical therapist assistant. See the American Physical Therapy Association for a description of the core values and Student Policy 2 for a description of the standards of ethical conduct for the physical therapist assistant.

Student Policy 2

TITLE: Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024, MAY 2021

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To have the students acknowledge and demonstrate compliance with the scope of practice of a Physical Therapist Assistant in both legal and ethical dimensions; by demonstrating professional behaviors by behaving honestly, tactfully, dependably, enthusiastically, cooperatively, and industriously.

Policy:

1. The student will agree to follow the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant Student while enrolled in the HGTC PTA program. The student acknowledges this by signing the student handbook agreement. See the form in the appendix.
2. Each technical semester, the student will meet twice with the program advisor to review the Values-Based Behaviors For The Physical Therapist Assistant Self-Assessment Tool. [PTA Self-Assessment Tool](#)
3. The Program Faculty will complete the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Academic Advising form for each student. See the form in appendix.

Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant

HOD S06-20-31-26 [Amended HOD S06-19-47-68; HOD S06-09-20-18; HOD S06-00-13-24; HOD 06-91-06-07; Initial HOD 06-82-04-08] [Standard]

Preamble The Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant (Standards of Ethical Conduct) delineate the ethical obligations of all physical therapist assistants as determined by the House of Delegates of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The Standards of Ethical Conduct provide a foundation for conduct to which all physical therapist assistants shall adhere. Physical therapist assistants are guided by a set of core values (accountability, altruism, collaboration, compassion and caring, duty, excellence, integrity, and social responsibility). Throughout the document the primary core values that support specific principles are indicated in parentheses. Fundamental to the Standards of Ethical Conduct is the special obligation of physical therapist assistants to enable patients and clients to achieve greater independence, health and wellness, and enhanced quality of life.

No document that delineates ethical standards can address every situation. Physical therapist assistants are encouraged to seek additional advice or consultation in instances where the guidance of the Standards of Ethical Conduct may not be definitive. The APTA Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant and Core Values for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant provide additional guidance.

Standards

Standard #1: Physical therapist assistants shall respect the inherent dignity, and rights, of all individuals.

(Core Values: Compassion and Caring, Integrity)

1A. Physical therapist assistants shall act in a respectful manner toward each person regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition, or disability.

1B. Physical therapist assistants shall recognize their personal biases and shall not discriminate against others in the provision of physical therapist services.

Standard #2: Physical therapist assistants shall be trustworthy and compassionate in addressing the rights and needs of patients and clients.

(Core Values: Altruism, Collaboration, Compassion and Caring, Duty)

2A. Physical therapist assistants shall act in the best interests of patients and clients over the interests of the physical therapist assistant.

2B. Physical therapist assistants shall provide physical therapist interventions with compassionate and caring behaviors that incorporate the individual and cultural differences of patients and clients.

2C. Physical therapist assistants shall provide patients and clients with information regarding the interventions they provide.

2D. Physical therapist assistants shall protect confidential patient and client information and, in collaboration with the physical therapist, may disclose confidential information to appropriate authorities only when allowed or as required by law.

Standard #3: Physical therapist assistants shall make sound decisions in collaboration with the physical therapist and within the boundaries established by laws and regulations.

(Core Values: Collaboration, Duty, Excellence, Integrity)

3A. Physical therapist assistants shall make objective decisions in the patient's or client's best interest in all practice settings.

3B. Physical therapist assistants shall be guided by information about best practice regarding physical therapist interventions.

3C. Physical therapist assistants shall make decisions based upon their level of competence and consistent with patient and client values.

3D. Physical therapist assistants shall not engage in conflicts of interest that interfere with making sound decisions.

3E. Physical therapist assistants shall provide physical therapist services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist and shall communicate with the physical therapist when patient or client status requires modifications to the established plan of care.

Standard #4: Physical therapist assistants shall demonstrate integrity in their relationships with patients and clients, families, colleagues, students, research participants other health care providers, employers, payers, and the public.

(Core Value: Integrity)

4A. Physical therapist assistants shall provide truthful, accurate, and relevant information and shall not make misleading representations.

4B. Physical therapist assistants shall not exploit persons over whom they have supervisory, evaluative or other authority (e.g., patients and clients, students, supervisees, research participants, or employees).

4C. Physical therapist assistants shall not engage in any sexual relationship with any of their patients and clients, supervisees, or students.

4D. Physical therapist assistants shall not harass anyone verbally, physically, emotionally, or sexually.

4E. Physical therapist assistants shall discourage misconduct by physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and other health care professionals and, when appropriate, report illegal or unethical acts, including verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual harassment, to an appropriate authority with jurisdiction over the conduct.

4F. Physical therapist assistants shall report suspected cases of abuse involving children or vulnerable

adults to the appropriate authority, subject to law.

Standard #5: Physical therapist assistants shall fulfill their legal and ethical obligations.

(Core Values: Accountability, Duty, Social Responsibility)

5A. Physical therapist assistants shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

5B. Physical therapist assistants shall support the supervisory role of the physical therapist to ensure quality care and promote patient and client safety.

5C. Physical therapist assistants involved in research shall abide by accepted standards governing protection of research participants.

5D. Physical therapist assistants shall encourage colleagues with physical, psychological, or substance-related impairments that may adversely impact their professional responsibilities to seek assistance or counsel.

5E. Physical therapist assistants who have knowledge that a colleague is unable to perform their professional responsibilities with reasonable skill and safety shall report this information to the appropriate authority.

Standard #6: Physical therapist assistants shall enhance their competence through the lifelong acquisition and refinement of knowledge, skills, and abilities.

(Core Value: Excellence)

6A. Physical therapist assistants shall achieve and maintain clinical competence.

6B. Physical therapist assistants shall engage in lifelong learning consistent with changes in their roles and responsibilities and advances in the practice of physical therapy.

6C. Physical therapist assistants shall support practice environments that support career development and lifelong learning.

Standard #7: Physical therapist assistants shall support organizational behaviors and business practices that benefit patients and clients and society.

(Core Values: Integrity, Accountability)

7A. Physical therapist assistants shall promote work environments that support ethical and accountable decision-making.

7B. Physical therapist assistants shall not accept gifts or other considerations that influence or give an appearance of influencing their decisions.

7C. Physical therapist assistants shall fully disclose any financial interest they have in products or services that they recommend to patients and clients.

7D. Physical therapist assistants shall ensure that documentation for their interventions accurately reflects the nature and extent of the services provided.

7E. Physical therapist assistants shall refrain from employment arrangements, or other arrangements, that prevent physical therapist assistants from fulfilling ethical obligations to patients and clients.

Standard #8: Physical therapist assistants shall participate in efforts to meet the health needs of people locally, nationally, or globally.

(Core Value: Social Responsibility)

8A. Physical therapist assistants shall support organizations that meet the health needs of people who are economically disadvantaged, uninsured, and underinsured.

8B. Physical therapist assistants shall advocate for people with impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, and disabilities in order to promote their participation in community and society.

8C. Physical therapist assistants shall be responsible stewards of health care resources by collaborating with physical therapists in order to avoid overutilization or underutilization of physical therapist services.

8D. Physical therapist assistants shall educate members of the public about the benefits of physical therapy.

Student Policy 3

TITLE: Student Privacy and Confidentiality

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2008

REVISION DATE(S): MAY 2021

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

The PTA faculty is committed to maintaining student privacy and confidentiality. All information related to student performance, counseling, and advising is kept confidential within the department. Student records are kept in a secure location. Only authorized college personnel have access to student records on an as needed basis.

Policy:

1. Students are required to acknowledge and sign the PTA Program Release of Confidential Information Form. See the form in the appendix.
2. ACCE provides the clinical sites with a copy of the FERPA policy to ensure student privacy and confidentiality.
3. Students are instructed to follow the Privacy of Student Records/FERPA procedure stated in the College Catalog.
4. The PTA program is consistent with the college policy and procedure, see Policy Number 8.6.9 on HGTC webpage.
5. Student records in faculty offices must be kept in a locked cabinet.

Student Policy 4

TITLE: Informed Consent

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2008

REVISION DATE(S): NONE

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

1. To explain the expectations and role of students or non-students when participating as subjects or as patient-simulators during laboratory and clinical experiences.
2. To provide information regarding videotaping, audio taping, photographing, or imaging of individuals for instructional purposes:
3. To inform students of requirements of clinical facilities that may include drug testing and background investigation:
4. To provide a means for the control of information the student wants the faculty or program to release to future employers, other programs, you (the student), etc.
5. To provide students with information regarding the legal responsibility of a patient's right to refuse participation in clinical education.

Policy:

1. Students are required to acknowledge and sign the PTA Program Lab Release Form. See the form in the appendix.
2. Non-students who participate in classroom and laboratory exercises are required to acknowledge and sign the Non-Student Informed Consent to Participate in Classroom/Laboratory Exercises for Educational Purposes. See the form in the appendix.
3. The PTA program follows the HGTC policy for College Use of Photographs 6.1.2. This policy can be found at [Photographs](#). Students acknowledge and sign the PTA Program Imaging Permission Form. See the form in the appendix.
4. The student upon admission into the program acknowledges the requirement to sign an affidavit acknowledging mandatory urine drug screening and criminal background check. The affidavit form is kept on file with the original PTA program application in the admissions office. The affidavit can be found at: [UDS and CBC](#)

5. Students sign a “RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION” form to allow the faculty or program to release information to future employers or other programs or to the student; including personal and academic information, release of immunization records, and release of practicum reports. This document may be found in the appendix of this manual.

6. Students are required to acknowledge and sign the Lewis Blackman Hospital Patient Safety Act Form. See the form in the appendix.

Student Policy 5

TITLE: Classroom and Laboratory Attendance

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024, APRIL 2023

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide guidelines and requirements regarding attendance for successful completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Policy:

1. Classroom and Laboratory Attendance

Students are expected to attend a minimum of 80% of all classes, but a program or an instructor may make the attendance policy stricter if required, with Program Director approval.

After the allowed number of absences, the student will be dropped from the course with a W or a WF. Remember an absence is an absence; there are no excused absences.

An absence is defined as missing greater than 10 minutes of classroom time or leaving class early with more than 10 minutes remaining.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Classroom Attendance Policy:

For a 15-week course (Fall and Spring) the allowed number of absences is as follows:

For MWF classes:

9 absences are allowed for lecture and 9 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For MW classes:

6 absences are allowed for lecture and 6 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For TTh classes:

6 absences are allowed for lecture and 6 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For Classes meeting once a week for lecture:

3 absences are allowed for lecture and 3 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For a 10-week course (Fall and Spring) the allowed number of absences is as follows:

For MWF classes:

6 absences are allowed for lecture and 6 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For MW classes:

4 absences are allowed for lecture and 4 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For TTh classes:

4 absences are allowed for lecture and 4 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For Classes meeting once a week for lecture:

2 absences are allowed for lecture and 2 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For a 7-week course (Fall and Spring) the allowed number of misses is as follows:

For MWF classes:

4 absences are allowed for lecture and 4 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For MW classes:

2 absences are allowed for lecture and 2 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For TTh classes:

2 absences are allowed for lecture and 2 absences from lab, regardless of the reason.

For Classes meeting once a week for lecture:

1 absence are allowed for lecture and 1 absence from lab, regardless of the reason.

For a 6-week course the allowed number of absences is as follows:

MTWTH

4 absences for lecture and 4 absences from lab are allowed, regardless of the reason.

MW or TTH

2 absences for lecture and 2 absences from lab are allowed, regardless of the reason.

For a 5-week course the allowed number of misses is as follows:

MTWTh

3 absences for lecture and 3 absences from lab are allowed, regardless of the reason.

MW or TTh

1 absence for lecture and 1 absence from lab are allowed, regardless of the reason.

After the allowed number of absences, the student will be dropped from the course with a W or a WF. Remember an absence is an absence; there are no excused absences.

Classroom and Laboratory Tardy

A tardy is defined as missing 1 to 10 minutes of classroom or laboratory time.

Three tardy will be counted as one class absence.

Student Policy 6

TITLE: Electronic Devices

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024, AUGUST 20, 2017

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To inform students of how electronic devices can be utilized in the PTA Program.

Policy:

1. All electronic devices that may disrupt the classroom must be turned off or on silent and put away during lecture and lab periods.
2. Cell phones may not be placed on lecture tables or laboratory tables without special permission by the instructor for special circumstances.
3. Computer devices may be used in the lecture and laboratory setting for purposes of accessing course material.
4. Calculators may be allowed for specific quizzes/tests/exams when announced by the instructor.
5. No electronic devices of any kind, including cell phones and watches, are permitted during testing or test reviews in the classroom or laboratory setting.
6. Audio or video recording of lectures, laboratory sessions, etc., may only be performed with the expressed permission of the instructor. The student may be asked to record laboratory practical competency examinations with their cell phone to complete a self-assessment of performance.
7. Video or audio recording of reviews related to an examination, laboratory practical competency examination or other graded activity is not permitted under any circumstances.

Student Policy 7

TITLE: Dress Standards for the Classroom and Laboratory

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024, August 22, 2019, October 2020

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, August 2019

Purpose:

To provide students with information concerning dress and appearance in the classroom and laboratory.

Policy:

1. Classroom and Laboratory Attire:

- a. The program requires students to wear solid color scrubs. Any solid color can be worn but the preferred colors of our clinical partners are navy blue, black, teal, Caribbean blue, or wine. Students should have appropriate shorts, tee shirts and tank tops under the scrubs for anatomical visualization as necessary.
- b. Attire should be neat, clean, without wrinkles, and properly fitting with skin-colored undergarments. No visible cleavage, chest hair, stomach skin, or back showing.
- c. Students may wear a cardigan or a lightweight jacket (i.e. microfleece) in the classroom or laboratory. Students may not wear hoodies or heavy jackets in the classroom or laboratory.
- d. Students will wear skid resistant or non-slip shoes with enclosed toes and heels in the laboratory.
- e. Jewelry: A wristwatch with a second hand is required. No more than two rings may be worn on the hand. If medically needed, a medical alert bracelet/necklace may be worn. Visible body piercing including tongue stud/ring, clear nasal stud, gauges, or brow jewelry is not allowed. No more than two simple earrings per ear.

2. Hygiene:

- a. Hair must be neat, clean, and maintained so as not to contaminate a peer, patient, or the caregiver. Hair below shoulder level must be pulled back and secured out of the face in the laboratory. Unnatural hair colors i.e. pink, green, blue etc. are prohibited. Extreme hairstyles i.e. mohawk, carvings, etc. and hair ornaments i.e. feathers, glitter braids etc. are prohibited. Beards and mustaches must be well groomed and always kept clean.

b. Fingernails must be kept at a length not to exceed the pad of the finger so as not to injure a peer or patient in the laboratory. Clear or light-colored nail polish may be worn if it is neat and without designs. Artificial nails harbor yeast and bacteria and, therefore, are not allowed.

3. Tattoos:

- a. Facial and neck tattoos are not permitted and must be concealed.
- b. Tattoos below the neckline are allowed, but must not be excessive, vulgar or have the potential to be offensive.

4. Cosmetics/Fragrance:

- a. Cosmetics are to be worn in moderation and be consistent with the expected appearance of a healthcare professional.
- b. Scented perfumes, powders, after-shave lotions, colognes, and antiperspirants/deodorants may cause allergic reactions in some individuals and are not to be worn. Lotions and deodorants must be limited to those bearing light or no scent.

5. Chewing Gum or Tobacco:

- a. Neither of these products is allowed during classroom or laboratory. The uniform may not smell of smoke upon arrival at the classroom or laboratory. Smoke odors embedded in clothing are as offensive as smoking.

Student Policy 8

TITLE: Grading Policy

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024, MAY 2021, JULY 2016

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, May 2021, August 2019

Purpose:

To provide information to each student concerning the calculation of grades and to assure consistency and fairness in assigning grades. The PTA Program grading policy is different than the HGTC grading policy.

Policy:

1. A grade of “C” or better must be achieved in all required PTA courses for a student to progress through the program. A final grade of less than 75 is not passing in the PTA Program and does not meet the requirements for progression within the program.

GRADING SCALE:

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-75 = C

74-69 = D

68 - 0 = F

2. Each student must demonstrate safety and competence in required laboratory skill check assessments and laboratory practical competency examinations. Each course with a laboratory component includes skill check assessments that must be mastered within the course.

Skill Check Assessment:

The student is required to successfully complete each skill check assessment for the course prior to the final laboratory practical competency examination or per the instructor’s schedule. The course instructor will announce the due date of the skill check assessments in the instructor course informational sheet. Failure to complete a skill check assessment will not allow the student to complete the laboratory practical competency examination, which will result in failure of the course.

For each skill check assessment, the student will receive the score on the rubric in Trajecsys with a maximum of 10 points. All critical elements must be successfully completed to pass the skill check assessment. If a student scores below a 75% on a skill check assessment, it must be repeated and no more than two attempts for each skill check assessment may be completed. A second attempt of a skill check assessment will result in a maximum score of 75% or 7.5 points. If the student does not pass the skill check assessment on the second attempt, the student will fail the course and be removed from the PTA program. The list of program skill check assessments is in the chart below:

| | <i>Skill Check Assessments</i> |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PTH 234 | FIRST TECHNICAL SEMESTER - FALL |
| | <u>Communication:</u> Arousal and Orientation |
| | <u>Data Collection:</u> Muscle and Bone Anatomy: Palpation, muscle action, joint motion, planes, and axes |
| | <u>Data Collection:</u> Goniometry & Manual Muscle Test (All joints) |
| | <u>Data Collection:</u> Pain |
| | <u>Data Collection:</u> Integumentary: Skin integrity & cutaneous nerve patterns |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Hand washing and Protective Equipment; Body Mechanics, Draping and Positioning |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Functional Mobility (bed mobility, transfers, electrical lift) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Gait Training with Assistive Device |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Gait Training without Assistive Device |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Wheelchair Training and Fitting |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Adjusts and Maneuvers Special Equipment Devices (I.e. hospital beds, foley catheter, supplemental O2, IV pole, etc.) |
| PTH 234 | SECOND TECHNICAL SEMESTER - SPRING |
| | <u>Data Collection:</u> Integumentary: Sensation testing (Superficial, Deep, Combined) |
| | <u>Data Collection:</u> Girth |
| | <u>Data Collection:</u> Volumetric |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <u>Data Collection:</u> Vitals (Temperature, Pulse, Respiration Rate, Blood Pressure, Oxygen Saturation) |
| | <u>Data Collection:</u> Aerobic Field Tests (i.e. Step Test, Submaximal VO2 Treadmill Test, 6 Minute Walk Test) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Isometric and Isotonic (Dynamic) Strengthening Therapeutic Exercise (Extremities/Joint Specific) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Spine Therapeutic Exercise |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Stretching Therapeutic Exercise (Manual Stretching, Self-Stretching, Mechanical Stretching, PNF Stretching) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Passive Range of Motion, Active Assistive Range of Motion, Active Range of Motion Therapeutic Exercise and Continuous Passive Motion |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Balance and Coordination Training and Data Collection |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Neuromuscular Reeducation (PNF Diagonal Patterns) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Cryotherapy (i.e. cold packs, ice massage, cold compression unit) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Thermal-Therapy (i.e. Hot Packs, Paraffin) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Ultrasound |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Biofeedback |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation (NMES) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Interferential Current (IFC) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Iontophoresis |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Mechanical or Pneumatic Cervical Traction |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Mechanical or Pneumatic Lumbar Traction |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Breathing Strategies (i.e. pursed lip, huff techniques) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Wound Care: Removal and Application of Sterile Dressing and Bandage; Wound Measurement |

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>SKILLS LISTED ABOVE ARE COMPLETED BEFORE PTH 234 COURSE. STUDENT'S AVERAGE SCORE MUST BE <u>3.0 OR HIGHER AT THE FINAL ASSESSMENT</u>. ALL CRITICAL SAFETY AND CRITICAL BEHAVIORAL SCORES <u>MUST BE 4.0 AT MIDTERM AND FINAL</u>. IF THE STUDENT'S SCORE IS NOT AT 4.0 AT MIDTERM, CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE ACADEMIC COORDINATOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION AT HGTC.</p> | |
| PTH 253/276 | THIRD TECHNICAL SEMESTER - SUMMER |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Orthopedic Interventions |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Neurorehabilitation Intervention Strategies (Preventative, Restorative, and Compensatory) |
| | <u>Intervention:</u> Neuromuscular Reeducation, Developmental Activities, and Motor Learning Training for a Patient with Neurological Impairments |
| <p>SKILLS LISTED ABOVE ARE COMPLETED BEFORE PTH 253 AND 276 COURSES. PTH 253: STUDENT'S AVERAGE SCORE MUST BE <u>3.0 OR HIGHER AT THE FINAL ASSESSMENT</u>. PTH 276: THE STUDENT'S AVERAGE SCORE MUST BE <u>3.6 OR HIGHER AT THE FINAL ASSESSMENT</u>. ALL CRITICAL SAFETY AND CRITICAL BEHAVIORAL SCORES <u>MUST BE 4.0 AT MIDTERM AND FINAL</u>. IF THE STUDENT'S SCORE IS NOT AT 4.0 AT MIDTERM, CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE ACADEMIC COORDINATOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION AT HGTC.</p> | |

Laboratory Practical Competency Examination

Laboratory Practical Competency Examination: A minimum of 75% and all critical elements must be achieved to pass the laboratory practical competency examination. One attempt will be given for the competency. Failure to pass the competency will result in dismissal from the program.

3. Makeup Assignments (Examinations, Skill Check Assessments, Laboratory Practical Competency Examinations, Homework and Documentation)

- Per the instructor's discretion, a student may be allowed to make up assignments. If the instructor allows the student to make up an assignment, the most the instructor may deduct from the score is 50%.
- The instructor will clarify the course's makeup assignments (Examinations, Skill Check Assessments, Laboratory Practical Competency Examinations, Homework and Documentation) policy on the Instructor's Course Information Sheet.
- Makeup examinations will be taken in the testing center on campus, or a location designated by the instructor.

Student Policy 9

TITLE: Progression Through the PTA Program

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024, AUGUST 22, 2019

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019,

Purpose:

To provide the student with information concerning the requirements for progression in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Policy:

1. Progression: Students in the PTA Program are subject to the standards outlined in the current College Catalog. Additional standards for the PTA Program are as follows:

- a. All required courses within the PTA curriculum must be completed in the sequence outlined in the College Catalog and passed.
- b. Students are required to maintain an overall 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in PTH courses to progress and graduate from the program. If a student falls below a 2.0 cumulative GPA the program will follow the College's Academic Standing Policy and Procedure.
- c. General Hospital Orientation (GHO)/Care Learning Modules must be successfully completed prior to attending clinical experiences. The due date is provided by the Clinical Admissions Office.
- d. Each student must demonstrate safety and competence in required laboratory skill check assessments and laboratory practical competency examinations. Each course with a laboratory component includes skill check assessments that must be mastered within the course.

Skill Check Assessment: The student is required to successfully complete each skill check assessment for the course prior to the final laboratory practical competency examination or per the instructor's schedule. The course instructor will announce the due date of the skill check assessments in the instructor course informational sheet. Failure to complete a skill check assessment will not allow the student to complete the laboratory practical competency examination, which will result in failure of the course.

Laboratory Practical Competency Examination: A minimum of 75% and all critical elements must be achieved to pass the laboratory practical competency examination. One attempt will be given for the competency. Failure to pass the competency will result in dismissal from the program.

e. Clinical Education: Each student must demonstrate safety and ethical behavior competence in required Clinical Education Courses. Students who do not pass a Clinical Education Course will be removed from the program.

Student Policy 10

TITLE: Academic Alert

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2018

REVISION DATE(S): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2018, SEPTEMBER 2017

Purpose:

To provide PTA students with the information regarding issuing an academic alert for PTH courses.

Policy:

1. The PTA program faculty will issue an academic alert for students whose lecture examination test average after two tests is below a 75%.
2. The program recommends that program faculty will issue an academic alert for students who require additional support provided by HGTC student services to improve success in the program.

Student Policy 11

TITLE: Academic Probation

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2018

REVISION DATE(S): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, SEPTEMBER 2017, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide students with information regarding the criteria for being placed on academic probation.

Policy:

1. Per faculty recommendation, students may be placed on academic probation if the overall final course average is no less than 73%.
2. Students may only be placed on academic probation one time in the program and for only one course.
3. Students who are on academic probation for a course must meet with the Program Director to establish a written academic plan for the next technical semester's coursework including strategies for success.
4. Per the discretion of the course faculty, a student on academic probation may be required to do additional assignments to ensure competency in the didactic material.
5. The terms of the student's academic probation will be in effect for the remainder of the academic program.

Student Policy 12

Title: Student Academic Misconduct Procedure

Original Approval Date: 2/2018

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, FEBRUARY 2018, AUGUST 2018

This procedure is taken directly from the South Carolina Technical College System: Procedure 3-2-106.1

[Student Code](#)

Purpose:

1. To provide the student with information on academic misconduct.
2. To provide the student and faculty information on student disciplinary procedure.

Policy:

1. See, III. Student Conduct Regulations, A. Academic Misconduct at the link above
2. See IV. Student Disciplinary Procedure B. Academic Misconduct at the link above

Student Policy 13

TITLE: Student Withdrawal

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, August 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide information and guidelines which will assist students who wish to withdraw from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Policy:

1. Students are instructed to follow the Withdrawal procedure stated in the College Catalog.
2. The PTA program is consistent with the college policies and procedures, see Policy Number 8.6.3 on HGTC webpage. <https://www.hgtc.edu/documents/policys/Chapter8/8.6.3-policy.pdf>

Student Policy 14

TITLE: Dismissal from the PTA Program

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide information to students concerning the requirements for professional behavior in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Policy:

1. Violation of the Student Code of Conduct as described in the College Catalog could result in dismissal from the PTA Program.
2. Violation of the policies and procedures of the PTA Program could result in dismissal.
3. Per the clinical education contract, if a conflict arises at a clinical education site between an employee of the Facility or clinical instructor (CI), and Student, the ACCE and SCCE shall intervene within seven (7) calendar days in an attempt to resolve the matter. Facility may require that College immediately remove a student from a clinical rotation when Facility believes that the individual exhibits inappropriate behavior, is disruptive, does not comply with Facility rules or policies, and poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of a patient, employee, or any other person or for any other reason deemed necessary by the Facility. In addition, upon receipt of the roster or at any time after a clinical rotation begins, Facility may refuse to allow any Student to participate in the clinical rotation if the individual has an unfavorable record with Facility from previous employment, another clinical rotation, or any other reason.

Student Policy 15

TITLE: Due Process

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2008

REVISION DATE(S): JULY 2024, JULY 2016

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

1. To provide the student with information regarding due process of student complaints.
2. To provide stakeholders of the PTA Program with the mechanism to file a complaint.

Policy:

1. Students are instructed to follow the Student Grievance Procedure for the South Carolina Technical College System in the College Catalog.
2. Stakeholders of the PTA program are instructed of the mechanism to file a complaint with the accrediting body for the PTA program, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The website can be viewed at www.capteonline.org "CAPTE considers complaints about programs that are accredited, or are seeking accreditation by CAPTE, and complaints about CAPTE itself." "To obtain the materials necessary for submitting a complaint, contact the APTA Accreditation Department at 703/706-3245 or at accreditation@apta.org."
3. The PTA program is consistent with the college policy and procedure, see Policy Number 9.3.7 and 9.3.7.2 on HGTC webpage.

Student Policy 16

TITLE: Transfer Student:

Original Approval Date: April 29th, 2019

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021

Purpose:

1. To clarify student requirements for transfers from a PTA or DPT program.

Policy:

1. To be eligible for admission to the College, a potential transfer student must meet the College admission requirements and the program time limits on courses for transfer.
2. The potential transfer student must request a meeting with the Program Director to review the academic status of the previous PTA or DPT program.
3. The potential transfer student must sign a release form that allows the Program Director to discuss the academic status with previous institution PTA or DPT advisor or Program Director.
4. The Program Director will review the potential transfer student's PTA or DPT transcript and instructional package or catalog to determine if the student's current academic completion matches the program.

Student Policy 17

TITLE: Re-Application Policy for PTA Program

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): APRIL 2025, JULY 2024, MAY 2021

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To explain the process for re-application into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Policy:

1. Students who are accepted into the PTA program but do not successfully complete the first semester are required to reapply to the PTA program. The application for the PTA program can be found at the following link:

[PTA Admission Application](#)

2. A student who has been accepted into the program for any given year but declines entry at that time and wishes to enter in a subsequent year must re-apply for admission, using the forms and published criteria for program admission applicable to the year he or she wishes to enter.

The application for the PTA program can be found at the following link:

[PTA Admission Application](#)

3. A student who has unsuccessfully attempted the first technical semester of the PTA program in two consecutive academic years will be required to wait a minimum of two years following that last attempt to reapply. Faculty are available for advisement, and it is recommended students should meet to discuss a plan for future success.

4. A student who has been accepted for re-entry into the program in either the second, third or fourth technical semester (Student Policy 18) but is unsuccessful and removed from the program, will be required to wait a minimum of two years following the last attempt and will be required to re-apply to the program.

Student Policy 18

TITLE: Re-Entry Policy for PTA Program

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): APRIL 2025, July 2024, May 2022, July 23, 2013

Last Reviewed Date: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2018, FEBRUARY 2013

Purpose:

To explain the process for re-entry into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Policy:

This policy details the requirements for processing an individual's request for re-entry into the program and how the program determines re-entry. Re-entry must take place within one year.

1. Conditions for re-entry into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program:

- a. The student who withdrew or was dismissed after successful completion of at least the first technical semester of physical therapist assistant coursework but was in good standing and had met all financial obligations to the program and the college may be considered for re-entry into the program.
- b. A student position is available in the class applied.
- c. The student has maintained a cumulative college GPA of 2.0 or higher.
- d. A student who has previously been granted re-entry and is not successful may not apply for re-entry a second time. The student is referred to Student Policy 17 for re-application.

2. Re-entry process:

- a. Student submits a formal, written request for re-entry into the program to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director at least one month (July) before classes begin, for the academic year for which they are applying for re-entry which addresses the reasons for previous withdrawal and changes that increase probability for program completion.
- b. The Program Director evaluates the request and verifies that the student satisfies the conditions for re-entry.
- c. The Program Director convenes a meeting of the program faculty for approval or disapproval based on the conditions for re-entry and the decision of the committee is final.

d. If more than one student seeks re-entry the student with the highest cumulative GPA will receive re-entry first.

e. The Program Director informs the student of the decision made by the program faculty.

3. If the request is approved, the following conditions of criteria will be met:

a. Student will complete all required medical and background requirements as directed per the re-entry letter from the Program Director.

b. Student will review the Student Manual, complete the acknowledgement of Student Manual form, and turn the form into the Program Director prior to the day of re-entry.

c. The student will schedule an orientation meeting with the Program Director prior to the day of re-entry.

d. The student will contact the instructor of the course to schedule a time to complete the skill check assessments after the student has received a re-entry letter from the Program Director.

e. The student will be required to complete and earn a 75% or higher on the specific Focused Review tests.

f. The student will be required to complete and pass all designated previously passed skill check assessments based on when the student left the program. The designated skill check assessments are as follows:

Interventions:

- Isometric and Isotonic (Dynamic) Strengthening Therapeutic Exercise (Extremities/Joint Specific)
- Spine Therapeutic Exercise
- Stretching Therapeutic Exercise (Manual Stretching, Self-Stretching, Mechanical Stretching, PNF Stretching)
- Balance and Coordination Training and Data Collection
- Neuromuscular Reeducation (PNF Diagonal Patterns)
- Neuromuscular Reeducation, Developmental Activities, and Motor Learning Training for a Patient with Neurological Impairments
- Cryotherapy (I.e. cold packs, ice massage, cold compression unit)
- Thermal-therapy (I.e. hot packs, paraffin)
- Ultrasound
- Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS)
- Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation (NMES)
- Interferential Current (IFC)
- Iontophoresis
- Mechanical or Pneumatic Lumbar Traction
- Mechanical or Pneumatic Cervical Traction
- Functional Training (ADL's, bed mobility and transfers including standing, sitting and electrical lift)

- Gait Training with Assistive Device
- Wheelchair Training and Fitting
- Breathing Strategies (I.e. pursed lip, huff techniques)
- Orthopedic Interventions
- Neurorehabilitation Intervention Strategies (Preventative, Restorative and Compensatory)

Data Collection:

- Goniometry & Manual Muscle Test
- Integumentary: Sensation testing (Superficial, deep, Combined)
- Vitals (Temperature, Pulse, Respiration Rate, Blood Pressure, Oxygen Saturation)
- Aerobic Field Tests (i.e. Step Test, Submaximal VO₂ TM, 6 min walk test)

**The student is expected to perform communication, pain assessment, and infection control in all above skill check assessments and therefore will not be tested individually for re-entry.

Student Policy 19

TITLE: Campus Safety and Emergency Procedures

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2008

REVISION DATE(S): JULY 2024, AUGUST 22, 2019

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019

Purpose:

To provide the student with information regarding campus safety and emergency procedures.

Policy:

1. The student is responsible for reviewing campus safety and emergency procedures. The information can be found at the following links:

[Campus Safety](#)

[Emergency Procedures](#)

2. The program faculty during the first technical semester complete the following safety exercises with the students:

- Review the College [Safety and Emergency](#) and [Phone System Training](#) videos.
- Review the role of student and faculty during active shooter.
- Review when the faculty or student may utilize the inside dead bolts on the lab and lecture doors.
- Show students the location of fire pull stations that are closest to the PTA labs.
- Show the students the exit doors by the PTA lab and lecture rooms.
- Show students the location in which all PTA students will meet outside of the building during an emergency evacuation.

Student Policy 20

TITLE: Health Services

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide students with information regarding health services at HGTC.

Policy:

1. Students are instructed to follow the Health Services for Illness and Injury procedure stated in the College Catalog.
2. The PTA Program is consistent with the college policy and procedure, see Policy Number 9.4.3 on HGTC webpage.

Student Policy 21

TITLE: STUDENT Blood and/or Body Fluid Exposure Follow-Up or Chemical Exposure

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

1. To provide guidelines for prompt and appropriate follow up of all blood/body fluid exposure in the classroom or laboratory.
2. To inform students of the location of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for products used in the PTA program.

Policy:

1. The program will follow the college policy 3.7.4 and procedure 3.7.4.1 Accidents/Illness Occurring on or off Campus.
2. The MSDS folder is kept in the PTA laboratory clinic Room 1150 in a red binder labeled MSDS.

Student Policy 22

TITLE: Laboratory Regulations for Safety and Order

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024, August 20, 2017, May 16, 2018, August 22, 2019

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018, MAY 2018,

Purpose:

To provide students with information on safety procedures in the laboratory including fire and medical emergencies.

Policy:

Lab Safety Rules

1. Program lab equipment (mat tables and hospital bed excluded) may only be used under direct supervision of the PTA faculty or PTA program tutor during scheduled instructional lab times or during scheduled open lab times.
2. Open lab times will be scheduled at the beginning of each semester, a faculty member or PTA program tutor must be present during open labs.
3. Students must report any damage of any equipment to the lab instructor immediately.
4. Each student is responsible for cleaning the treatment area and equipment upon completion of its use.
5. A first aid kit and infection control materials are available in the laboratory Room 1150.
6. In the event of a fire emergency, students should activate the RACE Plan.

Remove the individual from the danger

Announce the fire

Contain the Fire

Escape

When in doubt- announce and escape

7. In the event of a medical emergency in which an instructor is present, the instructor will take charge of the situation. Listen to instructions, which may include activating the EMS system,

obtaining equipment and supplies, and/or assisting with CPR, and removing other individuals from the area.

In the event it is the instructor involved in the medical emergency or the instructor is not present, the student(s) must take charge by contacting the campus public safety by activating the campus safety alert on classroom telephones or by calling 911, and provide emergency first aid (ABC's: Airway, breathing, circulation-bleeding).

8. In the event that the physical safety of a student or faculty member is threatened, the campus public safety should be notified immediately by activating the campus safety alert on classroom telephones or by calling 911.

Campus Public Safety Contact Information:

- Conway Campus: 843-349-7806 | Cell phone: 843-251-6111
- CCU Dispatch: 843-347-3161
- Grand Strand Campus: 843-477-2115 | Cell phone: 843-251-9405
- Georgetown Campus: 843-446-1869

9. Students are to always maintain appropriate infection control procedures.
10. Students must notify the faculty if they have a medical condition, which may prevent participation as a subject or patient-simulator in the lab setting.
11. Students are required to acknowledge and sign the PTA Program Student Lab Release Form.

Lab Order Rules

1. Respect others at all times.
2. No cell phones may be used without special permission from the instructor.
3. Students are to remove their footwear when utilizing the treatment tables and floor mats.
4. All equipment must be returned to the proper storage area upon completion of lab.
5. Students may not bring food or beverages into the lab.
6. To ensure the student's privacy and to protect them against any embarrassment, no unauthorized visitors will be permitted in the PTA lab.
7. The students will do laundry for their classes consisting of pillowcases, towels, and incidentals the faculty may deem need cleaning, i.e., belts etc.

Student Policy 23

Title: Accessibility and Disability Services

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024, 2/2018

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide students with information regarding programs and services offered by HGTC to ensure equal opportunity and reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Policy:

1. Students will self-identify any mental or physical limitation(s) to the Program Director.
2. Once a student has self-identified their mental or physical limitation(s), the Program Director will begin an interactive process with a student affairs representative to review and determine if the program can make reasonable academic accommodations to allow the student to progress in the program.
3. The accommodations made for the mental or physical limitation(s), must still allow the student to meet the course and program learning outcomes.
4. The accommodations made for the mental or physical limitation(s), must still allow the student to meet the technical requirements of the chosen profession.
5. The Program Director will continue the interactive process with a student affairs representative to develop an accommodation plan for the student.
6. Upon conclusion of the interactive process, if an accommodation plan for a physical or mental limitation(s) is unable to be developed, the student will be withdrawn from the program.
7. If an accommodation plan is able to be developed, documentation will be provided for the student, faculty, and student affairs representative to sign. Accommodations will be implemented upon receiving all signatures.

Student Policy 24

Title: Ensuring Equipment Used in the Program Laboratory is in Safe Working Order and is Appropriately Maintained and Calibrated

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To ensure the equipment used in the program laboratory is in safe working order and is appropriately maintained and calibrated.

Policy:

1. The program faculty and students are responsible for assuring that the equipment used in the program laboratory is in safe working order (i.e. proper temperature), properly maintained (i.e. no damaged cords) and calibrated (i.e. check the inspection sticker).
2. Service/maintenance contracts have been implemented to manage regularly scheduled calibration of equipment. Checklists are present in the laboratory indicating when the equipment was last maintained and/or calibrated and by whom. The checklist will include a contact person/number to report any problems or malfunctioning of equipment. These procedures will be put in place as each piece of equipment is purchased and placed in the laboratory for student use.
3. An annual biomedical equipment check will be performed on all electrical equipment in the department in accordance with preferred practice standards. Vendors will be contracted to perform this function.
4. Signs will be posted regarding precautions in equipment use as is deemed necessary.
5. An equipment notebook, listing each piece of equipment and serial number will be in the PTA Program Director's office. This procedure will be implemented as each piece of lab equipment is put into operation in the laboratory.

Student Policy 25

TITLE: Accidents/Illnesses, Occurring on or off Campus

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide guidelines for prompt and appropriate follow up of all accidents/illnesses involving personal injury of a student on or off campus.

Policy:

1. Students are instructed to follow the Illness or Medical Emergency procedure stated in the College Catalog.
2. The PTA program is consistent with the college policy and procedure, see Policy Number 3.7.4 and procedure 3.7.4.1 Accidents/Illnesses Occurring on or off Campus on HGTC webpage.

Student Policy 26

Title: Off Campus Laboratories and Field Trips

Original Approval Date: 2008

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide students with travel information for off campus laboratory experiences and field trips.

Policy:

1. The PTA program is consistent with the college policy and procedure, see Policy Number 8.1.1 Field Trips/Student or Group Travel on the HGTC webpage.

Student Policy 27

TITLE: Complaint Process for Non-Faculty and Non-Students

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2008

REVISION DATE(S): JULY 2024, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2018

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide the student with information regarding the complaint process received from non-faculty and non-students.

Policy:

Complaints received by non-faculty and non-students will be handled as follows:

1. Complaints will be made to the Program Director.
2. The Program Director will complete the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Complaint Form.
3. The Program Director will contact the appropriate college administrator (Dean) to seek resolution of the complaint.
4. A written response will be provided to the person filing the complaint with a timeline that is dependent on the nature of the complaint.
5. A copy of all complaints will be kept in a secure location in the Program Director's office.

Student Policy 28

Title: Social Media

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: June 2015

REVISION DATE(S): APRIL 2025, JULY 2024, JULY 2016

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019

Purpose:

1. To provide information to each student concerning the appropriate use of social media within the PTA program.
2. To provide information to each student concerning the consequences of inappropriate use of social media within the PTA program.

Terminology:

1. **Social media and networking** are interchangeable terms and refer to any social media platform.
2. **Libel** is a published false statement that is damaging to a person's reputation, a written defamation.
3. **Slander** refers to the utterance of false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage another's reputation, or a false and defamatory statement about a person.

Policy:

1. PTA students must not transmit online individually identifiable patient, student, faculty, adjunct faculty, or staff information.
 - a. PTA students must not publish libel or make slanderous remarks or insinuations about patients, peers, adjunct faculty, faculty, staff, or the institution of HGTC, even if they are not identified.
2. PTA students must not transmit or place online any test questions or test content that could be identified as cheating. The college policy on academic misconduct will be followed to include social media networking.
3. PTA students must observe ethical and professional patient-nurse/student PTA boundaries.
 - a. Do not share or post opinions, information, insinuations, or photos gained through the student PTA-patient relationship on any social media outlet.
 - b. Do not share or post libelous or slanderous opinions, information, insinuations, or photos regarding students, faculty, staff, or the institution of HGTC.
4. Should any problem arise during the classroom or clinical setting, use the Chain-of-Command to resolve the issue.
5. Student PTA have a responsibility to promptly report any identified breach of confidentiality or any inappropriate use of social media.
6. This breach may be reported to (but not limited to) an instructor, staff person, or dean.
7. Be aware of your association with HGTC in online social networks.
 - a. Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) name, photos, trademark, etc., cannot be used in social media groups including student pictures with HGTC student ID badge or

HGTC apparel. Additionally, if a cohort, class, or classmate makes a Facebook page named HGTC's Fall Class of 2016, this would be an infringement on trademark rights.

8. If you identify yourself as a student, ensure your profile and any related content is professional and consistent with how you wish to present yourself to colleagues, clients, and potential employers.

Consequences:

1. Violations of patient/client privacy using an electronic device will be subject to HIPPA guidelines and consequences.
2. Students who share confidential information utilizing social media do so at the risk of disciplinary action, including failure in a course and/or dismissal from the PTA program.

References:

American Physical Therapy Association

Student Policy 29

Title: Professional References

Original Approval Date: 2017

Revision Date(s): JULY 2024, AUGUST 22, 2019

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, AUGUST 2019

Purpose:

To provide information to each student and faculty how program faculty may be used as a professional reference upon graduation from the PTA program.

Policy:

1. Students must sign the Release for Professional Reference form upon graduation from the PTA program for faculty to be a professional reference for the student for future employment. The Program Director is responsible for tracking the Release for Professional Reference form. See the form in appendix.
2. Students may revoke the Release for Professional Reference at any time by sending a written request or email to the Program Director.
3. The instructor should ensure the student has requested the written/oral reference or authorized the reference on the employment application.
4. The instructor should make it clear that his/her comments reflect his/her own observations/mental impressions and do not represent the official position of the College.
5. It is acceptable for the instructor to use the college's email and state how he/she knows the student and the instructor's observations of the student's propensity for diligence, commitment, industry, and other attributes which might be beneficial in the job screening process. Grades and other personally identifiable information should not be shared.
6. In cases when the instructor is unable to be positive, the instructor should not write the recommendation.

References: HGTC Academic Affairs

Student Policy 30

TITLE: Pinning Ceremony

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2018

REVISION DATE(S): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, MAY 2018, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide students with information regarding the Program Pinning Ceremony.

Policy:

1. The class will acknowledge that the Program Pinning Ceremony is not a confirmation of the graduation but students' celebrating the program success.
2. The program's students are responsible for hosting the Program Pinning Ceremony.
3. The Program Pinning Ceremony will be after all final grade submission deadline for the term.
4. The students of a class will vote to determine if the class will host the Program Pinning Ceremony.
5. The students will notify the Program Director or club advisor if the class desires to host a pinning ceremony.
6. The class is responsible for planning, coordinating, and paying for the Program Pinning Ceremony.
7. The class will follow the following outline of the pinning ceremony:
 - Greetings
 - Invocation
 - Inspirational Speaker
 - Presentation of Awards
 - Recognition of the Class Officers
 - Academic Achievement
 - Clinical Education Achievement
 - Clinical Educator of the Year
 - Presentation of the Graduates
 - Student Officers
 - Closing Remarks
8. The class may change the outline of the pinning ceremony but will need to request approval from the Program Director or club advisor.
9. If the class chooses to speak and or present videos at the pinning ceremony, the club advisor or Program Director must approve the speech and the video.

Student Policy 31

TITLE: PTA Program Awards

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: 2018

REVISION DATE(S): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023, MAY 2022, MAY 2021, MAY 2018, AUGUST 2018

Purpose:

To provide students with the information regarding the awards offered by the program at the annual Pinning Ceremony.

Policy:

1. The program annually recognizes student academic and clinical success and an outstanding clinical instructor. These recognitions are based on the following:
 - Academic Achievement
 - Purpose: The purpose of this award is to recognize an HGTC student who has the highest technical didactic course grade point average.
 - Procedure: The Program Director will calculate the grade point average based on the letter grade from the PTH didactic courses. The program may give out more than one Academic Achievement Award if two students have both earned the highest-grade point average.
 - The award will be presented at the Annual HGTC PTA pinning ceremony.
 - Clinical Education Achievement
 - Purpose: The purpose of this award is to recognize an HGTC student who has the highest technical, clinical courses calculated overall grade.
 - Procedure: The ACCE will calculate the clinical courses calculated overall grade. The program may give out more than one Clinical Education Achievement Award if two students have both earned the highest clinical courses calculated overall grade.
 - The award will be presented at the Annual HGTC PTA pinning ceremony.
 - Clinical Educator of the Year
 - Purpose: The purpose of this award is to recognize an HGTC clinical instructor or educator for outstanding contributions to the clinical education aspect of the physical therapist assistant profession.
 - Minimal Requirements:
 - The nominee must have been a Clinical Instructor or Site Coordinator of Clinical Educator (SCCE) for HGTC PTA program.
 - The nominee must receive at least one statement of recommendation from a current or graduated HGTC physical therapist assistant student

who the clinical educator/instructor has supervised within the past three years or HGTC faculty member.

- Preferred Requirements:
 - The nominee will have two years' experience as a CI or SCCE averaging at least one student per year.
 - A member of the APTA
 - The nominee will receive one or more letter(s) of support or recommendation from an HGTC current or former student or faculty.
- Nomination Procedure:
 - All nominee information must be received by Nov 25th to be considered for that academic year. Nomination Packet to include:
 - Statement of recommendation from student or HGTC faculty (see form below)
 - Other letter(s) of support (preferred but not required)
 - All nominations will be evaluated for completeness of criteria by the HGTC full-time faculty.
 - The HGTC full-time faculty will review all nominations.
 - The recipient will be voted on by the HGTC full-time faculty.
 - The award will be presented at the Annual HGTC PTA pinning ceremony.

Student Policy 32

Title: Distance Learning

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: April 2023

REVISION DATE(S): JULY 2024

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024, APRIL 2023

Purpose:

To provide students with information regarding distance learning in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Policy:

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program uses the HGTC Distance Learning Institute guidelines for online and hybrid PTH courses. Please visit each of the following links for additional information:

1. Getting Started: https://www.hgtc.edu/academics/distance_learning/gettingstarted.html
2. Netiquette: https://www.hgtc.edu/academics/distance_learning/netiquette.html
3. Policies: https://www.hgtc.edu/academics/distance_learning/policies.html
4. Computer Requirements: https://www.hgtc.edu/academics/distance_learning/requirement.html
5. Services for Distance Learning Students:
https://www.hgtc.edu/academics/distance_learning/services.html
6. DLI Virtual Tour: https://www.hgtc.edu/academics/distance_learning/virtualtour.html

Student Policy 33

Title: Student Resources and Retention

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: April 2024

REVISION DATE(S): NONE

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024

Purpose:

To provide students with information regarding HGTC Student Resources, program retention efforts and the student responsibilities.

Policy:

1. Enrolled students are required to attend a mandatory program orientation session held prior to the start of the first technical semester of the year the student is entering the program. The date of the session is provided in the admissions welcome letter.
2. Enrolled students are required to meet with the program faculty for advisement every semester to discuss strengths and weaknesses for improvement.
3. Enrolled students will utilize HGTC Student Resources as needed to aid student success:
 - a. Academic Resources: Academic Programs; High School Student Programs; Academic Calendars; Bookstore; Class Schedules; Campus Locations; College Catalog & Student Handbook; Degrees, Diplomas & Certificates; Faculty Directory; Library; Registrar; University Transfer
 - b. Student Services: Success & Tutoring Center; Counseling Services; Career Services; Accessibility and Disability Services; Graduation Resources; Online Career Center; Student Life; How to Request a Transcript; Testing Center; Veterans Resources; and how to sign up for HGTC Emergency Alert Notifications
 - c. Financial Aid Resources: How to apply for FAFSA, tuition and fees and tuition due dates.
 - d. Advising and Registration: Academic Advising; Class Schedules; Course Descriptions; Academic Calendars; Bookstore; myHGTC; Student Info Center: TECH Central; Student Information Center - TECH Central

More information available at: [Current Student Resources](#)

Student Policy 34

Title: Student Governance

ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: April 2024

REVISION DATE(S): NONE

LAST REVIEWED DATE: APRIL 2025, APRIL 2024

Purpose:

To provide the students with the general guidelines of the student governance to express academic concerns and issues related to the physical therapist assistant program.

Policy:

1. Two student representatives shall be elected by their classmates during the first technical semester of the program.
 - a. A re-election will occur each semester (Students may re-elect the same class representatives, or they may elect new ones).
 - b. Each elected class representative will sign an acknowledgement of duty form for each semester.
2. A special election may be held during a semester, and classmates shall elect an alternate representative to serve in this role if an elected representative is unable to maintain their duties for reasons such as:
 - a. Student relinquishes their own status.
 - b. Student does not continue in the program.
 - c. Student displays unprofessional actions and/or behaviors within their role as a student leader.
3. The student representatives will meet with the class at least once a semester to discuss any issues or concerns the class has expressed.
4. The student representatives will communicate directly with the Program Director to seek a resolution and follow up with the class.
5. The student representatives are expected to attend program faculty meetings and advisory board meetings to have the opportunity to voice student feedback and participate in program analysis of strengths and weaknesses.

IV. Forms

This section contains forms as referenced in Part III: PTA Student Policies.

Horry Georgetown Technical College

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Academic Advising

Student: _____ H Number: _____

The evaluation is based upon the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant and the Values-Based Behaviors for the Physical Therapist Assistant.

The student will complete the Values-based Behaviors Self-Assessment and bring to the advisor for the first technical semester advising session. The document can be found at: [Self Assessment](#)

Scoring Criteria: 1= Never demonstrates behavior 2= Demonstrates behavior 50% of time 3= Demonstrates behavior 75% of time 4= Always demonstrates behavior

| Evaluation | | Performance Technical Semester | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | Prior to start of program | | | | |
| Degree Works Reviewed | | | | | |
| <u>Duty:</u> Attendance and Timeliness (tardy) | | | | | |
| <u>Duty:</u> Engagement in the Classroom/Lab | | | | | |
| <u>Responsibility:</u> Preparation for Class | | | | | |
| <u>Responsibility:</u> Accuracy and Completion of Assignments | | | | | |
| <u>Integrity:</u> Adhering to program policies and procedures | | | | | |
| <u>Continuing Competence:</u> Ability to Self-Assess Performance | | | | | |

Horry Georgetown Technical College

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Academic Advising

Pre-Program Advising Session:

1. Review of Degree Works:
 - a. Is the student taking a co-req?
 - b. Is the student registered for all fall PTH courses?
 - c. Current GPA:
2. Employment? How many hours/week? Faculty recommendation is no more than 20 hours per week. If more, faculty consultation provided?
3. Student background? Other degrees?
4. Student interests?
5. Student time management strategies and study strategies?
6. Other student questions answered during this session:

Student Signature & Date: _____

Advisor Signature & Date _____

Technical Semester 1 (Fall 1):

Comments:

Cumulative PTH GPA at end of term:

✓ what is applicable

☐ Probation for a Course

☐ Cumulative GPA Warning ☐ GPA Probation ☐ Cumulative GPA Suspension

Student Signature & Date: _____

Advisor Signature & Date _____

Technical Semester 2 (Spring):

Comments:

Cumulative PTH GPA at end of term:

✓ what is applicable

☐ Probation for a Course

☐ Cumulative GPA Warning ☐ GPA Probation ☐ Cumulative GPA Suspension

Student Signature & Date: _____

Advisor Signature & Date _____

Technical Semester 3 (Summer):

Comments:

Cumulative PTH GPA at end of term:

✓ what is applicable

☐ Probation for a Course

☐ Cumulative GPA Warning ☐ GPA Probation ☐ Cumulative GPA Suspension

Student Signature & Date: _____

Advisor Signature & Date _____

Technical Semester 4 (Fall 2):

Comments:

Cumulative PTH GPA at end of term:

✓ what is applicable

☐ Probation for a Course

☐ Cumulative GPA Warning ☐ GPA Probation ☐ Cumulative GPA Suspension

Student Signature & Date: _____

Advisor Signature & Date _____

Release of Confidential Information

POLICY:

In accordance with the "Family Education and Privacy Act of 1974," the student in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program must sign any of the selected items below on this form.

PURPOSE:

To provide a means for the control of what information the student wants the faculty or program to release to future employers, other programs, you (the student), etc.

DOCUMENTATION:

The following is presented and requires completion for each of the selected items. Please place a ☒ inside of the yes or no block.

1. RELEASE OF PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC INFORMATION

My Signature, H number, and today's date for this section authorizes the faculty of the Physical Therapist Program to furnish any and all information on academic, discipline, attendance, college credit, address, and any other pertinent information regarding any enrollment in the Physical Therapist Program to prospective employers, selection committees or myself when requested.

YES ☐

NO ☐

Printed Name

Date

H Number

Signature

2. RELEASE OF PERSONEL IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

My Signature, H number, and today's date for this section authorizes the faculty of the Physical Therapist Program to furnish any and all information on immunizations while enrolled in the Physical Therapist Program to myself when requested.

YES ☐

NO ☐

Printed Name

Date

H Number

Signature

3. RELEASE OF PRACTIUM REPORTS

My Signature, H number, and today's date for this section authorizes the faculty of the Physical Therapist Program to furnish any and all information on clinical practicums (internships/rotations) to prospective employers, selection committees, other programs or myself when requested.

YES ☐

NO ☐

Printed Name

Date

H Number

Signature

4. RELEASE OF LIABILITY

My Signature, H number, and today's date for this section authorizes other students and faculty to perform appropriate physical therapy procedures for educational purposes during classroom and laboratory instruction.

YES ☐

NO ☐

Printed Name

Date

H Number

Signature

Horry Georgetown Technical College

PTA PROGRAM STUDENT LAB RELEASE FORM

Many of the program courses contain laboratory components that are a critical part of a student's physical therapist assistant education. These labs provide the student with the opportunity to practice skills and treatment techniques.

I understand that, while participating in the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, I will be expected to participate in the roles of both patient and physical therapist assistant for any and all treatment techniques taught in supervised laboratory sessions in this program including: massage, traction, thermal and electrical modalities, as well as therapeutic exercise and transfer techniques. I will be required to:

1. Both perform and receive hands-on techniques that require contact with various parts of the human body that may be visible by means of draping, wearing shorts, or halter top.
2. Exhibit professional behaviors and monitor my actions and words to be respectful and appropriate at all times.
3. Treat with confidentiality any health or protected information obtained during the course of laboratory sessions.
4. Report to the appropriate instructor any conditions or possible contraindications that may preclude specific actions or treatments in lab.
5. Follow the safety regulations regarding the use of equipment in the program laboratory.

Printed student name

Student Signature and Date

Witness Signature and Date

Non-Student Informed Consent to Participate in Classroom/Laboratory Exercises for Educational Purposes

I _____ consent to participate with the HGTC Physical Therapist Assistant Program in Classroom/ Laboratory programs for educational purposes only.

I attest to the fact that I am not being treated for any medical condition nor—have I been promised any treatment for any medical condition for this clinical education experience by the faculty or students.

I will allow the use of video and/or photography for educational purposes.

I am aware that the information I share with the program will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone outside the program and used only for educational purposes.

Every effort will be made to provide a safe environment and experience.

Name

Date

Horry-Georgetown Technical College

PTA Program Imaging Permission Form

PERMISSION

I, _____, do hereby grant to Horry-Georgetown Technical College, its successors, assigns, licenses and any other designees, forever, the absolute right and permission to use, publish and reproduce the use of videotapes, audiotapes, and photographs for instructional purposes and for performance review in all PTA program classes, at the College's sole discretion.

I also hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect and/or approve the finished product or printed matter that may be used in connection therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

Print Student Name

Student Signature & date

Witness signature & date

SC Code of Laws, Article 27, The Lewis Blackman Hospital Patient Safety Act

The Lewis Blackman Hospital Patient Safety Act provides a risk-free mechanism for the right of patients to refuse to participate in clinical education:

The Lewis Blackman Hospital Patient Safety Act was enacted in South Carolina in 2005 to make clear the status and responsibilities of all clinical staff. This law provides the mechanism by which patients in a hospital or outpatient setting within a hospital are informed when students are involved in patient care. Identification badges must show the person's first and last name, and designation, i.e.: "physical therapist assistant student." The South Carolina Hospital system complies with this law which states:

Section 44-7-3430

"All clinical trainees, medical students, interns, and resident physicians must be explicitly identified as such on their badges." This information must be clearly visible and must be stated in terms or abbreviations reasonably understandable to the average person, as recognized by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Section 44-7-3440

Except in emergency admissions, a hospital shall provide to each patient prior to, or at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital for inpatient care or outpatient surgery, written information describing the general role of clinical trainees, medical students, interns, and resident physicians in patient care. This document must be separate from the general consent for treatment.

Section 44-7-3450

Each hospital must provide a mechanism, available at all times, through which a patient may access prompt assistance for the resolution of the patient's personal medical care concerns.

For purposes of this section, 'mechanism' means a telephone number, beeper number, or other means of allowing a patient to independently access the patient assistance system and must not be construed as requiring a patient to request information or assistance in order to access the system; however, a clinical staff member or clinical trainee must promptly access the system on behalf of a patient if a patient requests such assistance. A description of this mechanism and the method for accessing it must be included in the written material described in Section 44-7-3440. The hospital must establish procedures for the implementation of the mechanism, providing for initiation of contact with administrative or supervisory clinical staff who shall promptly assess, or cause to be assessed, the urgent patient care concern and cause the patient care concern to be addressed."

I have received and read The Lewis Blackman Act. I acknowledge as a Physical Therapist Assistant Student, I must abide by The Lewis Blackman Act.

Student Name (Please Print) _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Harassment Policy
of the SC State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education
Adopted by HGTC PTA Program

Sexual Harassment is defined as sexual discrimination where the harassing conduct creates a hostile environment. Therefore, unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when the conduct is severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational environment.

Should I feel that I am being subjected to sexual harassment, I will report it to the Student Services according to the Student Grievance Procedure as outlined in the college Catalog. My complaint shall remain confidential.

I have read Horry-Georgetown Technical College's Sexual Harassment policy and agree to abide by it at all times.

Print student name

Student signature & date

Witness signature & date

Horry Georgetown Technical College

PTA Program Acknowledgement of Technical Standards, Essential Eligibility Requirements, and Essential Program Requirements of the PTA Program (Student Policy 1)

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have read and understand the Technical Standards, Essential Eligibility Requirements, and Essential Program Requirements of the PTA program and am able to perform with or without accommodation. If accommodation is necessary, the student must contact the PTA Program Director prior to the start of the program.

The Program Director will begin an interactive process with a student affairs representative to review and determine if the program can make reasonable academic accommodations to allow the student to progress in the program. Demonstration may be required.

Printed Student Name

Student Signature and Date

Witness Signature and Date

Release for Professional Reference

I authorize the program faculty of HGTC PTA program to be a professional reference for future employers upon graduation.

This release is effective until a revocation of release is received in writing by the Program Chair.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

**Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Complaint Form**

Date: _____ Name of person filing complaint: _____

Complaint received: ☐ via phone ☐ in person (location _____)
 ☐ via email ☐ other _____

Complaint origin: ☐ clinic site ☐ public ☐ HGTC employee ☐ student
 ☐ employer ☐ other _____

Complaint: _____

Resolution: _____

Follow-up: _____

Received By: _____ Date: _____

Student Governance Acknowledgement of Duty Form

I, _____, have reviewed PTA Student Policy 34, Student Governance, and accept my role as student class representative. I understand my role and responsibilities related to this position.

PTA Class Graduation Year: _____

Technical Semester: _____

(Student Name Print)

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Faculty Signature)

(Date)

Horry Georgetown Technical College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Acknowledgement of Student Manual

I have read the contents of the Student Manual and agree to adhere to the policies and procedures of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. I acknowledge that I am responsible for knowing the contents of the Student Manual.

I understand that the policies and procedures are subject to revision, and I will be notified of any changes by the Program Director and will be required to sign the Acknowledgement of Student Manual Revision Form.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Horry Georgetown Technical College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Acknowledgement of Student Manual Revision

I have read the revised Student Manual and agree to adhere to the policies and procedures of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. I acknowledge that I am responsible for knowing the contents of the Student Manual.

Policies Revised and Reviewed: _____

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____