



Physical Therapist Assistant Program Mission

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Southwestern Illinois College provides students with a variety of experiences and opportunities to develop the skills required of the entry-level physical therapist assistant. The program continually assesses student learning and makes necessary modifications in teaching methods as indicated to best prepare students for contemporary practice as a physical therapist assistant. The mission and values of the college and the core values of the American Physical Therapy Association are reinforced through professional role modeling and advocacy for the profession and society.

Physical Therapist Assistant-Program Goals

Goals Related to Didactic and Clinical Program

The PTA Program at Southwestern Illinois College will:

1. Graduate entry-level clinicians with a strong skill set who are prepared both didactically and clinically for passing licensure and entering the workforce.
2. Foster life-long learning to reflect contemporary practice and promote advocacy to best meet the needs of the profession and society.

Goals Related to Students/Graduates (Educational/Learning Goals by SWIC OA Committee definition):

The PTA Program at Southwestern Illinois College will graduate students that will:

1. Educate individuals in the role of the physical therapist assistant within the profession of physical therapy as well as within the interprofessional healthcare team.
2. Explain basic human anatomy, physiology and development and how it is relevant to providing physical therapy interventions.
3. Demonstrate competency in implementing contemporary physical therapy interventions while providing sound rationale, under the supervision and direction of the physical therapist, and in modifying the intervention within the therapist's plan of care.
4. Maintain a safe, effective, and efficient work environment, and respond appropriately in a medical emergency.

5. Collect data and report patient status to the physical therapist and/or other members of the interprofessional health care team through appropriate oral and/or written communication.
6. Recognize when to notify the physical therapist to re-examine and re-evaluate the patient due to change in patient status or clinical environment.
7. Skillfully utilize equipment and technology common in physical therapy.
8. Educate patients, family, caregivers, and/or society regarding health and wellness.
9. Display professional behaviors complimentary to the profession through sound ethical decision making and advocacy.
10. Recognize and respond to the individual needs of patients, family, caregivers and/or members of the interprofessional healthcare team and to the collective needs of society in a culturally competent manner.
11. Demonstrate initiative as a self-directed, life-long learner by accessing reliable resources to advance knowledge, skills and contemporary expertise.
12. Practice physical therapy within the limits of the law and educational training.

Goals Related to Faculty:

The PTA Program Faculty at Southwestern Illinois College will:

1. Uphold the mission and values of the college and the core values of the American Physical Therapy Association as demonstrated through professional role modeling and advocacy for the profession and society.
2. Demonstrate life-long learning through the pursuit of continuing education related to the profession of physical therapy and area of teaching responsibility.
3. Demonstrate professional growth in teaching, learning and/or technology.
4. Continually update course materials to provide students a contemporary education.
5. Provide students with a variety of experiences while continually assessing student learning and making necessary modifications to best prepare students for contemporary practice.

Submitted by: Kim Snyder
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