



**Purpose:** It is the intention of this Administrative-Master Syllabus to provide a general description of the course, outline the required elements of the course and to lay the foundation for course assessment for the improvement of student learning, as specified by the faculty of Wharton County Junior College, regardless of who teaches the course, the timeframe by which it is instructed, or the instructional method by which the course is delivered. It is not intended to restrict the manner by which an individual faculty member teaches the course but to be an administrative tool to aid in the improvement of instruction.

**Course Title** – Introduction to Physical Therapy

**Course Prefix and Number** – PTHA 1409

**Department** – Physical Therapist Assistant

**Division** – Allied Health

**Course Type:** (check one)

- Academic General Education Course (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)
- Academic WCJC Core Course
- WECM course (This course is a Special Topics or Unique Needs Course: Y  or N )

**Semester Credit Hours #:** Lecture hours#: Lab/other hours #      **4:3:4**

**Equated Pay hours for course** - 5

List Lab/ Other Hours
Lab Hours 4
Clinical Hours 0
Practicum Hours 0
Other (list) 0

**Course Catalog Description - Course Description:** Introduction to the profession of physical therapy and the role of the physical therapist assistant. Includes the application of basic patient handling, functional skills, communication, and selected data collection techniques.

**Prerequisites/Co requisites** – Admission to PTA Program

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*Date* 6-28-11

*Reviewed by department head* Betty Salas

*Date* 6-28-11

*Accuracy verified by Division Chair* Carol Derkowski

*Date* 7-25-11

*Approved by Dean of Vocational Instruction or Vice President of Instruction*  
Stephanie Dees

*Date* 8/2/2011



**I. Topical Outline** – Each offering of this course must include the following topics (be sure to include information regarding lab, practicum, clinical or other non-lecture instruction):

- A. Identifying the College and Course Requirements
  - 1. Rules and regulations of the college and the PTA program
  - 2. Course objectives
  - 3. Course content
  - 4. Evaluation procedure
  
- B. Physical Therapy: Definition and Profession
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Physical Therapy as a Profession
- 3. Historical Development
  
- C. Roles and Employment Settings
  - 1. Direct Patient Care
  - 2. Communication
  - 3. Consultation
  - 4. Administration
  - 5. Instruction
  - 6. Research
  - 7. Employment Characteristics
  
- D. The Physical Therapist Assistant
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Origins and History
  - 3. Curriculum and Accreditation Standards
  - 4. Utilization
  - 5. State Regulation
  - 6. Employment Characteristic
  - 7. Rights and Privileges in the APTA
  - 8. Future
  
- E. American Physical Therapy Association
  - 1. Mission and Goals
  - 2. Organizational Structure
  - 3. Benefits of Membership
  - 4. Related Organizations
  - 5. Texas Physical Therapy Association
  
- F. Laws, Regulations and Policies
  - 1. General Description
  - 2. Examples Affecting Physical Therapy
  - 3. Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act and Rules
  
- G. Current Issues
  - 1. Educational Preparation
  - 2. Practice Settings

3. Direct Access
  4. Physician-Owned Physical Therapy Services
  6. Guide to Physical Therapist Practice
  5. Encroachment and Human Resources
  6. Reimbursement
  7. Continuous Quality Improvement
  8. Research in Physical Therapy
- H. Physical Therapy: Practice
1. Physical Therapy for Musculoskeletal Conditions
  2. Physical Therapy for Neuromuscular Conditions
  3. Physical Therapy Cardiopulmonary Conditions
  4. Physical Therapy for Integumentary Conditions
  5. Physical Therapy for Pediatric
  6. Physical Therapy for the Older Adult
- I. Communication
1. Verbal/Non-verbal
  2. Written
- J. Documentation
1. Definition
  2. Importance of Documentation
  3. Evaluation of PT/PTA Responsibilities and Role of Documentation
  4. Role of Documentation in Patient Care
  5. Documentation Content Categories
  6. Organizations and Presentation of the Content
  7. Writing the Progress Note
  8. Other Documentation Responsibilities
- K. Medical Terminology
1. Basic prefixes, suffixes, and combining forms associated with medical terms commonly used in physical therapy
  2. Abbreviations and symbols used in physical therapy
  3. Medical Terminology understood by all health care members
- L. Patient Care Skills
1. Preparation for Patient Care
  2. Vital Signs
  3. Aseptic Techniques
  4. Turning and Positioning
  5. Wheelchairs
  6. Transfers
  7. First Aid
- M. Americas with Disabilities Act

**II. Course Learning Outcomes**

Course Learning Outcome	Method of Assessment
<p><b>End-of-Course Outcomes:</b> Describe the history, purpose, and scope of physical therapy; identify the roles and responsibilities of the physical therapist assistant; describe principles and techniques of patient handling and functional skills; demonstrate performance of basic patient handling and functional skills, selected data collection techniques, and communication skills.</p>	<p>GRADE COMPILATION</p> <p>4 Unit Exams..... 60% (Unit 4 Practical ..... 25% of Unit 4 Exam)            Comprehensive Final.....17%            Medical Terminology.... 20% (includes 6 exams &amp; Comprehensive Final)            Professionalism.....3%</p>

**III. Required Text(s), Optional Text(s) and/or Materials to be Supplied by Student.**

Bircher, Wendy D. Lukan's Documentation for Physical Therapist Assistants, 3rd Edition, F.A. Davis, 2008.

Minor, Mary A. Duesterhaus and Scott Duesterhaus. Patient Care Skills, 5th Edition, 2006 by Appleton & Lange.

Leonard, Peggy, C. Quick & Easy Medical Terminology, 5th Edition, W.B. Saunders Company, 2007.

Pagliarulo, Michael A. Introduction to Physical Therapy, 4th Edition, Mosby-Year Book, Inc., 2011.

**IV. Suggested Course Maximum - 16**

**V. List any specific spatial or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the course.**

Classroom and Lab

**VI. Course Requirements/Grading System – Describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course**

During the course of the semester, there will be a written exam following each unit of material. Following the 4th unit there will also be a lab practical which is averaged in with the Unit 4 exam. Unit exams will account for 60% of the final course grade. A comprehensive course final exam will be given at the end of the semester which will account for 17% of the final grade.

Medical Terminology accounts for 20% of the PTHA 1409 grade. There are 6 exams including a comprehensive final given during the semester.

Professionalism in the classroom accounts for 3%

A letter grade will assigned for the course based on the following scale:

- 100 - 90 = A
- 89 - 80 = B
- 79 - 75 = C
- 74 - 60 = D
- Below 59 = F

A student must receive a "C" (75%) or above for successful completion of this course. Any student receiving a "D" or "F" must withdraw from the PTA Program.

**VII. Curriculum Checklist**

- **Academic General Education Course** (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)  
No additional documentation needed

- **Academic WCJC Core Course**  
Attach the Core Curriculum Checklist, including the following:

- Basic Intellectual Competencies
- Perspectives
- Exemplary Educational Objectives

- **WECM Courses**  
If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix & Competencies Checklist.