

**Request for Exception to BOR 301.12  
Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant  
MSU-Great Falls College of Technology**

MSU-Great Falls College of Technology (the College) requests an exception to BOR 301.12 for our AAS degree program in Physical Therapist Assistant. The program is out of compliance with the following provision of the policy;

- The College's program exceeds the 72-credit cap stated in the policy. The College's AAS degree in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) requires 77 credits.
- While the program's duration (number of semesters) for a full-time student **DOES NOT** exceed the policy limits, the summer semester included in the program's curriculum occurs after the final spring semester instead of between the two academic years as stated in the policy.

As with the previously approved exception to the AAS in Radiologic Technology, the College will encourage students to apply the credits in this AAS to a 2 +2 bachelor's degree program being developed in collaboration with MSU-Northern.

**Rationale(s) for Exception:**

- 1. Accreditation Requirements.** The curriculum content is dictated by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on the Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). According to CAPTE definitions, the College's program is considered a One-Plus-One program in which students complete general education and pre-requisite courses the first year, apply for formal entry and complete all technical coursework the second year. CAPTE requires that the program be structured so that it can be completed in no more than five (5) semesters, thus the technical content and clinical activities need to be compressed into one academic year. The combination of this compression and the content required necessitates a higher credit load. CAPTE's publication, *A Normative Model of Physical Therapist Assistant Education: Version 2007* outlines the specific content required in PTA programs and the pertinent excerpt of this is included in Appendix A.
- 2. Comparability to Other Accredited Programs.** The College's program is the only accredited PTA program in the state. The program had been in moratorium since the early 2000's and after reinstating it this past fall the curriculum has been revamped for currency and relevancy. When compared to other accredited programs in the United States, this exception request in terms of the number of credits (request is at 77) seems appropriate. According to CAPTE, in 2005 the average credit totals of accredited PTA programs was 78.<sup>1</sup>
- 3. Clinical Requirements & Sequencing.** Within the second year, each semester's coursework provides the foundation of knowledge and skills required for the clinical rotation that occurs during the final weeks of the semester. A longer (8-week) clinical rotation is then required to complete additional clinical site requirements as well as culminating in a capstone clinical rotation. This allows students to synthesize the knowledge, skills, and abilities they have gained during the program through more complex patient interactions. Because of this sequencing, the summer semester is required at the end of the two academic years rather than between.

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<sup>1</sup> American Physical Therapy Association. (2007, January). *2005-2006 Fact Sheet Physical Therapist Assistant Education Programs*. Retrieved March 10, 2008, from [http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Program\\_Info&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=37188](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Program_Info&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=37188)



## Physical Therapist Assistant Program Curriculum

### PRE-REQUISITE COURSES

<b>Course No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Cr.</b>
AH 185	Basic Medical Terminology	3
SOC 111	Introduction to Sociology	3
BIO 213	Anatomy & Phys I Lecture/Lab	4
BIO 214	Anatomy & Phys II Lecture/Lab	4
COMM 135	Interpersonal Communication	3
ENGL 121	Composition I	3
MATH 161	College Algebra w/ Science Apps	3
PSY 101	General Psychology	3
PSY 109	Lifespan Development	3
PTA 105	Intro to Physical Therapist Assisting	3
		Subtotal 32

### REQUIREMENTS AFTER FORMAL ACCEPTANCE

#### FALL SEMESTER

<b>Course No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PTA 206	Pathophysiology for the PTA	3
PTA 205	Anatomy & Kinesiology for the PTA/Lab	6
PTA 101	Physical Therapist Assisting I/Lab	5
PTA 207	Nutrition and Wellness for the PTA	1
PTA 210	Clinical Experience I (4-week)	3
		Subtotal 18

#### SPRING SEMESTER

<b>Course No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PTA 201	Physical Therapist Assisting II/Lab	5
PTA 213	Neurorehabilitation for the PTA/Lab	7
PTA 215	Introduction to Orthopedics/Lab	4
PTA 220	Clinical Experience II (4-week)	3
		Subtotal 19

#### SUMMER SEMESTER

<b>Course No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PTA 225	Physical Therapist Assisting Seminar	3
PTA 230	Clinical Experience III (8-week)	5
		Subtotal 8

**TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS – 77**

## APPENDIX A

**Table 1.1 Content Outline for 2-Year Associate Degree PTA Program**

- In this table, *content* indicates the type of information that is being provided, not the names of courses. The physical therapist assistant education program faculty members determine the extent to which the foundational content and physical therapy content are taught to meet the goals of the program and the profession. For example, exercise physiology need not be an entire course, but the appropriate content may fit well into a course that includes therapeutic exercise.
- Instruction in foundational content may be provided by the physical therapist assistant education program faculty when appropriate.
- Curricular models are presented in [Chapter 2](#).

Foundational Content	Physical Therapy Content
<p><i>Foundational Sciences includes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anatomy and Physiology</li> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Exercise Physiology</li> <li>• Kinesiology/Biomechanics</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Neuroscience</li> <li>• Pathology</li> <li>• Physics</li> </ul>	<p><i>Performance Expectations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervention               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Plan of Care Review</li> <li>○ Provision of Procedural Interventions</li> <li>○ Patient/Client Instruction</li> <li>○ Documentation</li> <li>○ Patient/Client Progression</li> <li>○ Data Collection</li> <li>○ Emergency Response</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Resource Management</li> <li>• Career Development</li> </ul>
<p><i>Behavioral Sciences includes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Electronic Communication/Information Technology</li> <li>• Ethics and Values</li> <li>• Life Span Growth/Development</li> <li>• Management Sciences</li> <li>• Political Science/Law</li> <li>• Problem Solving</li> <li>• Social and Psychological Factors</li> <li>• Sociology</li> <li>• Teaching and Learning</li> </ul>	<p><i>Behavioral Expectations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Altruism</li> <li>• Compassion/Caring</li> <li>• Cultural Competence</li> <li>• Duty</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Social Responsibility</li> </ul>
<p><i>Required Content may include</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Humanities</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul>	<p><i>Clinical Education includes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part-Time and Full-Time Experiences</li> <li>• Integrated and Terminal Experiences</li> </ul>