

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
School of Allied Health Professions
Loma Linda University

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

In accordance with the mission of Loma Linda University and of the School of Allied Health Professions to continue the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus Christ and promote the aim “to make man whole,” we are committed to the highest development of the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual capacities of our faculty and our students. We believe that promoting wholeness constitutes a caring commitment to the well-being of others, our students and ourselves, to active engagement in the advancement of our profession, and to a living consecration to God. Our students will have opportunities to develop a commitment of excellence in service for others and their profession, and to develop a Biblically-informed faith and a commitment to life-long spiritual growth.

PROGRAM MISSION

The PTA Program affirms the mission and values of Loma Linda University and the School of Allied Health Professions in providing an educational program that prepares physical therapist assistants whose lives are balanced in the development of intellect, social skills, competent practice, and spiritual connection.

PROGRAM GOALS

In order to achieve the PTA program mission, the PTA program goals are to:

1. Provide technical level physical therapy education for the physical therapist assistant culminating in an associate of science degree.
2. Prepare graduates ready to provide physical therapy interventions and services under the direction and supervision of licensed physical therapists in a variety of settings.
3. Prepare graduates for service who demonstrate ethical behavior consistent with legal and professional standards.
4. Provide opportunities for students to gain compassionate insight into practices and behaviors found in a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds within an atmosphere of respect for differences.
5. Provide opportunities for graduates to consider the concept of wholeness when addressing the needs of the patient/client in terms of physical, mental and spiritual concerns.
6. Prepare graduates to communicate effectively with patient/clients and family when appropriate, colleagues and other members of the healthcare delivery team.
7. Maintain compliance with CAPTE evaluative criteria for PTA educational programs.

PROGRAM FACULTY GOALS

In order to provide the learning experiences necessary and desired to prepare graduates for practice, the goals of the PTA program faculty are to:

1. Hold state practice licensure and membership in the professional organization(s).
2. Hold a master's level degree or higher.
3. Maintain contemporary knowledge/practice expertise in assigned teaching areas.
4. Practice effective instructional methods including course content, design and learning assessment methods.
5. Develop, implement and evaluate the technical and clinical education components of the PTA curriculum.
6. Accept applicants into the PTA program that have adequately completed all eligibility requirements and who provide sufficient evidence on which to predict successful completion of the PTA program.
7. Use an approach to education in the PTA classroom which reflects an appreciation of the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.
8. Engage in service for the School, the University, the Profession and/or the Community.
9. Model professional and personal behavior that is in harmony with Christ-like values in interactions with students, staff, colleagues, alumni, family and the public.

EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The mission of the PTA program is to graduate physical therapist assistants whose lives are balanced in the development of intellect, social skills, competent practice, and spiritual connection. In order to do this the graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic level of knowledge and skills appropriate for the safe and effective practice as a physical therapist assistant with effective problem solving skills.
2. Demonstrate effective written, verbal and non-verbal communication with instructors, classmates and clinical personnel as needed to work effectively as a member of a healthcare team.
3. Provide physical therapy interventions and services under the direction and supervision of licensed physical therapists in a variety of settings.
4. Exhibit ethical behavior consistent with legal and professional standards when interacting with instructors, classmates, patients/clients and family members and clinical personnel.
5. Demonstrate compassionate respect for differences encountered in interactions with individuals from other ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
6. Demonstrate consideration of the close interrelationship of physical, mental and spiritual concerns when addressing the needs of patients/clients and others.