



Commitment Form (Retention Policy)

Following admission to the PTA Program, the student will be expected to review, complete and sign the Commitment Form then return to the Program Director. This form indicates the difficulty and commitment to learning required by the student in order to successfully complete the PTA Program. The student's completed signed copy will be maintained in the student's individual file located in the Program Director's office. If a student cannot commit fully, it is suggested the student reconsider their goals and options.

PTA PROGRAM COMMITMENT FORM

To Prospective PTA Student:

Due to the growing demand for physical therapist assistants in the local area, as well as nationally, ECC is attempting to enhance the retention of students in the PTA Program. So that you may make a more informed decision regarding your acceptance to the program and so that we effectively meet the community demands for graduate PTAs, we would like you to consider the following statements and check all that apply.

I am willing and able to commit to: (check all that apply)

- An intense, two year (5 consecutive semesters) program of study**
Grading Scale throughout program: 92-100% A, 83-91% B, 75-82% C
Grade of C or better required to pass each/all program related courses and course components.
- Classes that require a high level of problem solving/critical thinking**
Written examinations require students to apply the information they have learned to various scenarios/situations. This will require students to have a higher level of understanding of the material. Rote memorization of facts will not assist the students in applying the material to real-life situations.

Written Exam Policy: In the event that a student is unable to pass a written examination (scoring < 75%), the student will be required to take a new examination within one week of the original exam being returned by the instructor.

The original score remains as permanent and will NOT be changed. The student must achieve a 75% or better on the makeup exam to progress in the PTA Program.

- Hands-on practice and testing of skills**
Lab examinations are utilized throughout the curriculum to assess the student's comprehension of physical therapy theory and application. During lab exams, students receive a patient scenario and perform the physical therapy intervention or measurement as indicated in the Plan of Care. In general, during lab examinations, students are graded on their ability to communicate with their ("simulated") patient, conduct themselves in a professional manner, maintain safety, collect the appropriate data to report patient status, position and drape patient properly, maintain good body mechanics, provide the intervention effectively and efficiently, and document. If a student fails a lab exam, the student will be required to take a new examination. ***The original score remains as permanent and will NOT be changed. The student must demonstrate entry level criteria on the makeup lab exam to progress in the PTA Program.***
- Extra time spent outside of the classroom/lab to master the necessary skills on a weekly basis, a minimum 2-3 hours per week.**



- Three (3) to four (4) hours of study time for each one hour of credit on a weekly basis** (for example: PTA 114 is 3 credit hours and therefore plan to study 9 to 12 hours per week for this one course).
- Additional time spent on campus – which may consist of occasional day, evening, and Saturday hours to complete skill competencies.**
Skill validation will be further explained during mandatory PTA Boot Camp. Students are expected to practice and refine skills, following initial instruction given during lab (application courses). Skill competencies/validations are **REQUIRED** throughout the 2 year program. Students are given time frames in which to demonstrate competence in performing a skill. The student performs the simulated intervention or measurement on a fellow classmate or instructor and is critiqued on his/her performance. The majority of skill validations occur outside of class time during MTW afternoons.
- Helping others without bias against cultural background, age, gender, etc**
- A physically and mentally demanding profession, which requires me to be in good general health and physically/mentally and emotionally able to perform the Essential Functions.** (See ECC PTA Program Essential Functions. A medical exam is required prior to enrolling in the program and clinical sites may require updated physical exams and background checks/drug testing.)
- A clinical experience consisting of two 8 hour days per week (Tues & Thurs) for 9 weeks in the second semester (SPRING) for which I may be expected to drive up to 1 ½ hours each direction. I am aware I may be driving a significant distance to my assigned clinical rotation. I also will need to accommodate the hours that the clinical instructor works/tells me.**
- A clinical experience consisting of three 8 hour days per week (M-W-F) for 10 weeks in the fourth semester (FALL) for which I may be expected to drive up to 1 ½ hours each direction. I am aware I may be driving a significant distance to my assigned clinical rotation. I also will need to accommodate the hours that the clinical instructor works/tells me.**
- A clinical experience consisting of 40 hours/week for 6 weeks during the final semester (SPRING) for which I may be expected to drive up to 1 ½ hours each direction. I am aware I may be driving a significant distance to my assigned clinical rotation. I also will need to accommodate the hours that the clinical instructor works/tells me.**
- Carrying health insurance throughout the entire 2 year program** (*Health Tests, Vaccinations, and Insurance Policy*)
(Student health insurance policies can be purchased through the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) – the national organization supporting PTs and PTAs. Student must become an APTA member to qualify – for information on pricing and membership, contact the APTA at 1-800-999-APTA.
- An initial drug screen and criminal background check which includes finger printing.**
These are required and necessary for clinical experiences. Random drug screening and criminal background checks may be required. Annual physical may also be required as is annual TB, drug testing and flu vaccinations.

NOTE:

If you were unable to check any one of the preceding boxes, we ask you to reconsider your commitment to becoming a PTA at this time. Ask yourself the following:

- 1) What is it about the statement(s) that bothered me? Why was I not able to check the box?
- 2) Is there any way for me to rearrange my work schedule/personal life to meet the demands and time constraints of this program?
- 3) Is the only reason for my not marking a box – fear? Can I overcome this fear?



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If you are able to answer the prompting questions positively – you may wish to start now in making the necessary accommodations that will allow you to be successful in the program. We are excited by the prospect of you joining us in the fall! Please begin working on the necessary steps you will need to put into place to be successful. Now is not too early to be creating a plan.

If, after answering the above noted questions, you don't feel you are ready for this level of commitment, you may wish to reconsider your application to the program so that someone else can take advantage of the opportunity. You may consider applying to the program the following year, when the timing may better suit your needs.

If you easily checked all the preceding boxes without hesitation – you are already on your way to becoming a great PTA. **The ECC PTA Program requires a lot of commitment on your part but it is extremely rewarding.** We are very excited by the prospect of you joining us!

COMMENTS:

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____