



Physical Therapist Assistant Program



Applicant Observation Form

To the applicant: Generally, those considering a career in any healthcare field can make a more informed choice based on personal experience or observation. Therefore, prospective students are required to observe a physical therapist (PT) or a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) for a minimum of eight hours in a Physical Therapy department. Typical clinical settings where PTs and PTAs work include hospitals, home care agencies, nursing homes, and outpatient clinics.

Applicants need to complete a minimum of eight observation hours. Applicants who work as a rehabilitation aide or rehabilitation technician CANNOT observe at their place of employment. If an applicant submits observation hours from a place of employment, an additional eight hours will be required.

Applicants must contact the clinical site in advance and schedule a time for observation while a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant is working. Please realize that many physical therapy education programs require observation hours prior to admission, and clinics are only able to accommodate a limited number of prospective students at one time. Therefore, please plan accordingly.

Things to remember:

- Take this form to the observation experience and obtain the clinician's signature to confirm these observation hours,
- Applicants must turn in this completed form prior to scheduling an interview. Applicants may mail it, scan and email it, or hand it in to Bridget Webb or Erin Bergman.

While at any clinical site, applicants must maintain the highest level of professional behaviors. Specifically, please do not wear jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or open-toed shoes. Cover all tattoos and limit visible piercings to one or two earrings per ear lobe. An applicant's overall look must be neat and clean to inspire confidence during the patient-provider interaction. As a professional courtesy, we expect applicants to arrive early, be engaging, and ask the PT or PTA questions about treatments, school, most and least favorite aspects of their job, etc. Should an applicant need to reschedule, contact the clinic immediately.

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I authorize the Physical Therapist Assistant Program to contact the PT/PTA named below, if questions arise regarding this observation experience.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**To the clinician:** As an admission requirement to the PTA Program offered at Jefferson College, applicants are required to observe a PT or a PTA for a minimum of 8 hours. If the information for the prospective student is correct for today's observation, then please complete and sign the form below and return it to the applicant.

Facility/Clinical Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours Observed: \_\_\_\_

Facility/Clinical Site Address/City/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

| Date Observed | Time Observed | Therapist Initials |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
|               |               |                    |
|               |               |                    |
|               |               |                    |
|               |               |                    |

Printed Name of Observed PT or PTA: \_\_\_\_\_

PT or PTA's Signature and Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_

PT or PTA's Phone Number/Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Did the applicant observe treatment?  Yes  No

Did the applicant present himself/herself in a professional manner?  Yes  No

Did the applicant arrive on time?  Yes  No

Did the applicant demonstrate interest in the patients and their treatments?  Yes  No

Did the applicant interact with you, ask questions, and show enthusiasm toward the profession?  
 Yes  No

Are you interested in serving as a Clinical Instructor?  Yes  No

Thank you for sharing your time and expertise. We appreciate the support. If you have comments about this applicant or if you would like information about our program, please contact Bridget Webb, PTA Program Director, at 636-481-3414 or [bwebb2@jeffco.edu](mailto:bwebb2@jeffco.edu).