

**JACKSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

Observation/Volunteering Information

Observation of the clinical practice of physical therapy is required as part of the admission process for the physical therapist assistant program at JSCC. This observation may be obtained through either volunteering or actual work experience. Since physical therapy technician employment opportunities are limited the PTA Program recognizes and supports the volunteer opportunities that are available to interested students in any physical therapy setting. In many cases the volunteer is afforded a more diverse learning experience.

Applicants to the PTA Program must submit evidence of 24 hours of observation/volunteering experience in at least two physical therapy settings as specified by the program prior to the application deadline (see the Observation Verification Form). **This evidence must be recorded on the program's designated form.** This form may be obtained in the PTA Program's office area, from JSCC's Allied Health office, or from the PTA Program's web pages at <http://www.jsc.edu/academics/disciplines/allied-health/physical-therapist-assistant/admissions-information.html>. This form must be signed by the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant with which the experience was obtained and should clearly designate the number of hours completed. The signed form should be forwarded by the clinician to the PTA Program at the address designated on the form. **IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE STUDENT OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM TO SUBMIT ALONG WITH THEIR APPLICATION (PLEASE INDICATE "COPY" ON THE FORM) TO AVOID DELAYS OR ERRORS BY THE CLINICIANS.**

This observation/volunteering experience may be obtained from any physical therapy provider. The following information may be needed for facilities in the immediate Jackson area.

- For any facility owned by West Tennessee Healthcare (i.e. JMCGH, a Sports Plus clinic, The Therapy and Learning Center, or any outlying affiliate) the student should review all of the applicable information at the *Job Shadowing Opportunities* link at <http://www.wth.org>. A list of the individual physical therapy contact names and numbers is provided at this website.
- For any other facility please contact the facility's physical therapy department for that facility's specific volunteering procedures.

Students are expected to comply with all policies and procedures of the physical therapy provider including attire, privacy, and safety. Specific orientation regarding these policies and procedures may be required by the facility prior to beginning the observation/volunteering experience. Students should be aware that the laws that govern the practice of physical therapy in the state of Tennessee forbid the provision of patient care by a volunteer.