

College of the Canyons
Physical Therapist Assistant
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023; 6:00PM – 7:00PM

Convened: 6:02PM
Adjourned: 7:50PM

Attendees:

Kat Almero-Fabros	Faculty Clinical Coordinator, PTA Program / COC
Ashley Bakhaj	Physical Therapist Assistant / Hope Physical Therapy
Jenny Casselman	Physical Therapist Assistant / Valley Presbyterian Hospital
Anant Desai	Physical Therapist / Head Coach / Maxum Therapy / Interface Rehab
Christian Dignos	Regional Director / Progressive Physical Therapy
Heather Dotter	Dean, School of Health Professions / College of the Canyons
Harriet Happel	Dean of Career Ed., Integrative Learning & The Employment Center / COC
Suzanne Hawson	Physical Therapist / Hawson Physical Therapy
Gabriel Lackman	Physical Therapist Assistant / Providence St. Joseph Medical Center
Samantha Laswell	Physical Therapist Assistant / Synergy Medical Staffing
David Pevsner	PTA Program Director / COC
Dr. Jim Reising	Adventist Health Glendale
Anthony Rivers	Physical Therapist Assistant / Omni Home Health
Daniel Streb	Physical Therapist Assistant / Select Physical Therapy
Ben Vongtongdee	Physical Therapist Assistant / Rancho Los Amigos Nat. Regional Medical Center

Welcome and Introductions: All

Approval of the Spring 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting made by: Samantha Laswell

Motion seconded by: Gabriel Lackman

The minutes were approved by acclamation

Clinic Updates:

- Students at Synergy Medical Staffing are being educated on the different types and levels of pain.
- Rancho Los Amigos National Regional Medical Center has revamped the assist levels to be more detailed.
- Quality Indicators is in in-patient rehab system that is used to measure treatment effectiveness.

Accreditation TimeLine:

- Application for Candidacy is due on November 1, 2024.
- The expected date of a candidacy decision is May 2025.
- Matriculation of students will be in August 2025.

- An accreditation decision will be reached in November 2027.

Curriculum:

- The PTA program design was shared with the board.
- Five semesters are required to complete the program.
- *PTA 100: Preparing for Careers in Physical Therapy* was added as a prerequisite class.

The PTA curriculum includes:

Semester 1

PTA 105: Patient Management for the PTA (2 units)
PTA 105L: Patient Management for the PTA Lab (1.5 units)
PTA 110: Pathophysiology for the PTA (3 units)
PTA 120: Clinical Kinesiology I (3 units)
PTA 120L: Clinical Kinesiology I Lab (2 units)
PTA 130: Evidence Based Physical Therapy (1 unit)

Semester 2

PTA 201: Physical Agents (2 units)
PTA 201L: Physical Agents (1.5 units)
PTA 205: Growth, Development and Aging (2 units)
PTA 220: Orthopedic Rehabilitation (2 units)
PTA 220L: Orthopedic Rehabilitation Lab (1.5 units)
PTA 225: Professional Practice for the PTA (2 units)

Semester 3 (Summer – 4 weeks)

PTA 250: Clinical Experience I (3 units)

Semester 4

PTA 240: Neurologic Rehabilitation (2 units)
PTA 240L: Neurologic Rehabilitation Lab (1.5 units)
PTA 242: Cardiopulmonary and Integumentary PT (2 units)
PTA 242L: Cardiopulmonary and Integumentary PT Lab (1.5 units)
PTA 244: Physical Therapy for Special Populations (2 units)
PTA 244L: Physical Therapy for Special Populations Lab (1.5 units)

Semester 5

PTA 252: Clinical Experience II (5 units)
PTA 254: Clinical Experience III (5 units)
PTA 246: PTA Seminar (1 unit)
PTA 248: Case (1 unit)

There is a total of 49 core courses and a total of 37 GE's and prerequisites.

Meeting attendees were asked the following questions by David Pevner.

Question 1:

What do you see as the most significant short-term trends and challenges in your clinical life, and how should we prepare our students to respond to them?

Samantha Laswell: More patients with psychosis are receiving physical therapy. Students working with patients with extreme behavior due to psychosis can be unprepared to handle the situation.

Gabriel Lackman: Psychosis is also seen in the hospitals. Curriculum that is developed for students to teach redirection and refocus techniques when working with patients with psychosis may be beneficial.

Question 2:

How do you view the relevance and currency of our curriculum?

The board collectively agrees that too much time is spent focusing on manual blood pressure and orthotics when it is not commonly used in the field.

Gabriel Lackman: Chart reviewing, time management, and documentation that incorporates objectives and assessment should be incorporated into the curriculum.

Question 3:

Think back in the recent past to a PTA or other colleague who really “wowed” you. How, specifically, did they do this?

Gabriel Lackman: It is impressive when students think functionally and take their time to develop a plan that is meaningful and functional for patients.