

## **Core Values of the Arkansas State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

The faculty members of the PTA Program embrace the professional core values set forth by the American Physical Therapy Association and strive continually to model these values. Graduates of the Program are expected to demonstrate a commitment to these core values.

- **Accountability** - Accountability is active acceptance of the responsibility for the diverse roles, obligations, and actions of the physical therapist assistant including self-regulation and other behaviors that positively influence patient/client outcomes, the profession and the health needs of society.
- **Altruism** - Altruism is the primary regard for or devotion to the interest of patients/clients, thus assuming the fiduciary responsibility of placing the needs of the patient/client ahead of the physical therapist assistant's self interest.
- **Compassion / Caring** - Compassion is the desire to identify with or sense something of another's experience; a precursor of caring. Caring is the concern, empathy, and consideration for the needs and values of others.
- **Excellence** - Excellence is physical therapy practice that consistently uses current knowledge and theory while understanding personal limits, integrates judgment and the patient/client perspective, embraces advancement, challenges mediocrity, and works toward development of new knowledge.
- **Integrity** - Integrity is steadfast adherence to high ethical principles or professional standards; truthfulness, fairness, doing what you say you will do, and "speaking forth" about why you do what you do.
- **Professional Duty** - Professional duty is the commitment to meeting one's obligations to provide effective physical therapy services to patients/clients, to serve the profession, and to positively influence the health of society.
- **Social Responsibility** - Social responsibility is the promotion of a mutual trust between the profession and the larger public that necessitates responding to societal needs for health and wellness.

### **The "Ideal" Physical Therapist Assistant Graduate:**

The PTA Program Advisory Committee is a community group composed of clinicians, employers and human resource managers. When asked to describe what an "ideal" PTA graduate should look like, the group responded by saying that this graduate should:

- Possess the knowledge and skills necessary to function safely, efficiently and effectively as an entry-level physical therapist assistant.
- Be aware of the legal, ethical, educational and professional regulations that determine the scope of practice of physical therapy and perform physical therapy duties within that scope of practice.
- Demonstrate observable behaviors that indicate a commitment to physical therapy core values.

## **Expected Student Outcomes:**

Graduates of the ASU PTA Program should possess the following qualities:

- **Communication**
  - Communicate verbally and nonverbally (including in writing) with those diverse groups of people with whom a physical therapist assistant has routine contact and assess the outcome of such communication in order to determine and improve its overall effectiveness.
- **Individual and Cultural Differences**
  - Demonstrate an awareness of the existence of individual and cultural differences, an understanding of the impact of individual and cultural differences on health care delivery, and the ability to alter one's actions appropriately in response to identified individual and cultural differences.
- **Behavior and Conduct**
  - Demonstrate behaviors that indicate an awareness, understanding and acceptance of the physical therapist assistant's roles and responsibilities in the profession of physical therapy.
- **Plan of Care**
  - Competently administer physical therapy plans of care under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist.
- **Education**
  - Effectively design, implement and assess programs of instruction intended to accomplish pre-established goals for patients, family members, caregivers, other healthcare providers, or members of the public.
- **Administration**
  - Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the physical therapist assistant's role in a health care organization and a commitment to fulfill that role.
- **Social Responsibility**
  - Demonstrate awareness and understanding of a physical therapist assistant's obligation to promote and protect the profession of physical therapy and the health care needs of the public and a commitment to fulfill that obligation.
- **Career Development**
  - Assess one's current level of career development, identify needs and opportunities to meet those needs, establish goals and monitor progress toward those goals, and direct learning efforts leading to the accomplishment of those goals.

## **Goals of the Arkansas State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

Based on the definition of the "Ideal" Physical Therapist Assistant Graduate and the missions of the university, college and program, the PTA Program seeks to achieve the following goals:

1. Produce graduates who possess the knowledge and skills necessary to function safely, efficiently and effectively as entry-level physical therapist assistants.
2. Produce graduates who are aware of the legal, ethical, educational, and professional regulations that determine the scope of practice of physical therapy and perform physical therapy duties within that scope of practice.
3. Produce graduates who demonstrate observable behaviors that indicate a commitment to physical therapy core values.
4. Produce graduates who possess the capabilities to be self-directed clinicians and lifelong learners.