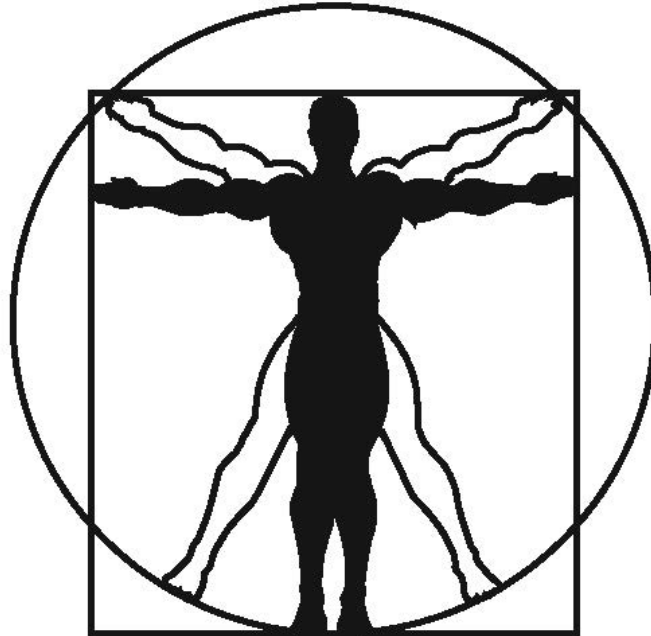


# SAN JUAN COLLEGE

Physical Therapist Assistant Program



4601 College Boulevard, Farmington, NM 87402

Webpage: [sanjuancollege.edu/pta](http://sanjuancollege.edu/pta)

Email: [pta@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:pta@sanjuancollege.edu)



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## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

### 1. Apply to San Juan College and Submit All Official Transcripts

- Contact the San Juan College Admissions Office for a **San Juan College Application for Admission** or apply online at [San Juan College Online Application](#). Declare your major as **AA Liberal Arts/Pre-Physical Therapist Assistant** on the San Juan College Application.
- Official college transcripts from each college you have attended must be sent directly to San Juan College through an e-transcript service. E-transcripts can be sent to [transcripts@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:transcripts@sanjuancollege.edu).
- For current San Juan College students, either non-degree seeking or with a previously-declared major, please complete the Student Change of Name/Address/Phone e-form found in the [SJC Registration and Records Forms](#). Declare your major as **AA Liberal Arts/Pre-Physical Therapist Assistant**.
  - Log into your MYSJC and click the Change of Major Form. Choose Area of Interest: Medical & Health Sciences, Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant – AA.LBAS.PTAP.

### 2. Confirm PTA Program Prerequisites

- For guidance on the prerequisite course sequence, please call the San Juan College Advising Center front desk at (505) 566-3404 to get connected with an advisor.

### 3. Review the PTA Application Instruction Packet

### 4. Complete & submit the online [PTA Program Application](#)

- Applicants may submit completed materials throughout the application cycle which allows the program to support & track the applicant's progress to ensure eligibility.
  - **Required materials and online application must be submitted by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 11:59 PM, MT.**
    - ATI TEAS for Allied Health Version 7 Individual Performance Profile form.
      - ATI TEAS overall score must be a 70% or higher to be eligible to apply.
      - ATI TEAS English & Science scores will be factored in.
    - Clinical Observation Form – 5 hours minimum is required. Work experience not accepted. All scanned signatures must be handwritten.
    - 1 Admission Essay Prompt

**5. Confirmation** – It is the student's responsibility to contact the San Juan College PTA Program at [pta@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:pta@sanjuancollege.edu) to confirm that the PTA Program has received all application materials **BEFORE** May 31<sup>st</sup>! The PTA Program business hours are from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, MT, Monday – Friday.

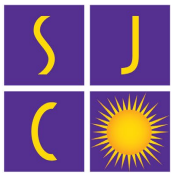
**6.** Application decision date is scheduled for **June 2026**.

## APPLICATION CRITERIA

The PTA Program accepts up to 20 students every year. Applicants are ranked based on the following criteria.

***An additional 25 points will be awarded for a Bachelor's degree or higher.***

Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
Cumulative GPA of Prerequisite Courses (must be 2.75 or higher)	150
ATI TEAS Overall Score (must be 70% or higher)	100
ATI TEAS English Score	100
ATI TEAS Science Score	100
Admission Essay	50
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>500</b>



# SAN JUAN COLLEGE

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

## ATI TEAS – ALLIED HEALTH EXAM

The ATI TEAS - Allied Health exam stands for the Test of Essential Academics Skills. The score from this aptitude examination is used in the competitive admissions process to determine acceptance into the PTA Program. **The ATI TEAS Overall Score must be a 70% or higher in order to be eligible to apply.** ATI TEAS English and Science scores will also be factored in. Scores must be current within 5 years. The applicant’s highest scores will be used in their application.

### ***For Local Students- ATI TEAS Exam at San Juan College Testing Center***

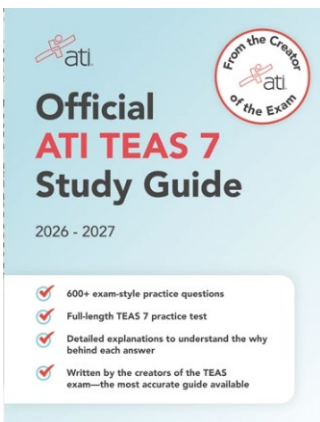
Steps for scheduling an ATI TEAS exam at SJC Testing Center can be found on the [San Juan College Testing Center](#) webpage. Please read the Rules for Use of the Testing Center carefully so you will know what to expect on the day of your appointment (check in time, review of rules & expectations of ATI testers, physical security check of testers, etc.) Please contact the SJC Testing Center at [testingcenter@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:testingcenter@sanjuancollege.edu) for any questions. The cost is \$99.00.

SJC Testing Center exam windows <i>(Students can take the exam once per testing window)</i>	
1 <sup>st</sup> window:	9/10/25 – 9/28/25
2 <sup>nd</sup> window:	10/22/25 – 11/16/25
3 <sup>rd</sup> window:	2/18/26 – 3/8/26
4 <sup>th</sup> window:	3/25/26 – 4/5/26
5 <sup>th</sup> window:	4/15/26 – 4/26/26

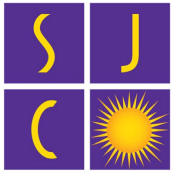
### ***For Remote Students - ATI TEAS Exam Registration***

Students may register for a remote ATI TEAS exam on the [ATI website](#). The exam is offered through four different proctors (Online and In-Person). Students are encouraged to review the [registration guide](#) to see which option best suits their preference. The cost is \$120.00.

## ATI TEAS STUDY GUIDE & OTHER RESOURCES



- Purchasing the ATI study guide is **strongly recommended**. Students can purchase the study guide at the below-suggested webpage, [ATI Testing Store Products](#). Study guides are also available to purchase at the SJC Bookstore.
- The SJC Library has copies of the study guide in the reserve section. Students must present their SJC student ID at the time of checkout. Driver’s licenses are not accepted.
- Free ATI TEAS study resources can be found on the [ATI Website](#).
- The SJC Tutoring Center now is offering tutoring sessions for the ATI TEAS exam. Click the Tutoring Center [webpage](#) to see the face to face schedule as well as the remote drop in tutoring lab schedule. For more information, contact the SJC Tutoring Center at (505) 566-3981 or email [tutoringcenter@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:tutoringcenter@sanjuancollege.edu).



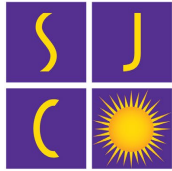
# SAN JUAN COLLEGE

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

## CLINICAL OBSERVATION INFORMATION

The purpose of the required 5 hours of Clinical Observation Requirement is to give the applicant insight into the physical therapy profession and to help ensure that this career meets the expectations and interests of the applicant. Please use the Clinical Observation Form on page 7 to record your hours.

- **Call clinical sites in your area.** Explain that you are applying to a PTA Program and that you would like to observe either a PT or a PTA at their facility.
- **Dress appropriately.** Follow the professional dress code of the facility. No shorts, jeans, t-shirts, hats sandals, excessive perfume, or body piercings. Slacks, polo shirt, and tennis shoes are acceptable.
- **Be punctual.** Make sure that you know who, when, and where you will be meeting. Please call to cancel if you are unable to make the appointment.
- **Maintain confidentiality.** Never mention a patient's name, medical diagnosis, or treatment plan outside of the facility. This is a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) violation. Do not ask personal questions about the patient during physical therapy treatment. The PT or PTA may choose to share relevant information with you before or after the treatment session.
- **Thank the clinician.** Thank the clinician for allowing you to observe their facility. Remember that this is **observation only** and that you are not allowed to assist with any treatment due to liability issues.



# SAN JUAN COLLEGE

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

## CLINICAL OBSERVATION FORM

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

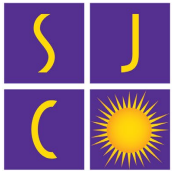
All applicants to the PTA Program at San Juan College must complete a minimum of 5 hours of clinical observation or “job shadowing” under the supervision of a physical therapist (PT) or physical therapist assistant (PTA). The purpose of this experience is to give the applicant insight into the physical therapy profession and to help ensure that this career meets the expectations and interests of the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact the clinical facilities, schedule the experience, and have the PT/PTA complete this form. The completed clinical observation form must be submitted with the application by the deadline. **Work experience in a PT setting will not be accepted as clinical observation hours. All scanned signatures must be handwritten.**

Facility Type	Facility Name	Date	Time In	Time Out	Total Hours	PT/PTA Signature & License Number

Example:

Out-patient	Physiotherapy Clinic	11/14/25	10:00 am	3:00 pm	5.0	John Doe, PTA, License#000000
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### ADMISSION ESSAY

#### Instructions

Please respond to the prompt below in 800 – 1,000 words (3.5 – 4 double-spaced pages) to fully address all required elements.

- Submit as a Word Doc or PDF.
- Sources are not required; however, if you use sources, please cite in APA Style.
- Double-spaced, accessible font (Times New Roman 12 pt., Arial 11 pt., Georgia 11 pt.), indent the first line of each paragraph, 1-inch margins, page numbers.
- Include only your San Juan College ID number and “PTA Admission Essay” at the top right of each page (e.g., 1234567, PTA Admission Essay).
- Your essay will be evaluated anonymously by Humanities Department faculty, using the rubric provided in this packet.
- Review the FAQs for helpful tips before writing.

#### Original Work Requirement:

Your essay must be entirely your original work. While basic proofreading tools may be used to check for grammar or spelling mistakes, the use of any content-generating technology is prohibited. Submissions found to contain AI-generated content will receive a score of zero. AI detection tools will be used to verify authenticity.

#### Writing Prompt

The Physical Therapist Assistant profession requires strong interpersonal qualities, problem-solving skills, and the ability to adapt to challenges.

In your essay, please address all of the following:

1. **Character Traits** – Identify three character traits that are important for a PTA to possess. Explain why these traits are important, and provide examples of how you have demonstrated each trait or how you are working toward developing them.
2. **Challenge and Growth** – Describe a challenge, setback, or failure you have experienced. How did you respond to it? What did you learn? How will these lessons help you succeed in the PTA Program and as a PTA?
3. **Connection to the Profession** – Reflect on how your traits and your experience with overcoming challenges will help you contribute to patient care, the healthcare team, and the PTA profession as a whole.

Use specific examples from your own life and experiences to illustrate your points.

Candidate ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Category	4 (High Proficiency)	3 (Proficiency)	2 (Some Proficiency)	1 (Minimal)	0 (None)
Demonstrates Interest in PTA Profession & Understanding of Role	Consistently and effectively demonstrates a genuine, informed interest in the PTA profession and an understanding of its responsibilities.	Demonstrates general interest and some understanding of the PTA profession.	Shows interest in healthcare broadly, but limited understanding of PTA.	Shows minimal interest or understanding of PTA role.	No interest or understanding demonstrated.
Character Traits & Examples	Identifies 3 relevant traits and provides strong, specific, and original examples of how these are demonstrated or being developed; connects clearly to PTA role.	Identifies 3 traits with some relevant examples; connection to PTA role is adequate.	Traits identified but examples are vague or weak; limited connection to PTA role.	Traits identified with minimal explanation; no clear relevance to PTA role.	No traits or irrelevant traits identified.
Challenge/ Setback & Reflection	Provides a detailed, relevant example of a challenge/ setback; insightfully reflects on learning and connects to future success in PTA program and career.	Provides a relevant challenge/ setback; reflects adequately on lessons learned and connection to PTA role.	Provides a challenge/ setback with limited relevance or shallow reflection; weak link to PTA role.	Minimal description or reflection; unclear link to PTA program or role.	No challenge/ setback described.
Application to Profession & Patient Care	Clearly integrates traits and personal growth into a vision for contributing to patient care, teamwork, and the PTA profession.	Connects traits and growth to aspects of PTA work with adequate detail.	Minimal or vague connection to professional practice or patient care.	Weak or unclear link to PTA practice.	No connection to professional practice.
Support/ Reasoning, Ideas, & Details	Purpose is clear; ideas well-developed, logical, original; details convincingly interpreted.	Purpose is mostly clear; reasoning solid but less original; adequate details/examples.	Purpose is vague; obvious or broad reasoning; some irrelevant or repetitive details.	Purpose unclear; undeveloped or simplistic ideas; off-topic details.	No clear purpose or relevant details.
Organization	Effective structure supports purpose; logical flow; smooth transitions.	Structure supports purpose with minor lapses; transitions mostly effective.	Some organization; abrupt or illogical shifts.	Disorganized; lacks transitions.	No organization.
Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	All sentences well-constructed; minimal errors that do not interfere with understanding.	Mostly well-constructed sentences; few errors that don't interfere with understanding.	Some well-constructed sentences; several errors interfere somewhat with understanding.	Awkward or repetitive sentences; many errors interfere with understanding.	Numerous errors interfere with readability.

**Following Instructions:**

- Meets minimum word count:   /1
- Document submitted in correct format:   /1
- Student ID identified:   /1

**Scoring:**

- **Total: 31 points** (Multiply final score by ~1.6129 to convert to 50-point scale.)

AI Detection Score \_\_\_\_\_

## FAQ's

1. **What qualities do you typically look for in an essay?**
  - a. Ensure the question is fully answered, addressing **all three parts** of the prompt (character traits, challenge/setback, and connection to the PTA role).
  - b. Essay should be personable without being overly casual.
  - c. Maturity, self-awareness, and clear learning within the content.
  - d. Unique and genuine. Examples must be from your own life and experiences.
  - e. Demonstrating resilience. Failures along with recovery are a plus.
  - f. Recognize that PTAs must graduate as generalists, capable of treating a variety of patient populations. Avoid focusing exclusively on one specialty area without acknowledging others.
2. **What advice do you have to improve how well an essay is written?**
  - a. Use the SJC Writing Center for assistance with grammar, spelling, and clarity.
  - b. Proofread for grammar, punctuation, and logical flow of ideas.
  - c. Start and finish strong. The introduction should grab attention, and the conclusion should tie the essay together.
  - d. Use smooth transitions to connect sections.
  - e. Avoid over-reliance on tools that rewrite or generate text; your own voice should come through clearly.
3. **Do you have a preferred essay format?**
  - a. Word document or PDF, double-spaced, 12-point accessible font (Times New Roman, Arial, Georgia), 1-inch margins.
  - b. Generally, an introduction, the body of the essay, and a conclusion.
  - c. Use headings only if they help organize your response; they are not required.
  - d. If citing sources, use APA Style.
4. **What is your policy on AI tools?**
  - a. Essays must be entirely your own original work.
  - b. Basic proofreading tools (spellcheck, grammar check) are permitted.
  - c. Generative AI tools that create, rewrite, or paraphrase text (e.g., ChatGPT, GrammarlyGO, Bard, Quillbot) are prohibited. Essays found to contain AI-generated content will be scored accordingly, which may result in a zero.
5. **What advice do you have for re-applicants?**
  - a. Do not resubmit the same essay. The prompt and rubric may have changed since your last application, and faculty will expect new, updated content.
  - b. Reflect on what you have learned or improved since your last application and incorporate this into your essay.

## PTA PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Students must complete all prerequisites before the application deadline of May 31<sup>st</sup>. Students must earn a grade of 'C' or higher and have a cumulative prerequisite GPA of **2.75 or higher** for their application to be considered by the PTA Program.

- **FYEX-1110/1132 - First-Year Seminar - The course is required only for students with less than 24 college credits.** This course is designed to help students achieve greater success in college and in life. Students will learn many proven strategies for creating greater academic, professional, and personal success. Topics may include career exploration, time management, study and test-taking strategies to adapt to different learning environments, interpersonal relationships, wellness management, financial literacy, and campus and community resources.
  
- **BIOL-1130** – Introductory Anatomy/Physiology -Non-Major **AND**  
**BIOL-1130L** - Introductory Anatomy/Physiology Lab – Non-Major  
*(BIOL-2210 Human Anatomy & Physiology I 3/BIOL-2210L Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lab 1 and BIOL-2225 Human Anatomy & Physiology II 3/BIOL-2225L Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lab 1 may be accepted in place of BIOL-1130/BIOL-1130L only with the PTA program director's permission)*  
 Although BIOL-2210/L and BIOL-2225/L can substitute for the BIOL-1130/L requirement in the PTA program, they do not satisfy the [New Mexico Higher Education Department's General Education](#) Science requirement for graduation. Please consult with an advisor to confirm that you have a lab science class that meets the General Education requirement.
  
- **COMM-1130** – Public Speaking **OR**  
**COMM-2120** – Interpersonal Communication (**preferred**)
  
- **ENGL-1110** - Composition I (**preferred**) **OR**  
**ENGL-1210** – Technical Composition
  
- **MATH-1130** – Survey for Mathematics **OR**  
**MATH-1130E** – Survey for Mathematics/Expanded **OR**  
**MATH-1220** – College Algebra **OR** HIGHER (except MATH-2110–Math for Teachers III)
  
- **PSYC-1110** – Introduction to Psychology

### TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PREREQUISITE COURSES (19 credit hours)

Resident	\$1,589.50
Non-Resident	\$4,416.00

\*Estimated costs are based on the Suggested Prerequisite Course Sequence in the SJC Academic Catalog

Tuition for residents is \$61 per credit hour plus the SJC flat fee for 4.1 credit hours or more per semester of \$215.25 and a student activity fee per credit hour of \$1.50 (not to exceed \$27.00 per student, per semester and does not apply to online classes).

Tuition for non-residents is \$195 per credit hour plus the SJC flat fee for 4.1 credit hours or more per semester of \$355.50, and a student activity fee per credit hour of \$1.50 (not to exceed \$27.00 per student, per semester and does not apply to online classes).

**\*\*Contact the Financial Aid department for more information on the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship for tuition-free college for New Mexicans.\*\***

**ESTIMATED COST OF TECHNICAL COURSES PER SEMESTER**

The following table provides a detailed, semester-by-semester breakdown of the estimated cost of the technical courses associated with the Online/Hybrid program.

Semester	Resident Tuition (includes SJC Flat Fees)	or	Non-Resident Tuition (includes SJC Flat Fees)	Plus	Program Fee	Plus	Textbooks & Program Supplies (Approximate)
Fall	\$703.25	or	\$1,915.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$1,178.00
Spring	\$703.25	or	\$1,915.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$340.00
Summer	\$581.25	or	\$1,525.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$190.00
Fall	\$825.25	or	\$2,305.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$230.00
Spring	\$941.25	or	\$2,695.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,760.25</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>\$10,357.50</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>\$1,908.00</b>

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF ONLINE/HYBRID PROGRAM**

Resident	\$6,668.25
Non-Resident	\$13,265.50

The Total Estimated Cost of the Technical Courses includes tuition, SJC flat fees, technology fees, student activity fees (if applicable), PTA Program fees & supplies, and textbooks for the PTA Program. ***This estimate does not include the costs associated with prerequisite courses.***

Tuition for residents is \$61 per credit hour plus the SJC flat fee for 4.1 credit hours or more per semester of \$215.25, and a student activity fee per credit hour of \$1.50 (not to exceed \$27.00 per student, per semester and does not apply to online classes).

Tuition for non-residents is \$195 per credit hour plus the SJC flat fee for 4.1 credit hours or more per semester of \$355.50, and a student activity fee per credit hour of \$1.50 (not to exceed \$27.00 per student, per semester and does not apply to online classes).

**\*\*Contact the Financial Aid department for more information on the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship for tuition-free college for New Mexicans. \*\***

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

<b>Online/Hybrid Program</b>	<p>Accepted PTA students are responsible for annual APTA membership fees, immunizations, PTA student supplies, PhysioU app, scrubs, PTA polo shirts, background checks, CPR, Clinical Education Onboarding fees (e.g., additional immunizations and background checks, drug screenings, N95 fit test, etc.)</p> <p>Students participating in the online/hybrid program are responsible for transportation and lodging associated with the on campus portion of PTA lab courses. Travel ranges from 7-16 days and occurs each semester of the program (a total of five semesters). Labs are usually scheduled towards the end of each semester.</p>
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Virtual Proctoring and/or live proctoring services will be used throughout the PTA Program. Both services provide identity verification and proctoring to ensure exam integrity and academic honesty. The Online/Hybrid students are responsible for the fees related to this service when used. Pricing may vary depending on the virtual proctoring service obtained by the college.

Upon graduation, the student may have some of the following expenses related to licensure. The fees vary depending on student completion of the recommended exam preparation course and practice exam. Also, the state licensing fee varies depending on the state. **All fees related to licensure are the student's responsibility.**

## LICENSE EXPENSES

<b>&gt;\$500.00</b>	<b>PTA Licensure Exam Preparation Course (Recommended)</b>
\$99.00	PEAT Exam (PTA Practice Exam & Assessment Tool)
\$485.00	National Physical Therapist Assistant Licensing Exam (FSBPT)
\$100.00	Prometric Testing Center Fee (Testing Centers located throughout the United States)
\$225.00	New Mexico Licensing Fee (fees vary by state)

All 50 states and the District of Columbia require licensure or certification for PTAs. The licensure process protects the public ensuring that only those candidates who have graduated from an accredited program and have demonstrated a basic entry-level competency on the national license exam are permitted to treat the public. An active license or certificate is required for each state in which the PTA practices. The license must be renewed on an ongoing basis with most states requiring continuing education for renewal. The PTA must follow scope of work and supervision requirements outlined in each state's physical therapy practice act. Note: A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the licensing exam.

The program has determined that its curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure or certification in all states, the District of Colombia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands secondary to its accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, based on the following: CAPTE accreditation of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program satisfies state educational requirements in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Thus, students graduating from CAPTE-accredited physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education programs are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination and apply for licensure in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information regarding state qualifications and licensure requirements, refer to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy website at [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org).

## FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid is available for students who qualify. Please visit the San Juan College Financial Aid webpage for information, [Financial Aid](#), or you can contact them at:

San Juan College – Financial Aid  
 4601 College Blvd.  
 Farmington, NM 87402f  
 (505) 566-3323  
 Email: [financialaid@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:financialaid@sanjuancollege.edu)

## TECHNICAL STANDARDS

San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program has a responsibility to educate competent Physical Therapist Assistants to care for their patients (persons, families, and/or communities) with critical judgment, broadly based knowledge, and well-honed technical skills. San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program has academic as well as technical standards that must be met by students in order to successfully progress in and graduate from its program.

**Technical Standards:** San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program provides the following description/examples of technical standards to inform prospective and enrolled students of a sampling of technical standards required in completing their Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum. These technical standards reflect a sample of the performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. The standards are not requirements for admission into the programs and the examples are not all-inclusive. Individuals interested in applying for admission to the program should review these standards to develop a better understanding of the skills, abilities, and behavioral characteristics required to successfully complete the program.

San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program wishes to ensure that access to its facilities, programs, and services is available to all students, including students with disabilities (as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the ADA of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008) and all students can study and practice Physical Therapy with or without reasonable accommodation. San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program provides reasonable accommodations to all students on a non-discriminatory basis consistent with legal requirements as outlined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990m and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. A reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment to an instructional activity, equipment, facility program, or service which enables a qualified student with a disability to have an equal opportunity to fulfill the requirements necessary for graduation from the PTA Program. To be eligible for accommodations, a student must have a documented disability of (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual, (b) a record of such impairment, or (c) be regarded as having such a condition.

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
Cognitive	Learn in classroom and educational settings Find sources of knowledge and acquire the knowledge Life-long learner Novel and adaptive thinking Critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making needed to care for persons, families, and/or communities across the health continuum and within (or managing or improving) their environments - in one or more environments of care	Acquire, conceptualize, and use evidence-based information from demonstrations and experiences, including but not limited to information conveyed through online coursework, lectures, group seminars, small group activities, and physical demonstrations. Develop healthcare solutions and responses beyond that which is rote or ruled-based. Literacy to understand concepts across disciplines.

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
	<p>Intellectual and conceptual thinking to accomplish the essentials of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program</p> <p>Design mindset to create treatment interventions</p>	<p>Establish and effectively implement strategies to achieve short- and long-term goals outlined in the plan of care.</p> <p>Determine when an intervention should not be performed due to clinical indications, precautions, contraindications, or when the direction to perform the intervention is beyond that which is appropriate for the physical therapist assistant.</p> <p>Identify complex problems and review related information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.</p> <p>Identify cause/effect relationships in the provision of health care.</p> <p>Determine effects of treatment at various stages and adjust treatments to achieve maximum benefit.</p> <p>Respond calmly and effectively to emergencies</p>
Communication	<p>Sensitive and effective interactions with patients (persons, families, and/or communities)</p> <p>Effective interaction with the healthcare team (patients, their support, other professional and non- professional team members.</p> <p>Interpret the meaning of information gathered from communication</p> <p>Social Intelligence</p>	<p>Accurately elicit or interpret information: PT evaluation, medical history, and other information to efficiently determine a patient's condition.</p> <p>Accurately convey information and interpretation of information using one or more means of communication (verbal, written, assisted [such as TTY], and/or electronic) to patients and the health care team.</p> <p>Effectively communicate in teams.</p> <p>Determine a deeper meaning or significance in what is being expressed.</p> <p>Connect with others to sense and stimulate reactions and desired interactions.</p> <p>Identify the educational needs of others; develop exercise or training programs, and teach or instruct others.</p>

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
Interpersonal/ Intrapersonal Skills and Behavior	<p>Concern for others, integrity, ethical conduct, accountability, interest, and motivation</p> <p>Acquire interpersonal skills for professional interactions with a diverse population of individuals, families, and communities</p> <p>Acquire interpersonal skills for professional interactions with members of the healthcare team including patients, their supports, other healthcare professionals, and team members</p> <p>Promote change for necessary quality healthcare</p> <p>Cross-cultural competency</p> <p>Virtual collaboration</p> <p>Adhere to all applicable safety, ethical, and legal standards and procedures.</p>	<p>Maintain effective, mature, and sensitive relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff, and other professionals under all circumstances.</p> <p>Make proper judgments regarding safe and quality care.</p> <p>Function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical practice.</p> <p>Operate in different cultural settings (including disability culture)</p> <p>Work productively, drive engagement, and demonstrate presence as a member of an in-person or virtual team.</p> <p>Accept feedback without defensiveness, use feedback to strengthen future performance, reflect on practice, and seek opportunities for professional growth.</p> <p>Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with the APTA Guide for Conduct and Standards of Ethical Conduct.</p> <p>Adhere to legal practice standards, including all federal, state, and institutional regulations related to patient/client care and fiscal management.</p>
Visual	<p>Observe patient conditions and responses to health and illness</p> <p>Assess and monitor health needs</p>	<p>Obtain and interpret information from assessment maneuvers such as assessing respiratory, cardiac function, blood pressure, neurological status, etc.</p> <p>Obtain and interpret information from assessment of patient's environment and responses to health across the continuum.</p> <p>Determine minute areas of detail, very small variations in color, and adequate depth perception (size, shape and texture), including differentiation of details such as viable vs nonviable tissue. This includes characterizing and interpreting the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of body structures and fluids, observing variations in skin and mucous membrane color, integrity, pulsations, tissue swelling, etc.</p>

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
		<p>Maintain sterility of wounds, wound tools, and instruments used in wound care. Determine presence of skin reaction to various modalities (e.g., thermotherapy, cryotherapy, electrotherapy, etc.).</p> <p>Observe and assess both from a distance and close by in order to recognize physical status and non-verbal responses including behaviors.</p> <p>Interpret information from instruments and patient medical records.</p> <p>Navigate and select appropriate settings on various equipment (e.g., modalities with subtle changes in density (black to gray) of a color in low light).</p> <p>Observe and correct functional deficiencies in patient's movement, posture, gait, body mechanics, etc.</p> <p>Observe and respond to changes in patient status (e.g., change in pallor, monitoring medical lines to avoid dislodging/constricting during movement).</p>
Auditory	Assess and monitor health needs	<p>Detect any distress sounds that a patient produces in the treatment session.</p> <p>Monitor vital signs.</p> <p>Detect and respond to monitoring alarms.</p>
Tactile	Obtain and interpret changes in physical assessments	<p>Obtain and interpret information from assessment of patient's environment and responses to health across the continuum.</p> <p>Utilize bimanual dexterity for palpation, auscultation, manual therapy, wound care, collecting objective measurements, applying modalities, and manipulating therapeutic equipment and devices.</p> <p>Monitor changes in muscle tension and body temperature</p>
Olfactory	Distinguish smells that contribute to assessing and/or maintaining the patient's health status or environmental safety	<p>Detect malodorous or unusual odors from bodily fluids, wounds, etc.</p>

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
		Alert appropriate staff to manage patient's hygiene, urinary, or excretory needs. Distinguish smells that adversely affect the environment (e.g., fire, noxious fumes, etc.).
Physical	Demonstrate strength and mobility sufficient to meet the needs of patients throughout the lifespan. Demonstrate energy sufficient to interact with individuals throughout the lifespan and to help them accomplish their tasks.	Execute safe and effective transfers of adults and children in excess of 100 pounds frequently. Assist patients with bed mobility, wheelchair mobility, transfers, and gait training with or without assistive devices using appropriate guarding and level of assistance on level surfaces, uneven terrain, curbs, ramps, and stairs. Demonstrate and guard patients performing developmental sequencing positions and transitional movements for functional improvement (e.g., rolling, reaching, crawling, kneeling, walking) balance tasks in various positions. Organize the environment (e.g., rearrange pieces of furniture and lift boxes of materials).
Physical Endurance	Demonstrate sufficient physical endurance to complete assigned periods, the required shift, and assigned tasks.	Work at least 8 hrs/day, 40 hrs/wk for up to 14 consecutive weeks. Manually resuscitate patients in emergency situations.
Environmental Tolerance	Function safely in a typical and atypical classroom environment.	Tolerate prolonged periods of time amidst artificial lighting, air conditioning, dust and odors, residue from cleaning products, and bodily fluids. Maneuver in smaller spaces such as hospital rooms, workspaces, and congested treatment areas. Demonstrate good judgment and make appropriate professional and procedural decisions in distracting environments (e.g., high noise levels, complex visual stimuli, etc.). Maintain a healthy and clean environment (e.g., universal precautions, sanitizing, etc.). Tolerate a health care environment that may contain latex and other allergens.