San Jacinto College South  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Is the PTA Program very difficult to get into?**  
   Yes. It is challenging. There are only 24 positions in the program and the applicant pool exceeds that.

2. **Is the job market good?**  
   Yes! The job market is excellent at this time.

3. **What is the starting salary?**  

4. **Do you offer this program at North or Central Campus?**  
   No, the PTA program is located only on South. However, you may take any of the non physical therapist assistant courses (any course without the PTHA prefix) at any of the three campuses.

5. **Do you offer this program at night?**  
   Yes and no. The PTHA courses listed in the Curriculum are offered only as day classes; however you can take all the other courses at night, on weekends, on Internet, etc.

6. **When is your application deadline?**  
   March 10th

7. **When does your program start?**  
   The incoming class of students begins each Fall semester.

8. **Do I have to take the SAT or ACT?**  
   No.

9. **Where do I go for observation?**  
   All PT's and PTA's are required to do observation hours. Any facility is appropriate as long as you observe a PT or PTA and you experience two different settings for a minimum of 20 hours each for a total of 40 hours. Example settings are outpatient, in-patient rehabilitation, acute care hospital, pediatrics and home health.

10. **Is there a form for the Observation hours?**  
    Yes. You may use the Hours of Observation form on our website at [www.sjcd.edu/physical-therapy](http://www.sjcd.edu/physical-therapy). You may also use the form from the facility you observe at if they have one. Make sure to have the PT or PTA sign the paper verifying the information is correct.

11. **Is there a form for the letters of reference?**  
    Yes. Use the Recommendation Letter form on our website at [www.sjcd.edu/physical-therapy](http://www.sjcd.edu/physical-therapy).
12. **Do you have many non-traditional students in the program?**
   Yes, the PTA program has both male and female students of varying ages, cultural backgrounds, family dynamics and work situations.

13. **If I have all the non PTHA classes completed prior to the start of the program, can I finish the PTHA courses in one year versus two?**
   No, the PTHA courses must be taken in order; therefore your program would be 2 years part time versus 2 years full time.

14. **I have to work throughout the program. Can I take the program part-time?**
   Yes. Instead of taking the program as outlined under Curriculum in the brochure, you can spend the first year taking all the non PTHA courses and the subsequent two years taking only the PTHA courses. Please note that you will have to complete three clinicals that are full time for 5 or 7 weeks as outlined in the Curriculum portion of the brochure.

15. **What if I want to reapply for the program?**
   You will need to write a letter of intent to reapply stating that you would like your file to be reconsidered for next year. Please sign, date, and turn in to the PTA department. Letters of intent to reapply can be mailed, emailed, faxed, or hand-carried from January through March 10.