



Onondaga Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program Clinical Observation Instructions to Potential Students

As part of the requirements of admission to the Onondaga Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program for new admissions starting fall 2018, it is required that potential students/applicants spend a minimum of 20 hours observing in a Physical Therapy Practice setting. This is your opportunity to weigh your interest in the field and to learn about the physical therapy profession. You may complete the hours in more than one physical therapy setting, but must spend a minimum of 8 hours in each practice setting.

It is YOUR responsibility to arrange this observation (OCC will not provide a list of PT settings). Potential students are instructed to call the physical therapy setting to request permission to observe, and to request a specific time that is acceptable for their observation time. Expect that it may take 1-2 weeks before an observation time can be scheduled.

The 20 required observation hours must be completed within two years prior to the application deadline (March 1). All documentation must arrive to the OCC Admissions office by the application deadline. It is the student's responsibility to make sure the college has received this documentation. It is always a good idea to call the college (Admissions) and make sure they have received all parts of the application.

This PTA website contains the "Clinical Observation Form". It is the applicant's responsibility to print out this form and bring it to the clinical setting to document and verify their observation time. All observation time reported must be documented on this form (other forms of documentation are not accepted). The information on this form is considered confidential. Therefore, the Clinical Observation Form must be delivered or mailed to the Admissions Office in a sealed envelope, with the physical therapist supervisor's signature written across the seal. If observation hours occur in more than one setting, complete one form per facility.

Note to applicant: health care organizations and PT practices are not obligated to allow you to complete the observation hours. Their willingness to offer these opportunities demonstrates a commitment to the PT profession, and an investment in future PTAs. Although you are otherwise not affiliated with Onondaga Community College's PTA program, should you be accepted to the PTA program, these facilities are potential clinical sites and employers. When completing observation hours to be eligible for Onondaga Community College's PTA program, you are a guest in the facility and are expected to demonstrate professionalism in dress, behavior and attitude during all observation experiences. Arrive on time, and unless otherwise instructed by the specific practice setting, wear dress casual (no jeans, unkempt or immodest clothes, no perfume, and cosmetics and jewelry in moderation). Wear low heeled, closed toe non-slip shoes. Maximize your observation experience by being engaged (no cell phones or electronics). Be ready to ask questions; however, if the PT/PTA is involved in treatment, you may be advised to hold questions until the treatment is completed (the patient is always the therapist's first responsibility). Follow any policies or directions given by clinic personnel without question.