**Unit Strategic Plan**

**2021-2023**

**Name of Program/Department:** Physical Therapist Assistant

**Mission Statement (for the program or department):**

The Mission of the Jefferson State Community College Physical Therapist Assistant

Program is to prepare competent, ethical, entry level Physical Therapist Assistants who are lifelong learners. The Program exists to provide an educational environment in which the needs of the individual student, the community, and other target audiences can be met. We are committed to accomplishing this mission through the use of quality instructional methods including both traditional and technology-based instruction, whereby students are assisted in achieving the academic knowledge and clinical skills necessary to serve the physical therapy healthcare needs of the public.

**Summary of Access, Productivity and Effectiveness (Including, but not limited to, program load, success rate, retention rate, completion rate, employer surveys, student surveys):**

Analysis of data from the *Fall Facts* provided by IRIR shows that diverse populations of students, with respect to gender, race/ethnicity and age, are enrolled in the programs at the College. These Fall Facts reported CIP 51.0806 with enrollment of 244 for Fall of 2018, 204 for Fall of 2019, and 173 for Fall 2020. This demonstrates a decline in interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant program over the years. The college as whole had a decline in headcount secondary to the COVID Pandemic of 2020. Even with the decline in interested students, the program has continued to graduate students to meet the needs of the community.

*Headcount Enrollment by Current Umbrella CIP program and Award Sought* show the following:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Fall 2018 | Fall 2019 | Fall 2020 |
| 51.0806 PhysicalTherapist Assistant | 244 | 204 | 173 |

*Actual Program Enrollment*:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Spring 2018 | Spring 2019 | Spring 2020 |
| 21 | 19 | 20 |

Actual Program Completion:

|  |
| --- |
| Number of Awards/Degrees Conferred |
|  | Summer 2017 – Spring 2018 | Summer 2018 – Spring 2019 | Summer 2019 – Spring 2020 |
| 51.0806 PhysicalTherapist Assistant | 21 | 19 | 20 |

Number of awards/degrees conferred are at acceptable levels. Interest in the program continues to grow and the number of applications received exceeds 60 per year.

The graduation rate is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Traditional/On Campus Cohort | 82.3% | 76.4% | 94.4% |
| Internet/Distance Education Cohort | 100% | 75% | 75% |

Program outcomes calculated and assessed indicate continued levels of success, including outstanding student licensure exam pass rates as indicated by the *Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)*:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cohort | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Traditional/On Campus Cohort | 92.9% | 100% | 94.1% |
| Internet/Distance Education Cohort | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Total | 89.25% | 100% | 97% |

The following table shows the number of graduates whose status is known with respect to employment. Currently, follow-up studies of graduates as well as others who leave the program for various reasons are typically done via surveys, completed forms, or by phone.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cohort | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Traditional/On Campus Cohort | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Internet/Distance Education Cohort | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% |

**Internal Conditions:**

1. **Technology**

A designated lecture classroom is equipped with a NEC overhead projector. The classroom also has a desktop computer. There is a similar set up in the laboratory to utilize for overhead demonstrations. The laboratory also has a large-screen television and DVD player for instructional purposes. Blackboard provides asynchronous discussion boards that allow students to participate in class discussion and/or question and answer sessions. Students are also provided with access to computer terminals with Internet capabilities on campus. These computer stations allow students to access web-based curriculum and any other web-based resources that may supplement course content or course assignments. The classroom and lab have Anatomage tables. The Anatomage tables provide students with a 3D view of the human body as it relates to anatomy, physiology, and pathologies of physical therapy.

Faculty offices are equipped with HP and/or Dell laptop and docking stations. A network printer/copier is shared with EMS in the 316 Suite. The executive assistant has a desktop computer that has been updated by the College’s IT department. The program would benefit from additional instructional software including electronic documentation and DVDs to support the educational needs of the students.

1. **Budget**

The PTA program has a budget that is adequate to meet program needs and with funds provided by Perkins (Voc Ed) and the CARES Act, the program has purchased additional equipment and educational materials to facilitate the program’s growth and to maintain social distance. Increased funding may be required to replace/repair broken equipment and purchase additional educational equipment, lab materials, and supplies.

1. **Staffing**

The PTA Program has three full-time core faculty members, one of whom is a Physical Therapist, and two who are Physical Therapist Assistants. Vanessa N. LeBlanc, PT, DPT serves as the Program Director, Leslie Naugher, PTA, MS serves as the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE), and Cindy Elliott, PTA, MS serves as a Program Instructor and Advisor. In addition, the Program Director can request Part-time hourly (L19) faculty and guest lecturers when needed to meet course goals. The program also manages two L19 faculty members who primarily assist with the laboratory needs of the curriculum. The continued hiring of L19s is essential to the success of the program. A full-time executive assistant is housed in the suite that is available to assist the program, as needed. She also assists other health-related programs.

1. **Resources**

Currently, resources were found to be sufficient in all primary areas: student resources/services, faculty, clinical education, testing/counseling, financial aid, technical support, library resources, equipment/supplies, office space, and effective teaching environments, and administrative/clerical support. Due to the continually evolving field of physical therapy, the faculty and curriculum must remain up to date on all professional advancements. The faculty will continue to require funding support to participate in continuing education/professional development.

1. **Enrollment**

The PTA program typically receives over 60 applications per year. During the 2020 application period (class of 2021), the program received 32 applications. Per program policy and the program’s assessment document, the PTA program will admit a class size that will meet the current market demand; the class size will be modified to meet the needs of the community and the profession. With the fluctuation in employment trends due to health care reform predictions, along with advisory committee input, the PTA program enrolled 23 students for the class of 2021. For the class of 2022, the PTA program enrolled 27 students. It is beneficial for the program and stakeholders to review enrollment, occupational outlook, and community needs annually to ensure program viability and graduate employment.

1. **Facilities**

The program is fortunate to have excellent campus physical facilities, which are more than adequate to support the needs of the PTA Program.

There is a designated classroom to seat students comfortably. The classroom is equipped with a NEC overhead projector, computer terminal, and Anatomoge table. Other equipment may be arranged for instructional purposes. We maintain three treatment tables within the classroom for demonstration purposes. The classroom is also equipped with a door lock to be used in case the building is placed on lock-down. The classroom is located adjacent to restroom facilities and vending is available on the same floor. There is elevator and stair access, and hallways are marked for emergency evacuation purposes. The hallways are also equipped with an Alertus emergency alert beacon, sprinkler system, and fire extinguisher.

There is a designated laboratory with appropriate equipment. The laboratory is also equipped with a study area (with access to textbooks and the MSDS binder), office supplies, student mailboxes, a computer terminal, a NEC overhead projector, a large-screen television, and DVD player. The laboratory has open floor space for carrying out various treatment activities. The laboratory has two sinks with soap and paper towel dispensers. Both sinks have eyewash units attached to the faucet.

The program also utilizes an ADL laboratory, which includes a simulated patient kitchen and bathroom area. This room also houses the washer and dryer, which we utilize for laundry. There is a storage area in the back of this room, as well.

The program has two dressing rooms with locker access.

There are three private offices, one for each full-time faculty member. Each office has its own computer, bookcase, and lockable cabinets for keeping confidential files/information. These offices are located within an office suite shared with the Emergency Medical Services program and the executive secretary. This suite is located on the same floor as the PTA classroom, laboratory, ADL laboratory, and dressing rooms.

In addition, the building in which the PTA Program is located (General Studies Building) has an area designated for part-time faculty who desire to use it. This area includes access to telephones, computers, desks, and private consultation areas for meetings with students.

1. **Equipment**

Current equipment reflects contemporary practice. The laboratory includes multiple treatment plinths (some within curtained areas), large mat tables, 15’ parallel bars, practice stairs, assistive devices, wheelchairs, specialized equipment (tilt tables, bariatric chair, hospital bed, mechanical lifts), modality units, recumbent bicycles, and other equipment for educational purposes. In the fall of 2020, the program purchased an Anatomage Table. This table is the most technologically advanced virtual dissection table for anatomy education. It includes ultra-high-quality visualization for students to view photorealistic anatomical structures. This table allow students to see how the body is affected by diseases and surgeries. This knowledge will assist the students in planning and carrying out treatment plans in the clinical environment. All electrical equipment receives an annual safety and calibration check by an outside vendor. In the summer of 2021, the program received funding to purchase a second Anatomage to maintain social distance during laboratory sessions.

The department would benefit from the purchase of a four-year warranty, software upgrade, and tech support for the Anatomage Table. The warranty will assist the program in maintaining this piece of equipment.

Supplies and materials for the program are adequate for classroom laboratory activities, classroom teaching, and supportive activities. The College owns all the clinical equipment used for laboratory sessions.

**External Conditions (such as state funding, accrediting agencies, advisory committees, postsecondary policy changes):**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Jefferson State Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (703) 706-3245, accreditation@apta.org

The program completed an accreditation visit in August 2012. The program was reaffirmed for 10 years (November 7, 2012 – June 30, 2023) having demonstrated substantial compliance with the evaluative criteria for accreditation.

Clinical agency resources continue to be developed to provide access to students. Competition within the Birmingham area for clinical spots has increased, and the program is taking extra steps to ensure sufficient clinical placements.

**2018-2019 Accomplishments:**

* The PTA class of 2018 volunteered at the 2018 Mercedes marathon
* Core faculty recognition for 100% American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) membership
* Class of 2019-100% pass rate national licensure examination
* Class of 2019-One student had a perfect score on the national licensure examination
* Maintained accreditation status with CAPTE (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education)
* Represented the college at a state meeting (Alabama Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association -ALAPTA)
* The ACCE, Leslie Naugher, represented the state and the college at the American Physical Therapy Association 2018 and 2019 House of Delegates.
* In 2019, the Program Director, Vanessa LeBlanc, was re-elected as the Treasurer for Alabama Physical Therapy Chapter.
* In 2019, the Program Director, Vanessa LeBlanc, was appointed the American Academy of Physical Therapy National Conference Co-chair.

**2019-2020 Accomplishments**

* Maintained accreditation status with CAPTE (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education).
* In the fall of 2019, the Program Director, Vanessa LeBlanc, was award the Chancelor’s Award for Career and Technical Education faculty.
* Represented the college at a state meeting (APTA Alabama)
* The program graduated the class of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic

**2020-2021 Accomplishments**

* Maintained accreditation status with CAPTE (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education).
* Class of 2021 Internet students-100% pass rate national licensure examination.
* Full time faculty successfully completed Quality Matters training

**Unit Goals (2021-2022)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Unit Goals**  | **Objectives with Rationale** | **Method of Assessment** | **Additional Funding Requests** |
| **Comply with CAPTE Accreditation Criteria****Program Outcome #1** The graduation rate of enrolled students in the PTA Program will be 70% or higher per cohort.**Program Outcome #3** At least 85% of graduates will pass the licensure examination (NPTE) on the first attempt.**Program Outcome #4** 85% of graduates will be employed as PTAs within six months of passing the NPTE.**Program Outcome #5** 95% of graduates will be employed as PTAs within twelve months of passing the NPTE. | 1. Submission of yearly accreditation fees for on-campus and distance education programs. Rationale: To comply and maintain accreditation for PTA programs (online and traditional).
2. All core faculty to be knowledgeable with Accreditation standards. Rationale: To comply with CAPTE standards and criteria
3. Submission of yearly individual membership to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Rationale: APTA does not offer institutional membership. To qualify for membership, you must be a graduate of a CAPTE-accredited PT or PTA program. The College will benefit from this membership by providing the program faculty with access to materials that are only available to APTA members including: federal legislation, federal regulations, accreditation materials and pertinent program information.
4. Participate as the American Academy of Physical Therapy annual conference co-chair.

Rationale: Program faculty must provide evidence to CAPTE, the programs accrediting body, of core faculty member having record of professional service (standard 4C). Participating as the conference co-chair allows the program director to provide the evidence and meet this accreditation standard. | 1. Invoices for accreditation and membership fees completed by deadlines established
2. 100% core faculty will annually review most recent accreditation handbook revisions/editions
3. 100% core faculty will annually review essential documents provided by the APTA
4. Program Director will complete Request for Funding for Participation in a Professional Development Activity as an Officer or Presenter
 | 1. 2022 Annual fee for both tracks @ $7,200.00

 Ongoing1. $00
2. Yearly membership to the APTA @ $560
3. $0-$3,000.00
 |
| **PTA Faculty and students will have access to safe, operable laboratory equipment reflective of contemporary practice in physical therapy****Program Outcome #2** 90% of graduate respondents to follow-up surveys will indicate program goals have been met.**Program Outcome #6** 90% of graduate respondents to follow-up surveys will agree to the overall adequacy of preparation for entrylevel PTA practice.**Program Outcome #7** 90% of employers surveyed will indicate that graduates were adequately prepared for entry level PTA practice | 1. Approval and payment of biomed services to run calibration and safety checks on laboratory electrical equipment. Rationale: To maintain safe equipment for use and handling by instructors and students
2. Approval and purchase of educational equipment to replace broken educational equipment. Rationale: To replace necessary lab equipment necessary for effective and safe instruction.
3. Approval and purchase of 4-year extended warranty, software upgrade, and tech support for the Anatomage Table.
 | 1. Faculty to annually inventory and inspect equipment and determine if existing equipment is adequate, operable, and reflective of current PTA practice
2. Review comments on Student Evaluation of Instructor and PTA Annual survey for any comments as to the adequacy of equipment and supplies.

Core faculty to report needs for equipment.1. Faculty to annually inventory and inspect equipment and determine if existing equipment is adequate, operable, and reflective of current PTA practice
 | 1. 2022 =$3000.00 (run calibration and safety checks)

Ongoing1. Equipment Estimate

$6,000.001. $21, 840.00
 |
| **Faculty will have access to technology and resources sufficient to achieve course and program outcomes.** **Program Outcome #2** 90% of graduate respondents to follow-up surveys will indicate program goals have been met.**Program Outcome #6** 90% of graduate respondents to follow-up surveys will agree to the overall adequacy of preparation for entrylevel PTA practice.**Program Outcome #7** 90% of employers surveyed will indicate that graduates were adequately prepared for entry level PTA practice | 1. Approval and completion of professional development courses and attend annual conference. Rationale: Program faculty must provide evidence to CAPTE, the programs accrediting body, of contemporary expertise specific to assigned teaching content (revised standard 4A). Participating in annual conference allows the program faculty to provide the evidence and meet this accreditation standard.
2. Approval and purchase of FSBPT Content Area Report. Rationale: To review and analyze areas of strength/weakness for curriculum development and revision.
3. Approval and purchase of FSBPT Graduate Report. Rational: To review data on pass rates to consider implications and need for curriculum revisions.
 | 1. Faculty to complete annual IAPs
2. Program director to report needs for necessary technology and other resources to achieve course / program goals.
3. Program director to report needs for necessary technology and other resources to achieve course / program goals.
 | 1. Funding estimate for professional development:
	1. IAP =

$600 x 3 faculty = $1,800.00 (IAP)* 1. Attend Annual conference at estimated cost of $3000.00 for up to 3 full-time faculty
1. Funding estimate for FSBPT Content Area Report 2022: $95.00 each cohort x 2 = $190.00

Ongoing1. Funding estimate for FSBPT Graduate Report

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| **Faculty and students will have educational materials that will enhance learning/understanding of essential concepts in rehabilitation and clinical education****Program Outcome #2** 90% of graduate respondents to follow-up surveys will indicate program goals have been met.**Program Outcome #6** 90% of graduate respondents to follow-up surveys will agree to the overall adequacy of preparation for entrylevel PTA practice.**Program Outcome #7** 90% of employers surveyed will indicate that graduates were adequately prepared for entry level PTA practice | 1. Submission of yearly fee for on-line assessment programs (APTA Clinical Assessment Suite: Web CPI, CSIF, and Site Assign). Rationale: To maintain online database systems for clinical instruction, clinical management, student evaluation and progression.
2. Approval and purchase of essential lab supplies necessary for instruction in relevant therapeutic concepts.
 | 1. Reviews clinical assessments from Students and CIs regarding clinical course objectives and content
2. Review comments on Student Evaluation of Instructor and PTA Annual survey for any comments as to the adequacy of educational materials

Core faculty to report needs for necessary educational materials | 1. Funding estimate to purchase clinical database applications:

2022: APTA Clinical Assessment Suite @ $1250.00Ongoing1. Funding estimate for:

2021: Lab Supplies = $4500.00 |
| **Revise current Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for all courses in the program to more adequately document and enhance reporting of student progress in the program.** **Program Outcome #1** The graduation rate of enrolled students in the PTA Program will be 70% or higher per cohort. | 1. Faculty will assess and revise SLO for each assigned course. Rationale: To determine appropriate SLOs for courses.
2. Conduct faculty reviews of SLOs, modify as necessary. Rationale: To provide a forum for discussion and revision of SLOs.
3. Plan methods for assessing SLOs and documenting results. Rationale: To develop and enable an assessment process for SLOs.
 | Assessment of SLOs will be based on judgment of the faculty and performance of the students. It is expected that SLOs and assessments will be continually modified as faculty determine where improvements are needed. Advisory Committee may be consulted as needed. | Funding estimate for:2 advisory meeting @ $200 per meetingOngoing |

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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