SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Course Number:	PTAS 100	Department:	Physical Therapy Assistant			
Course Title:	Intro. To Physical Therapy	Semester:	Spring	Year:	2002	

Objectives/Competencies

Course Objective	Competencies		
The profession, its history, its place in the health care arena and its professional organizations.	 Discuss the highlights of the history of the profession and the major factors that influenced its growth and development. Discuss the function of the national organization and know how to contact the APTA. Describe the benefits of belonging to the APTA. Identify various members of the health care team and discuss the role of each. 		
2. The roles of the physical therapist, the physical therapist assistant, and the physical therapy aide.	 Differentiate between the roles of the PST, the PTA, and the PT aide. Discuss direction and supervision of the PTA. Describe the patient/client management model. Describe the scope of practice for the PTA. 		
3. Traditional and nontraditional employment settings for the PTA.	 Identify five traditional employment settings and discuss how the PTA functions in each. Identify three potential nontraditional employment 		

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	settings and discuss how the PTA can function within the legal scope of practice.	
4. Organizational structure within various health care settings.	 Describe typical management structures. Identify potential roles of the PTA within those structures. Identify the need for sound fiscal management in a Managed Health care climate. 	
5. How the profession is regulated legally and how laws are designed to protect the public.	 Define practice acts and describe what their function is. Distinguish between laws, regulations, and policies and how they are made. Identify the major components of the Massachusetts Regulations and the Connecticut State Practice Act and the practice differences in the two states. 	
6. Standards of practice and ethical conduct that shape the profession.	 Cite several behaviors that would result in legal liability for the PTA. Discuss the essential conditions of the Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy. Identify major components of the Code of Ethics and describe ways that the PTA can breach it. 	
7. The importance of establishing a plan to accomplish academic goals incorporating feedback from various sources.	 Identify their academic strengths based on outcomes from the Learning and Self-Study Inventory. Develop a self-directed plan for career development and lifelong learning. 	

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8. The importance of treating people with individual differences with sensitivity.	 Identify acceptable people-friendly language when discussing people with disabilities. List commonly held stereotype beliefs about various cultural/ethnic groups, injured workers, and those who are physically-challenged. 		