

**Kent State University PTA Program
Summer and Fall 2020 Application Cycle
Application Changes Ashtabula Campus Fall 2020**

Observation Hours:

Due to COVID-19 implications on the ability to complete observation hours towards application to the PTA program at Kent State University Ashtabula campus September 1, 2020 application deadline, the following application provisions are being made:

- 1. For the 2020 application cycle NO POINTS will be awarded for the application process for observation hours, BUT each applicant MUST either have the hours completed OR complete the alternative assignments as detailed below in order to qualify for consideration of acceptance to the cohort. The program does still reserve the right to not accept any student who has completed observation hours but was marked NOT RECOMMENDED by the supervisor of those observation hours (please see application information packet).**
2. If an applicant has already completed and submitted the documents for the required 40 hours of observation (20 hours, inpatient and 20 hours outpatient) the applicant does not need to complete any of the alternate application assignments listed below.
3. If an application has completed the BONUS 20 hours of observation and submitted documents for this, the applicant will still receive the 5 bonus points as defined in the applicant information packet.
- 4. Any applicant who has not completed the required 40 hours of observation towards the September 1, 2020 application deadline MUST complete alternative application assignments as listed below:**
 - a. If the applicant has completed and submitted documentation for at least 35 hours of observation the applicant **MUST** complete 1 of the application activities (applicant choice)
 - b. If the applicant has completed and submitted documentation for at least 20 hours of observation the applicant **MUST** complete 2 of the application activities (applicant choice)
 - c. If the applicant has completed and submitted documentation for at least 15 hours of observation the applicant **MUST** complete 3 of the application activities (applicant choice)
 - d. If the applicant has completed less than 15 hours (or none at all) the applicant **MUST** complete all 5 of the application activities

LIST OF APPLICATION ACTIVITIES:

1. INTERVIEW:

- a. Choose a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant to interview. Please ask the following questions:
 - i. Tell me about your education. Where did you attend school? What did you like and dislike about school? How did your education prepare you to work with different types of patients?
 - ii. Tell me about your job. What setting do you work in? What is your primary concentration or specialty area of treatment? What patient's do you see that make you feel like you definitely chose the right profession? What is difficult about your job? What do you like the most about your job? What advice would you have for someone who is pursuing physical therapy as a professional career?
 - iii. Talk about the PT/PTA relationship. Do you value the PT/PTA relationship? What advice would you have for a new PTA graduate entering the workforce?
 - iv. Give me some final advice. What would you say is the one big thing I need to know as I consider going into the physical therapy field?
- b. After the interview, please write a summary of your findings and how you feel the interview will help mold and lead your entrance into the physical therapy field. What did you learn that you were surprised about?

2. PRACTICE SETTING INVESTIGATION:

- a. Find a YouTube Video that shows physical therapy treatment in the following settings: outpatient orthopedics, acute care or hospital skilled nursing, long term care or nursing home, and pediatrics
- b. Write a compare/contrast paper discussing the similarities and differences between the 4 different treatment settings. Which setting would you prefer to work in for a career? What setting do you think would be difficult or what you would not choose to work in if you had a choice? How will knowledge of these practice settings guide your time as a PTA student at KSU?

3. AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION INVESTIGATION:

- a. Visit apta.org
- b. Explore the website, especially areas for prospective students and the relationship between the PTA and the PT
- c. Spend time getting to know the profession and identify why the information there is helpful in your decision to pursue a PTA degree.
- d. Write a response to the following questions:
 - i. What do you find interesting in the information about becoming a PTA
 - ii. How do you think the information helps in your decision making process to pursue the PTA degree?
 - iii. What did you learn that you found interesting regarding becoming a PTA
 - iv. What are the benefits of becoming an APTA member as a student?

4. PATIENT INTERVIEW:

- a. Ask around in your friends and family circles to find someone who has been an physical therapy patient. Interview them using the following questions as a guide for your discussion:
 - i. In what type of setting did you receive physical therapy treatment
 - ii. Tell me about your therapist. What did you like or dislike about him/her?
 - iii. What did you do as a patient to help your recovery?
 - iv. What advice would you give as I begin my pursuit of a physical therapy professional career?
 - v. What did you enjoy about physical therapy? What was difficult?
- b. Once you've completed the interview, write a summary of your findings and discuss how the information you gathered will help you in your pursuit of a professional career in physical therapy.

5. ROLE OF THE PTA:

- a. Use ANY sources of your choice to assist you in explaining the role of the PTA in the physical therapy treatment of a patient. Describe what you think the PTA role looks like on a day to day basis in a treatment setting of your choice. What is different about the role of the PTA versus the PT?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICANT ACTIVITIES

Compile all activities required in ONE document. Please save the document to your computer. Compose an e-mail to PTA program secretary, Theresa Hootman at thootma1@kent.edu

Include in your e-mail that you are attaching applicant activities for application to the PTA program at Ashtabula for the September 1, 2020 deadline. Attach your document and send.

ALL MATERIALS ARE DUE BY 5:00 PM ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2020.

Please contact program director Tiffany Kiphart at tkiphart@kent.edu with specific questions regarding the requirements in the applicant activities as described.