

# PTHA 1321 Pathophysiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant (Hybrid Format)

Course Syllabus: **Fall: 2018**



**NORTHEAST TEXAS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”

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<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Online</b>
	1:30-4:30	9:00-11:00	1:30-4:30	9:00-11:00		

*The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.*

## **Catalog Course Description:**

This course reflects the study of the pathogenesis, prognosis, and therapeutic management of diseases/conditions commonly encountered in physical therapy. Pre-requisite: Admission to the program. Three hours lecture each week.

## **Required Textbook(s):**

*Pathology for the Physical Therapist Assistant*, 1st ed., Goodman et.al. , Saunders/Elsevier

**Publisher:** Saunders/Elsevier

**ISBN Number:** 978-1-4377-0894-3

## **Recommended Reading(s):**

*Pathology for the Physical Therapist Assistant*, 1st ed. , Goodman et.al. , Saunders/Elsevier

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

### GENERAL COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Identify and explain the pathogenesis of selected diseases/conditions relevant to physical therapy. Determine aspects of Pathophysiology that affect physical therapy treatment; describe the current response to acute physiological change in patients' conditions and identify pertinent pharmacological information and its impact on patient care.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. Attend all classes and arrive on time.
2. Project professional image (dress/hygiene) on field trips and field experiences
3. Discuss potential implications on non-attendance and tardiness in the classroom
4. Demonstrate acceptance of faculty feedback on written exams, assignments and research
5. Demonstrate professional behavior in interactions with instructors/students during classroom activities

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course on a written examination with 75% proficiency, the student will be able to:

1. Define pathology and related terminology
2. Identify and explain the pathogenesis of selected diseases and conditions relevant to physical therapy.
3. Describe how disease affects homeostasis.
4. Identify the major classifications of human diseases.
5. Explain the importance of patient history in the treatment of diseases.
6. Differentiate the Models of Disability.
7. Communicate an understanding of the plan of care developed by the PT to achieve short term and long term goal and intended outcomes.
8. Describe the purpose of inflammation.
9. List the main signs of acute and chronic inflammation and describe the physiologic mechanisms involved in their production.
10. Differentiate between acute and chronic inflammation.
11. Contrast benign and malignant tumors.
12. List the warning signs of cancer.
13. Describe the local and systemic effects of cancer.
14. List common risk factors for cancer.
15. Identify treatment related to various forms of cancer.
16. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.
17. Differentiate various pathologies related to age, gender, race, and ethnicity.
18. Describe how responses/results to common pathologic conditions may vary with age, gender, and race.
19. Identify selected pathologies for which racial or ethnic groups may be predisposed.
20. Describe pathologies related to the immune system.
21. Describe the function and anatomical components of the immune system.
22. Identify sign and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the immune system.
23. Identify treatment related to various conditions of the immune system.
24. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.
25. Describe pathologies related to the integumentary system.
26. Describe the function and anatomical components of the integumentary system.
27. Identify sign and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the integumentary system.
28. Identify treatment related to various conditions of the integumentary system.
29. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.
30. Describe pathologies related to the endocrine and Metabolic systems.
31. Describe the function and anatomical components of the endocrine and metabolic systems.
32. Identify sign and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the endocrine and metabolic systems.
33. Identify treatment related to various conditions of the endocrine and metabolic systems.
34. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports

this to the supervising PT.

35. Describe pathologies related to the respiratory system.

36. Describe the function and anatomical components of the respiratory system.

37. Identify sign and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the respiratory system.

38. Identify treatment related to various conditions of the respiratory system.

39. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.

40. Describe pathologies related to the musculoskeletal system.

41. Describe the function and anatomical components of the musculoskeletal system.

42. Identify sign and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the musculoskeletal system.

43. Identify treatment related to various conditions of the musculoskeletal system.

44. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.

45. Identify signs and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the cardiovascular system.

46. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.

47. Identify signs and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the hematologic system.

48. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.

49. Identify signs and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the hepatic, pancreatic, and biliary systems.

50. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.

51. Identify signs and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the gastrointestinal system.

52. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.

53. Identify signs and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the renal and urologic systems.

54. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.

55. Identify signs and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the male and female reproductive systems.

56. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.

57. Describe pathologies resulting from congenital and childhood diseases and conditions.

58. Describe the function and anatomical components of congenital and childhood diseases and conditions.

59. Identify sign and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to congenital and childhood diseases.

60. Identify treatment related to various childhood diseases.

61. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.

62. Identify signs and symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention related to the Bone, joint, and soft tissue diseases and disorders.

63. Recognize when treatment should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports this to the supervising PT.
64. Describe the various problems affecting multiple systems of the body
65. Describe and recognize infectious diseases and the etiology of each disease.
66. Describe lab tests and values and predict the impact of various results on physical therapy.

**SCANS Skills:**

Scans addressed as follows: Information (acquires and evaluates information, organizes and maintains information, interprets and communicates information, uses computers to process information); Interpersonal (teaches others, serves clients/customers, works with cultural diversity); Basic Skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking); Thinking Skills (creative thinking, decision making, problem solving, seeing things in the mind's eye, knowing how to learn, reasoning); Personal Qualities (responsibility, self-esteem, sociability, self-management, integrity/honesty).

**Lectures & Discussions:**

**METHODS OF PRESENTATION**

1. Lecture – classroom and audio
2. Assigned Readings
3. Multi-media presentation
4. Discussion & Group activities

**OUTLINE OF CONTENT**

1. Introduction to Concepts of Pathology
2. Problems Affecting Multiple Systems
3. Injury, Inflammation, and Healing
4. Immune System
5. Infectious Disease
6. Oncology & Musculoskeletal Neoplasms
7. Integumentary System
8. The Endocrine and Metabolic Systems
9. Respiratory System
10. Cardiovascular System
11. Hematologic System
12. Hepatic, Pancreatic, and Biliary Systems
13. Introduction to Pathology of the Musculoskeletal System
14. Infectious Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System
15. Bone, Joint, and Soft Tissue Diseases and Disorders
16. Genetic and Developmental Disorders
17. Gastrointestinal System
18. Renal and Urologic Systems
19. Male & Female Reproductive Systems

**Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

Unit Exams (4) . . . . .	75%
Research Paper . . . . .	25%

## GRADING SCALE

A - 92-100

B - 83-91

C - 75-82

D - 66-74

F - 65 and below

A grade below 75 constitutes unsatisfactory understanding of the course content.

### **Tests/Exams:**

Exam I – October 15

Exam II – November 5

Exam III – November 26

Exam IV – December 12

### **Assignments:**

Pathophysiology Research Paper

### **Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

#### ATTENDANCE AND ABSENTEEISM/TARDINESS

Students are responsible for the attendance policies stated in the **Northeast Texas Community College Student Handbook and the PTA Program Student Policy and Procedure Handbook.**

#### *TARDIES AND ABSENCES ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED*

The PTA faculty believes that the habits and work patterns established in school will be carried over to the work setting. Therefore, every effort should be made to establish patterns of good attendance and promptness. This applies not only to the technical courses but also the general education and support courses. Student attendance is addressed under student responsibilities in the school catalog. In addition, student attendance and participation is also addressed utilizing the Professionalism Development Rubric. This document provides the student a means to identify and track any area(s) of deficiency regarding professional behaviors; and, to improve in the area(s). For the PTA Program, the following guidelines concerning attendance will be enforced:

1. For every class period missed, one (1) absence is accumulated.
2. A student more than five minutes late or leaving class early with or without instructor permission is considered tardy.
3. Three (3) tardies constitute one (1) absence.
4. After absences (excused or unexcused) in any 4 class periods per semester, the student will be placed on probation. Stipulations of probation will be developed based on the student's history and circumstances surrounding the absences; and conditions for dismissal in the event of a future absence will be included in the probationary contract.
5. Make-up work is required for all absences in order to ensure that the student acquires information and skills presented during his/her absence (see Make-up work section). It is the student's responsibility to meet with instructor(s) on the first day back to schedule make-up work and/or lab check-off.
6. Students must notify (voicemail or e-mail) the PTA office in advance whenever excessive (>5 minutes) tardiness or absence is unavoidable. Notification of the student's absence

by classmates is not acceptable.

\*Note: An absence will be excused by provision of a note written and signed by a medical professional and by uncontrollable or unavoidable extenuating circumstances as documented below. All other absences/tardies will be considered unexcused.

Further explanation of excused absences is as follows:

- “A student’s serious illness” shall mean a condition such as pneumonia, surgery, hospital confinement, or valid documented medical reason. A physician’s documentation verifying illness must be provided.
- “Death in the immediate family” shall be interpreted to mean mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, spouse, child, brother, sister, grandparents, or significant other. Documentation must be provided.
- “Statutory government responsibilities” refer to such matters as jury duty or subpoena for court appearance. Documentation must be provided.
- Inclement weather – see program student handbook.

## MAKE-UP WORK

### **Due to Absence:**

Each student is responsible for all material and techniques presented in class and labs. If a class is missed, the student is responsible for obtaining from a classmate, information/ notes, handouts, lab work, covered during that absence. It is the **student’s responsibility** to schedule a time with the instructor to complete lab check-offs for content missed. Lab check-offs must be made up within one week of the date absent. The student’s grade will be lowered **10 points** on the corresponding lab practical for each lab session and check-off not made up within the allocated timeframe. If the student has not “checked-off”, any missed lab material/techniques; they will **NOT** be allowed to take the corresponding lab practical and a grade of “0” will be assigned. If a test, lab practical, or special assignment is missed due to an **excused** absence, it is the student’s responsibility to consult the instructor the next time the student is on campus about making up a test or turning in an assignment. The student must make-up the missed test or lab practical within one week from the date missed providing **appropriate notification of absence was made prior** to the original test time. Lack of notification prior to exam time will result in a grade of “0” for the missed exam; ***notifying classmates to relay the student’s absence is not acceptable!*** Assignments due on the date of the excused absence must be turned in the next time the student is on campus; otherwise, the student will receive a “0” for the work missed.

An **unexcused** absence will result in a “0” on a test, lab practical, or special assignment missed; the student will not have the opportunity to make up the work missed work.

One make-up test and/or lab practical due to excused absence, per class, per semester is allowable without penalty. **It is the student’s responsibility to set up a time with the instructor to make up the test or lab practical missed.**

## POLICY ON DISHONESTY

It is the responsibility of students and faculty to help maintain scholastic integrity at the College by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. **Plagiarism** and other **forms of dishonesty** undermine the very purpose of the college and diminish the value of an education. Specific sanctions for academic dishonesty are outlined in the Northeast Texas Community College Student Handbook and

in this manual. Personal and professional ethics are inherent in the field of physical therapy therefore; the highest standards of honesty and integrity must be adhered to. This Honor Code, in its simplest form means that you will neither give nor receive any unauthorized assistance from any person, paper, or object on any examination, lab practical, paper, or project. This includes talking about lab practical exams, regular exam questions, looking at copies of old tests from previous students, copying or allowing anyone to copy off of your test or assignment, and discussing any aspect of an exam or practical with a student who has not yet taken the test and/or practical (this includes the State Board exam).

With regards to research papers, in-services, group projects, etc. the use of another person's words or ideas must be cited and credit given to the source(s). Examples of plagiarism include:

- The inclusion of another person's exact words in a paper or assignment without placing quotation marks around the words to indicate an exact quote, *even if the source is cited*;
  - Using **several** consecutive sentences written by another person, changing the words somewhat to keep the passage from being an exact quote, *even if the source is cited*;
  - Presenting someone else's ideas without citing that person as the original thinker;
  - Submitting a paper written in part or in whole by another person;
  - Any other act intended to circumvent the process of performing and presenting original academic research in completion of a course assignment.

Violations of any portion of this policy will be brought to the attention of the student by the instructor. If there is suspicion of wrongdoing without corroborating evidence, the matter will be discussed with the student and a written warning/contract will be issued if warranted. If there is clear evidence that a violation has taken place, the student will receive a grade of "0" for that test/assignment in question; and the instructor will impose a sanction ranging from a written warning to dismissal from the course with a failing grade.

If the student does not feel that the issue is satisfactorily resolved, the student should contact the PTA Program Director to discuss the matter. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the student may contact the Dean of Allied Health, followed by the Executive Vice President for Instruction. If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved at the end of this process, the student may initiate a formal grievance procedure outlined in the NTCC Student Handbook and in this manual.

## CLASS PREPAREDNESS

Students are expected to complete all reading assignments, as outlined in the course schedule or assigned by the instructor, prior to class time. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in assignments on time. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Late assignments received by the next class period will result in a maximum grade of 75. If an assignment is not turned in by the next class period the student will receive a grade of "0" for that assignment.

## NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:

"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook."

## **Academic Ethics**

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

## **ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with Shannin Garrett, Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations. She can be reached at 903-434-8218. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the [NTCC website - Special Populations](#).

## **Family Educational Rights And Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

## **Other Course Policies:**

### **POLICY ON CIVILITY AND CELL PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM AND LABORATORY**

Use of cell phones is **prohibited** in class/lab. Phones are **NOT** allowed and should be kept out of sight during class time. If the student is observed using the phone (texting, calling) during class he/she will be asked to turn the phone off and surrender it to the instructor. If the student desires to use the phone to access course materials, the student is asked to inform the instructor prior to class for approval. If a student's cell phone rings in class, the student will be required to turn off the phone immediately. If a student is expecting a very important call, he/she is to notify the instructor prior to class regarding the nature of the situation. The student will be asked to keep the phone silent, and upon receiving the call he/she must step out of the room to answer.

## **RETENTION & CONDITIONS FOR DISMISSAL**

1. Dishonesty & Misconduct: Unlike many other professions, actions and behaviors as a PTA student directly affect the lives of others. For this reason, the highest honesty and ethical standards are mandatory. Dishonesty and unethical behavior(s) in any form will result in disciplinary measures and may result in dismissal from the program. Students will be monitored in this area. Any first violation will be reviewed by the PTA instructor, Clinical Instructor, Program Director, and/or



Program Advisory Committee; and appropriate action taken, possibly including dismissal. Any subsequent violations will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

2. Absences: Emphasizing the previously stated attendance policy, students who miss any 4 class periods will be placed on probation. The student may be asked to leave the program based on non-compliance of the probationary contract.
3. Failure to Maintain Academic Standing: Students must earn a minimum overall grade of 75 in all PTHA class, lab, and core courses in order to remain in the PTA Program. Students are encouraged to access and monitor all course grades by utilizing Blackboard course gradebooks.

*The course grades on Blackboard will be considered the first level of notification of possible impending failure of the course.* The student is responsible for seeking additional help from course instructors if grades fall below average. If a student earns a final grade below 75 in any of the PTHA courses, the student will not be allowed to proceed in the program and will fall under the Re-Admission Policy. All prerequisites must be met for the student to progress in the PTA curriculum.

The second level of notification of impending failure will be considered if a student's performance is weak or unsatisfactory (course average of 74 and below) at mid-term; he/she will be formally notified via the "Early Concern Letter" and required to meet with the PTA Director and/or faculty to discuss areas of concern. At this time, the "Student Success Action Plan" will be developed and completed by the student and instructor(s) as a means to set goals meant to guide student remediation. In all instances, program faculty will be available for assistance upon student request. All discussion presented during the meeting will be documented and signed by all parties. The student's signature on the "Student Success Action Plan" indicates that the student contributed and agrees with the action plan as well as requires all goals for success are met. This document will be revisited at various times during the semester to ensure the student is progressing towards established goals. This document will be kept confidential and placed in the student's personal folder.

\*For questions regarding material in a specific PTHA course, the student should consult the instructor who is teaching that material.

\*For concerns dealing with clinical matters, the Clinical Instructor and/or the Director of Clinical Education (DCE) should be consulted.

Students are encouraged to observe faculty posted office hours as much as possible; and appointments made with PTA Program faculty when possible. Faculty should be called after hours **only in case of emergency**.

### **MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY**

In the event that a student has surgery or experiences a significant change in medical status, the student must notify the PTA program director immediately. The director may request that the student have permission from his/her medical physician to participate in class, laboratory, or clinical experiences. If there is obvious decline in a student's health, he/she will be asked to see a physician for precautionary purposes. In the event a student's health becomes a barrier for success in class or clinicals, he/she may be advised to withdraw from the program. The student may petition for re-entry after resolution of

health issues and acquisition of a physician's release indicating his/her ability to participate (100%) in class, lab activities, and clinicals (without restriction). If, upon re-entry the student experiences a subsequent change in medical status, the student will be asked to withdraw from the program. The opportunity for a second re-entry will be determined by the Program Director, faculty and Dean of Health Sciences. Availability of space and the student's academic/clinical standing, prior to withdrawal, will determine re-admittance.

## **PREGNANCY POLICY**

Students who are, or become, pregnant during their studies in the program must inform the program director of her status at the earliest possible time. Pregnancy is a condition that is a contraindication to the reception of several physical therapy modalities and techniques; and as such would limit the person's ability to participate in certain lab situations which could impact the student's grades. Pregnancy could also affect a student's full participation in clinic courses. In the event the student's pregnancy/delivery becomes a barrier for completion of course and/or clinical work, she may be advised to withdraw from the program. The student may petition for re-entry after resolution of health issues or delivery and acquisition of a physician's release indicating her ability to participate (100%) in class, lab activities, and clinicals (without restriction).

The student who is pregnant **MUST** provide the program director with a physician's diagnosis and release indicating her ability to participate in class, lab, and clinical activities **without restriction at 100%** (the student shall present the appropriate course objectives to the physician for his/her consideration).

While the student who is pregnant is attending her clinical rotations, she must provide each clinic with an updated Physician's release indicating that she is able to participate at 100%, without restriction, as a student PTA. The release shall be based on the objectives of the clinical course and clinic facility policy and shall be updated as the student advances in her pregnancy.

Accelerated or delayed completion of required clinical hours may be requested by the student, but the final decision regarding the feasibility of such an alternative schedule rests with the DCE and the Program Director. The student may be advised to withdraw from the program and, based on the student's academic/technical standing, petition for re-entry after the birth of the baby. The program is not obligated to locate a clinical site for any person considered to be "at-risk" or at a less than 100% participation level.

Upon delivery of the baby and return to the program's activities, the student is required to submit a final clearance from the Physician allowing for a full return to all expected activities.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

The PTA Program follows the NTCC Policy on Sexual Harassment. The Sexual Harassment policy can be found on the NTCC website at [www.ntcc.edu](http://www.ntcc.edu) in the student handbook. While participating in clinical courses complaints of sexual harassment should be reported immediately to the PTA program director. The student should also follow the clinical facilities policy for reporting sexual harassment.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

According to the Merriam/Webster Dictionary, social media is defined as “forms of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content [such as videos and pictures]” (merriam-webster.com, 2015). Forms of electronic devices and communication may include computers, smartphones, texting, emails, and websites for blogs and social media formats. Examples of social media formats include but are not limited to LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Second Life, Flickr, blogs, podcasts, RSS feeds, Allnurses.com, YouTube, Vine, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.

In both the healthcare and educational fields, distribution of sensitive and confidential information is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), whether discussed through traditional communication channels, video recording, text, or social media. Information that is communicated through these types of channels are circulated through social interaction using highly accessible publishing techniques that are web-based and may cross traditional boundaries between professional and personal relationships. Therefore, students should ensure that personal, professional, and institutional information is protected.

Sending information on electronic devices and publishing information on social media sites may become public for anyone to see and can be traced back to the author. Information garnered from social media sites include information that is shared and information that is gathered through electronic tracking (Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, 2015). These forms of communication provide little control regarding how this information may be used by others. Therefore, students should be aware that “*private*” social media sites do not exist because search engines can turn up posts years after the original publication date, comments can be forwarded or copied, and archival systems save information, including deleted postings through a variety of authorized and unauthorized individuals and organizations (Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, 2015).

If you identify yourself as a student of the NTCC Physical Therapist Assistant Program or a prospective/future student of the PTA program through posting, personal web pages, social media accounts, etc., you **MUST** ensure that ANY content you publish and/or acknowledge is consistent with your professional ethics and is compliant with all confidentiality and privacy laws. You should always consider the legal liability of each post you make and the posts that are made on your site, as well as on the sites of others. Additionally, students must also be aware of the electronic and social media policies of the institutions/entities that are contracted with NTCC for practicum/clinicals so that these policies are not violated.

As a Physical Therapist Assistant Program Student, it is your responsibility to:

Protect confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information; do not post confidential or proprietary information about the college, program faculty and staff, students, peers, clinical facilities, clients/patients, employees, or others you may come in contact with while in the role as an NTCC Physical Therapist Assistant student. ***Protect all private and confidential information related to you and to others.*** Be responsible for what you post and protect yourself and others!

Be aware that you are associated with NTCC, the Physical Therapist Assistant Program and the Health Sciences Department when engaging in online social networks. Regardless of how you identify yourself, be it personal or as a student, ensure that your profile and related content is consistent with how you

wish to present yourself to colleagues, clients/patients, and potential employers. **Employers consistently conduct Web searches on job candidates before extending offers.** Be sure that what you post today will not come back to “inconvenience” you in the future.

Refrain from using NTCC or the Physical Therapist Assistant Program inscriptions/symbols, such as logos and graphics, on personal social media sites. Do not use NTCC’s name to promote a product, cause, or a political party candidate. NTCC and/or Physical Therapist Assistant logos and/or graphics may be used for School sanctioned events (posters, fliers, postings, or others) but must be **approved** by the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director and Director of Student Activities and Multicultural Affairs.

Upon entering the classroom or the practicum/clinical site, all cell phones will be placed in the vibrate/silent mode. Cell phones/electronic devices for emergencies only must be used outside of patient areas. Any social use of cell phones/electronic devices will only be used at break times or before/after classroom or practicum/clinical hours. Computers located in UHS 246 are for class use only. **Students accessing social medial sites during class time will have their course grade reduced by 1 letter grade for each infraction.**

**Violations of client/patient privacy with an electronic device will be subject to HIPAA procedures and guidelines.** Consequences will result in **TERMINATION** from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Each student is legally responsible for individual posting and may be subject to liability if individual postings are found to be defamatory, harassing, or in violation of any other applicable law. Students may also be liable if individual postings include confidential or copyrighted information from music, videos, text, and any other media. Students who share confidential or unprofessional information do so at the risk of disciplinary action including failure in a course and/or dismissal from the program.

References: Privacy Rights Clearinghouse (2015). Fact Sheet: 35 Social Networking Policy: How to be Safe, Secure and Social. Retrieved from <https://www.privacyrights.org/social-networking-privacy>. Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2015). Retrieved from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

## **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY**

All students will receive thorough instructional material on communicable diseases such as AIDS, Tuberculosis, meningitis, MMR, Hepatitis B Viruses, etc. throughout the program. It is the program’s intention to inform all students of the possible potential for acquiring such conditions.

When or if a student is identified as being infected with any communicable disease, the following steps are to be taken to ensure the health of the NTCC community, and of the patients with whom the student would be in contact. This policy is also designated to protect the student who is infected.

1. The student must notify the program director in writing and verbally of the disease contracted and his or her physician’s name and number. The student will not be allowed to attend class or clinical at this time.
2. The program director will contact the Health Service director of NTCC.
3. The Health Service director will confer with appropriate public health officials and/or current literature for guidance as to protocol concerning the disease report and inform the program director.

4. The program director will contact the student as to when the student may return to campus or clinical practicum. The program director will adhere to public health guidelines dictated by the Health Services Director.
5. The student will supply the program director and DCE documentation from the treating or advising physician stating that he/she may return to campus or clinical practicum.
6. Every effort will be made to work with the student to keep the student current with his/her classes or clinical practicum.