

Physical Therapist Assistant - SLO Assessment, Spring 2013 Results

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Survey Overview

Description

Physical Therapist Assistant, Spring 2013

Instructions Provided To Respondents

There are four sections in this survey.

- The first section contains two questions about your overall experience in the program. Use this section to identify things you liked, things you would change, and to communicate any other comments about your overall experience in the program. If you have feedback about the instruction or anything else related to the overall program, please address that in one of these questions.
- The second section addresses the college core abilities. The core abilities are overall skills that all graduates should acquire during their experience at Western. Focus on yourself in this section.
- The third section addresses the specific outcomes for your program. Please focus on yourself in this section.
- The conclusion provides a comment section for any additional information you would like to share about your experience with your program and Western Technical College.

Thank you for completing this survey.

Respondent Metrics

Respondents: 13
First Response: 4/29/2013 07:46 AM
Last Response: 5/10/2013 12:25 PM

Survey Results

The following is a tabular depiction of the responses to each survey question. Additional comments provided by respondents, if any, are included after each table.

Section - General Overview of Program

Instructions Provided To Respondents

We appreciate your feedback, comments and suggestions. The information you provide will strengthen our program. Thank you.

1. What did you like about this program?

All the hands on training and the availability of the professor to answer your questions. (000000490 Anonymous)

Enjoyed the subject matter, great instructors, great classes. (000000489 Anonymous)

I enjoyed the hands on experience with this program, and the chance to apply anatomy and study of movement with treatment of movement dysfunctions. (000000696 Anonymous)

I liked the environment/location of the program, as well as the opportunity to use different labs and space. The faculty were always willing to help me succeed and answer all of my questions. The program had a very good emphasis on modalities and therapeutic exercise. The group was split into two different labs, even when our class got smaller. This was nice, because I felt like there was a lot of one on one attention from the instructors. (000000491 Anonymous)

I loved the teachers and the knowledge they provided me with. (000000488 Anonymous)

I really enjoyed all three of the instructors. They were all very personable and helpful. I enjoyed learning about a subject I was truly passionate about. (000000700 Anonymous)

Instructors, small class, food (000000695 Anonymous)

Super Instructors, invested in preparing students for their practical skills as well as the textbook information necessary to become a PTA and pass the Natl. Exam. (000000701 Anonymous)

The focus on professionalism and attention to detail. (000000697 Anonymous)

The hands on time spent learning the techniques. (000000694 Anonymous)

The professors (000000362 Anonymous)

The small class sizes and the one on one contact with the teachers. I also liked how you got to know the students in your class. (000000699 Anonymous)

The teachers knew the material very well and were very helpful. (000000698 Anonymous)

2. What would you change about this program?

I truly believe there should be a screening tool before letting people into the program, such as an interview process, or a questionnaire given to students wanting to go into the program to help screen. There were a few people who didn't complete the program because they were not physically or mentally able to be in such a tough program. Had there been a screening process, many students would not spend time wasted as a PTA student, and people who really wanted to be in the program that were on the waiting list, could have taken those spots. I feel that if a class starts at 24/25 and ends up graduating only 13 or 14, it should strike as a red flag, that maybe there should be measures taken to prevent such a low graduating class. This isn't because the courses are too difficult (although, they are very hard), or because rules are too strict (they are strict for a good reason - future patient safety). It is because many students weren't cut out to be a PTA. (0000000491 Anonymous)

I would change cardio class to include more hands on activity to help people who learn best hands on. (0000000696 Anonymous)

I would encourage the instructors to continue to build a "mentorship" program with Western CIs in the field. WTC alumni take great pride in having gone to school there and can be a wonderful school-business network. (0000000701 Anonymous)

I would give more time for Cardio/Pulmonary class. It felt very rushed. (0000000699 Anonymous)

More hands on training and maybe bringing in actual patients to practice with to see how the impairments actually look. (0000000490 Anonymous)

More time on the more difficult concepts. (0000000694 Anonymous)

N/a (0000000700 Anonymous)

NA (0000000697 Anonymous)

nothing (0000000362 Anonymous)

Nothing (0000000489 Anonymous)

nothing (0000000698 Anonymous)

Section - Western Technical College Core Abilities

Instructions Provided To Respondents

This section addresses the college core abilities. The core abilities are overall skills that all graduates should acquire during their experience at Western. Focus on yourself in this segment. As a result of this program:

3. I have learned effective communication skills.

100% 13 Yes

4. Comments on effective communication skills.

being able to talk to family about the impairment without talking over them (000000490 Anonymous)

Communication skills have improved vastly since first day in program. (000000489 Anonymous)

How to be effective and efficient with writing for both medical documentation purposes and writing/reading research papers. (000000701 Anonymous)

I feel most of my communication skills came from the internships and talking with real patients. You may make a few mistakes in the beginning but that is the only way you will learn. (000000699 Anonymous)

In practical examinations, instructors made sure to incorporate communication with a patient as well. (000000491 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

The focus during practices of communication and note taking was very helpful. (000000697 Anonymous)

5. I am able to apply mathematical concepts.

100% 13 Yes

6. Comments on application of mathematical concepts.

Goniometric measurements was the most common. (000000697 Anonymous)

Luckily, being able to apply mathematical concepts is a prerequisite for the PTA program. (000000491 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

The teachers did a very good job at drilling goni measurements and manual muscle testing into our minds. It was also very good to get to use them on real patients. (000000699 Anonymous)

7. I learned how to transfer social and natural science theories into practical applications.

100% 13 Yes

8. Comments on transferring social and natural science theories into practical applications.

It would be impossible to learn how to handle every situation (000000700 Anonymous)

N/A (000000699 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

You would have to be able to do this in order to be successful in the program. (000000491 Anonymous)

9. I learned critical thinking skills.

100% 13 Yes

10. Comments on critical thinking skills.

Excellent mentorship with instructors on how to dissect a situation to prioritize issues and come to a solution or plan of action. (0000000701 Anonymous)

In the PTA program, you are put on the spot many times to think critically. I am thankful for this now, because in the clinic, it is important to know how to do this. (0000000491 Anonymous)

na (0000000698 Anonymous)

Problem solving in the clinic was a must. (0000000697 Anonymous)

The internships make you think and a good CI will have you look to other resources before giving you the answer. (0000000699 Anonymous)

Use critical thinking every day. (0000000489 Anonymous)

11. I have learned to use technology effectively.

100% 13 Yes

12. Comments on effective use of technology.

All of the technology was different, we just had to learn what each facility had. (0000000700 Anonymous)

EMR systems and computer based exercise programs (0000000697 Anonymous)

It was very nice to get to use the new technology at all the internships. (0000000699 Anonymous)

na (0000000698 Anonymous)

This is a requirement in order to graduate - that we can use technological tools in order to document our patient's care. (0000000491 Anonymous)

13. I have learned to value myself and work ethically with others in a diverse population.

100% 13 Yes

14. Comments on valuing self and working ethically in a diverse population.

My internships gave me an opportunity to work with many different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds (0000000697 Anonymous)

na (0000000698 Anonymous)

This is learned in the objective. (0000000491 Anonymous)

15. I am able to make decisions that incorporate the importance of sustainability.

100% 13 Yes

16. Comments on incorporating the importance of sustainability.

Emphasising life long health to my patients was a large part of focus in the clinical setting. (000000697 Anonymous)

I truly believe that the instructors as well as the overall program have incorporated this in their curriculum. (000000491 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

Section - Specific Program Outcomes**Instructions Provided To Respondents**

This section addresses the specific outcomes for your program. Please focus on yourself in this section.

As a result of this program, I learned to:

17. Demonstrate effective communication with patients, families, and health care team.

100% 13 Yes

18. Comments about learning this program outcome.

Conversational and professional conduct was a large part of this program. (000000697 Anonymous)

I learned how to communicate with patients as well as informed about situations where I may need to talk to the family and/or health care team. Very well done in this program. (000000491 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

The internships gave me the ability to speak with the family members. (000000699 Anonymous)

19. Exhibit behaviors and conduct that reflect respect and sensitivity according to physical therapy practice standards.

100% 13 Yes

20. Comments about learning this program outcome.

na (000000698 Anonymous)

This is one of those things that should be found in screening a student for the program - I believe you cannot learn these things in school, but as part of who we are as people. However, examples were given to us, for when we should keep in mind respect and sensitivity. (000000491 Anonymous)

21. Function under the supervision of a physical therapist in a safe, legal, ethical manner.

100% 13 Yes

22. Comments about learning this program outcome.

All standards were followed and stressed by all instructors. (000000697 Anonymous)

All were taught in school. (000000491 Anonymous)

Excellent preparation for state and fed regulations. (000000701 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

23. Produce documentation to support the delivery of physical therapy services.

100% 13 Yes

24. Comments about learning this program outcome.

I feel a little more focus on SOAP notes and adding "function" and "Rx" to SOAP (and leaving the Objectives to posture, gait, palpation, strength, ROM) would have been beneficial. I always felt that we never spent quite enough time on learning documentation. HOWEVER, this was something I did learn a lot of during my clinical rotations, and by the time I am graduating, I feel I was exposed to it enough to be comfortable to practice as a PTA. (000000491 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

Note taking started early in the program and was a large part of my learning on the clinical rotation. (000000697 Anonymous)

25. Demonstrate critical thinking skills to implement and adjust a plan of care under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.

100% 13 Yes

26. Comments about learning this program outcome.

na (000000698 Anonymous)

Practicals and the pressure of them, is what prepared me for this. (000000491 Anonymous)

problem solving and critical thinking was a large part of the program. (000000697 Anonymous)

27. Perform technically competent data collection under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist.

100% 13 Yes

28. Comments about learning this outcome.

All learned in school. Outstanding job by our instructors for preparing us. (000000491 Anonymous)

MMT, Goniometric measurements, balance tests were very common in all classes and clinic sites. (000000697 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

29. Perform technically competent physical therapy interventions under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist.

100% 13 Yes

30. Comments about learning this outcome.

na (000000698 Anonymous)

Practical examinations as well as comp exams were beneficial for us. (000000491 Anonymous)

31. Educate patients, family and other providers.

100% 13 Yes

32. Comments about learning this outcome.

I feel a little more emphasis on educating patients and family would have been good during practical exams. Not just "you'll feel the stretch in your hamstrings" but also "after a TKA, it may take up to 12 months before you fully recover". It would have been beneficial to be put on the spot and asked various misc questions during our practicals just for practice for what it is like in the real world. (000000491 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

Was very involved in CG, patient and family education. (000000697 Anonymous)

33. Integrate components of administrative, operational and fiscal practices of physical therapy service in a variety of settings.

100% 13 Yes

34. Comments about learning this outcome.

na (000000698 Anonymous)

This was done well, last semester of our experience on campus. (000000491 Anonymous)

35. Implement a self-directed plan for career development, credentialing, and lifelong learning.

100% 13 Yes

36. Comments about learning this outcome.

Great promotion of thinking beyond the classroom as to future opportunities. (000000701 Anonymous)

Jeff Komay did an outstanding job teaching us this throughout our entire time there (000000491 Anonymous)

na (000000698 Anonymous)

Was able to aquire job before clinical rotations were over. (000000697 Anonymous)

Section - Conclusion**Instructions Provided To Respondents**

Please use this space to share any other feedback, comments, or suggestions about your experience at Western Technical College.

37. Comments

Great experience! (0000000700 Anonymous)

I feel the PTA program was the hardest thing I have ever done; however, it was extremely rewarding and I am so happy with my experience there. I truly feel a screening should be done before even starting the program to save the student and college time and money spent. I felt during the course of my first year that there was too much being asked of us as students with practicals and the instructors were too strict. HOWEVER, after being in the clinic setting, I am so very thankful for the fact that they were strict/picky and that they have the rules in place that they do. Because of the difficulty, I pushed myself hard and learned the material so that I can be the best PTA I can be for my future patients. I can't say enough good things about the instructors of the program and the facility the classes are in. I'm very impressed with the organization, as well as williness to help us out as students. When I graduate, I will def. walk with pride for my program. (0000000491 Anonymous)

Keep up the good work (0000000490 Anonymous)

na (0000000698 Anonymous)

This program is one of the best decisions I have made. The instructors are all very knowledgeable and are able to explain concepts in a way that is easy to understand. Great camaraderie amongst classmates All classes were enjoyable and a good mix of lecture and lab work. It is a great program that thoroughly prepares you for the clinic. I feel prepared to work in the field, I am extremely satisfied with everything in this program. (0000000489 Anonymous)

Wonderful program. Feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to finish my studies with these experts in their respective fields-they complement each other and make for an overall comprehensive learning experience for the PTA program. (0000000701 Anonymous)