

**Mercer County Community College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

Policy: Requirement of C+ or higher in Science Courses

The PTA program at Mercer County Community College has always held the belief that those learners who have a firm foundation in the sciences will be able to do better in the applied science courses. Applied sciences include Kinesiology, Pathology, Therapeutic Measurement and all of the 200 level PTA program courses. These courses rely on the learner's ability to recall and apply previously learned material with ease. This has been the rationale for requiring a grade of C+ in science courses. However; due to a variety of factors, information regarding this requirement were not uniformly applied or presented to the public which lead to some confusion and consequently there were a large number of PTA Science majors who earned grades of C and not C+ in Anatomy & Physiology courses, who progressed on into the Professional Phase of the PTA program. The PTA program faculty members regret these oversights and consider them to be a disservice to PTA Program student/learners.

Where do we go from here?

January 2012 marks the start of enforcement of the C+ or higher in all science courses for potential acceptance into the PTA program. However; the faculty members of the PTA program recognize that there are those individuals who may have been working from the assumption that a grade of C was appropriate when they completed Anatomy & Physiology I **(up until and including)** the summer of 2011 or fall of 2011 **as long as the 5 year limit is not exceeded by the 2013 petitioning period.**

Semester	Minimum Acceptable A&P Grade
Fall 2010	C
Spring 2011	C
Summer 2011	C
Fall 2011	C
Spring 2012	C+

No credits for Anatomy & Physiology have ever transferred for credit until all 8 credits have successfully been completed at the same accredited academic institution within the past 5 years which must also have been within 5 years of the petition date. Including the summer and fall semesters from 2011 as the last semesters where someone could be completing the sequence would allow a short "window" for someone to continue and not be unfairly penalized.

Moving Forward

The petitioning period for the class that starts in the summer of 2012 ends February 28th, 2012. Anyone petitioning after that date will be expected to have grades of C+ or higher in Anatomy & Physiology for their petition to be considered eligible unless he or she was in the process of completing that requirement in 2011, where the minimum acceptable grade could be a C.