

## Mercer County Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program

### Policy: Pre-Professional Course Life Expectancy Timelines

The faculty members of the PTA program are dedicated to student/learner success. Part of that commitment to success involves the recognition that one cannot build upon a shaky foundation. For that reason, the PTA program faculty have taken a serious look at the pre-professional courses that make up the foundation knowledge for the Professional Phase of the PTA program and established what they feel are the most appropriate timelines for the information from those courses for the learner to be current and able to use that knowledge to build upon. The courses, life expectancy and rationales are listed below:

Course(s)	Life Expectancy	Rationale
ENG 101 English Comp I & ENG 102 English Comp II	unlimited	Living in the United States where English is the primary language, there is no time limit since it is everywhere around us in print and the spoken word.
College Algebra or higher	unlimited	Higher level skills in algebra, statistics, and calculus help provide problem solving abilities that tend to stay with the individual throughout a lifetime.
PSY 101 Psychology	10 years	Content area in this subject does change and needs to be refreshed. If one has completed PSY 101 more than 10 years ago, then a higher level of PSY is recommended where PSY 101 is the pre-requisite course.
PTA 101 Intro to PTA	10 years	This course provides an introduction to physical therapy and the history of the profession and as such, is still viable within a 10 year window of time.
Anatomy & Physiology I & II	5 years	There is a tremendous amount of information in these courses that specifically deal with the various systems of the human body. This type of information rapidly disappears from one's ability to recall it when it is not being used on a regular basis.
PTA 105 Kinesiology*	5 years	Similar to Anatomy & Physiology, this course deals with a significant amount of detailed information regarding the musculoskeletal system that is easily forgotten if it is not accessed on a regular basis.

**\*Please note:** Starting with the class that will be admitted for the summer of 2016, PTA 105 Kinesiology will be part of the Professional Phase of the curriculum and will only be available for students accepted into the program. Prior to Summer 2015, PTA 105 had been part of the pre-professional phase of the PTA program that prospective PTA majors could take prior to their acceptance into the professional phase of the PTA program. Those who successfully completed PTA 105 with a grade of C+ or higher through MCCC in Spring 2015 or earlier will not have to repeat the course provided they took the course within 5 years of being accepted into the professional phase of the PTA program.