

PHYSICAL THERAPY  
ASSISTANT  
*Needs Assessment*

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# HIGHLIGHTS

**Purpose:** The purpose of this report is to assess the need for a proposed physical therapy assistant program at Oakland Community College.

**Occupation:** A physical therapist assistant is a health care provider who typically works under the supervision of the physical therapist, and performs assigned treatment procedures.

**Methodology:** This report includes an extensive literature review, official data, information obtained from interviews with industry experts, analyses of telephone surveys with employers and prospective students.

**Existing Program:** Since 1990, Oakland Community College has been part of a reciprocal program with Macomb Community College which allows up to five OCC students per year to be admitted to the MCC Physical Therapist Assistant program.

**Occupational Outlook:** The national demand for physical therapist assistants is growing substantially. Over the next ten years, the growth rate is projected to increase 93%; one of the fastest growing occupations in the U.S. In the Southeast Michigan area, according to the OCC employer survey, 40% of the respondents predict that the need for physical therapist assistants will increase substantially.

**Salary:** Nationally, entry-level physical therapist assistants received an average salary of \$21,500 per year in 1993-94. Statewide figures range from \$23,484 to \$27,852 per year, while the OCC employer survey indicates that local salary levels average \$27,872 per year.

**Advancement Opportunities:** Without further education, there are limited advancement opportunities for physical therapist assistants. In Michigan, a master's degree and a license are required in order for physical therapists to practice.

**Level of Training Needed:** An associate degree from an accredited physical therapy assistant program is required. This training includes mandatory supervised experience at an approved clinical physical therapy site. Although Michigan does not currently require physical therapist assistants to be licensed, over one third of respondents to the employer survey would like their entry-level employees to be certified.

**Available Training:** Nationally, there are 178 accredited educational programs for physical therapist assistants as of February 1996. Concurrently, APTA recorded 81 physical therapy programs and 106 physical therapy assistant programs in the development stage. In Michigan, there are 6 physical therapy and 7 physical therapy assistant programs, with one physical therapy program in the development stage.

**OCC Proposed PTA Program:** Eighty-one percent of employers think that a physical therapy assistant program at OCC would be worthwhile, and 54% would be willing to assist with the development of such a program. Eighty-six percent of respondents to the OCC student survey expressed an interest in participating in a proposed OCC physical therapy assistant program.

**Summary:** While there is evidence of significant demand for employment in the physical therapist assistant field, and a high level of interest among students and employers, the College will need to consider carefully the following issues: the number of existing programs in the local area, the availability of clinical internship sites, and the recruitment of faculty.

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
*Physical Therapy Assistant*  
*Needs Assessment*

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to review current industry needs and educational responses related to a proposed program for physical therapist assistants. This report was initiated at the request of Chancellor's Council at Oakland Community College. The report, which focuses on the prospects for physical therapist assistants, includes a comprehensive literature review, data supplied by the U.S. Department of Labor, Michigan Occupational Information System (MOIS), American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), information compiled from telephone interviews with industry experts, and an examination of related programs in other higher education institutions. A telephone survey of employers in the physical therapy industry was also conducted. In addition, a telephone survey was conducted of students who have been enrolled in OCC's Physical Therapy Assistant reciprocal program for entrance to Macomb Community College's PTA program (referred to in this report as the OCC "Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant Program" or "Pre-PTA Program").

## DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING PROGRAM

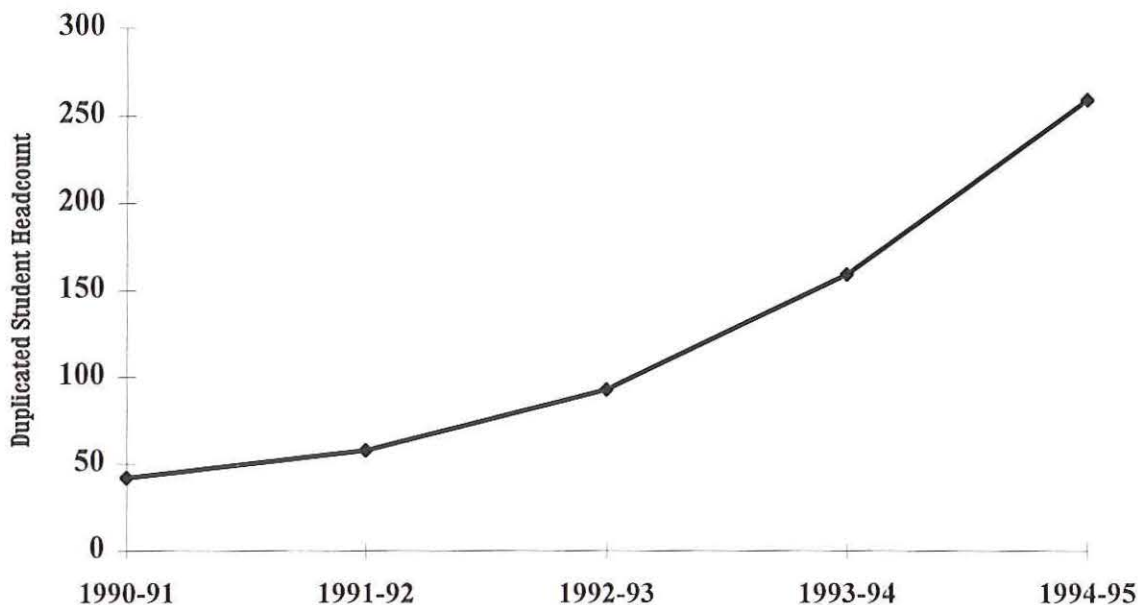
The existing Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant program at OCC is part of a reciprocal arrangement with Macomb Community College associated with its Physical Therapy Assistant Program (PPT). Specialized courses for the Physical Therapy Assistant Program (PPT) are taught at Macomb Community College, but students who complete 18 specific credit hours at OCC are eligible to participate in this reciprocal arrangement. Students must complete a minimum of 18 credit hours at OCC including the following courses:

BIO 163	(Human Anatomy and Physiology)	<i>4 credits</i>
BIO 164	(Human Anatomy and Physiology II)	<i>4 credits</i>
ENG151	(English 1)	<i>3 credits</i>
PSY 251	(Introduction to Psychology)	<i>3 credits</i>
PER	(Physical Education)	<i>1 credit</i>
HUMANITIES		<i>3 credits</i>

Enrollment in the Pre-PTA program at OCC has increased dramatically over the last five years. While there were fewer than 50 students (duplicated headcount) enrolled in the

1990-91 academic year, there were nearly 260 students (duplicated headcount) enrolled in the 1994-95 academic year (see Figure 1).

**FIGURE 1**  
**OCC Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant Program Enrollment History**  
**(Academic Year 1990-91 through 1994-95)**



## DESCRIPTION OF OCCUPATION

In order to have a clear understanding of what the physical therapist assistant does, it is important to explain the occupational definitions and job responsibilities of both the physical therapist and the physical therapy aide. Generally speaking, the physical therapist supervises the physical therapist assistant and the physical therapy aide; although the physical therapist assistant may supervise the physical therapy aide (see Appendix A for CIP definitions). Following are definitions and job descriptions, as determined by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the Michigan Occupational Information System (MOIS), of each physical therapy occupation:

### ***Physical Therapist***

*Description:* Physical therapists have a responsibility to deliver services in ways that protect the public safety and maximize the availability of the services. They do this through direct delivery of services in conjunction with responsible delegation of certain tasks to physical therapist assistants, physical therapy aides, and other supportive personnel. To become a licensed physical therapist, a person must graduate from an accredited educational program

and pass a state licensure examination. In Michigan completion of a Master's degree program of study is required to enter into physical therapy.

*Job responsibilities:*

- 1) Interpretation of referrals when available;
- 2) Initial evaluation, problem identification, and diagnosis for physical therapy;
- 3) Development or modification of a plan of care which is based on the initial evaluation and which includes the physical therapy treatment goals;
- 4) Determination of which tasks require the expertise and decision-making capacity of the physical therapist, and must be personally rendered by the physical therapist, and which tasks may be delegated;
- 5) Delegation and instruction of the services to be rendered by the physical therapy assistant or other supportive personnel, including, but not limited to, specific treatment program, precautions, special problems, or contraindicated procedures;
- 6) Timely review of treatment documentation, reevaluation of the patient and the patient's treatment goals, and revision of the plan of care when indicated;
- 7) Establishment of the discharge plan and documentation of discharge summary/status.

## **Physical Therapist Assistant**

*Description:* The physical therapist assistant is an educated health care provider who assists the physical therapist in the provision of physical therapy. The physical therapist assistant works under the supervision of a physical therapist and performs treatment procedures designed by the physical therapist. The physical therapist assistant is a graduate of a physical therapist assistant associate degree program accredited by an agency recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education or the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation. The assistant will accompany the therapist in a variety of work environments including hospitals, public schools, skilled nursing homes, home health care, outpatient clinics, and industrial fitness programs.

Licensure or registration to practice is not required in all states for the physical therapist assistants. The states that require licensure stipulate specific educational and examination criteria. Currently, the State of Michigan does not license physical therapist assistants.

*Job responsibilities:* According to the Michigan Occupational Information System (MOIS), general duties of the physical therapist assistant may include:

- Assisting the physical therapist in performing patient tests, measurements, and evaluations, such as range-of-motions and manual-muscle tests, gait and functional analyses, and body-parts measurements.

- Conferring with the physician, and with physical and other therapists, social workers, nurses, and psychologists regarding patient cases.
- Administering manual therapeutic exercises to improve or maintain muscle function.
- Teaching and motivating patients in nonmanual exercises, such as isometrics and practical activities, such as walking.
- Administering treatments involving the application of such agents as light, heat, water, and electricity.
- Observing the effects of various types and durations of treatments and conferring with the physical therapist and medical staff on adjusting treatment to achieve maximum benefits.
- Administering deep and surface massage techniques.
- Administering traction to relieve neck and back pain.
- Recording patients' treatments, responses, and progress.
- Instructing patients and their families in physical therapy procedures to be continued at home.
- Training patients in the use of prosthetic and orthotic devices and recommending modifications.
- Directing the work of physical therapy aides and students in training.

It should be noted that:

- 1) a qualified physical therapist must be accessible to the physical therapist assistant by telecommunication at all times while the physical therapist assistant is treating patients;
- 2) The initial visit must be made by a qualified physical therapist for evaluation of the patient and establishment of a plan of care;
- 3) There must be regularly scheduled and documented conferences with the physical therapist assistant and the physical therapist regarding patients. The frequency of these conferences is determined by the needs of the patient and the needs of the physical therapist assistant;
- 4) In those situations in which a physical therapist assistant is involved in the care of a patient, a supervisory visit by the physical therapist will be made:
  - a. Upon the physical therapist assistant's request for a reevaluation, when a change in treatment plan of care is needed, prior to any planned discharge, and in response to a change in the patient's medical status;



- b. At least once a month, or at a higher frequency when established by the physical therapist, in accordance with the needs of the patient;
- c. A supervisory visit should include:
  1. An on-site re-assessment of the patient;
  2. On-site review of the plan of care with appropriate revision or termination;
  3. Assessment and recommendation for utilization of outside resources.

## ***Physical Therapy Aide***

*Description:* The physical therapy aide is a non-licensed worker who is specifically trained under the direction of a physical therapist. The physical therapy aide performs designated routine tasks related to the operation of a physical therapy service delegated by the physical therapist or, in accordance with the law, by a physical therapist assistant.

*Job responsibilities:* The physical therapist of record is directly responsible for the actions of the physical therapy aide. The physical therapy aide provides supportive services which may include patient related or non-patient related duties. The physical therapy aide may only function with the continuous on-site supervision of the physical therapist or where allowable by law, the physical therapist assistant. The physical therapy aide may assist patients in preparation for treatment and, as necessary, during treatment and at the conclusion of treatment, and may assemble and disassemble equipment and accessories, in accordance with the training of the physical therapy aide.

Students who are enrolled in physical therapist professional education programs or physical therapy assistant education programs and who are employed in a physical therapy clinical setting where such employment is not part of the formal educational curriculum are classified as physical therapy aides. Where their employment is part of the formal educational curriculum this policy will not apply.

## **METHODOLOGY**

In order to obtain background information about the physical therapy field, a literature search was conducted and professional, industry, public and regulatory bodies were contacted. A complete list is provided in the *Bibliography*.

A telephone survey of 88 employers in Southeast Michigan was also conducted to determine local employment opportunities, skill requirements, and trends in the field (see Appendix C for survey instrument, and Appendix E for employer narrative responses). Employer names were obtained through *Dun's (1995) Regional Business Directory* as well as the *1993-1994 Michigan Business Directory* (see Appendix B for a complete list of employers surveyed).

Employers contacted for the survey represented the following categories, and were subsequently grouped into five categories in order to further analyze survey responses (see Table 2 & Figure 2):

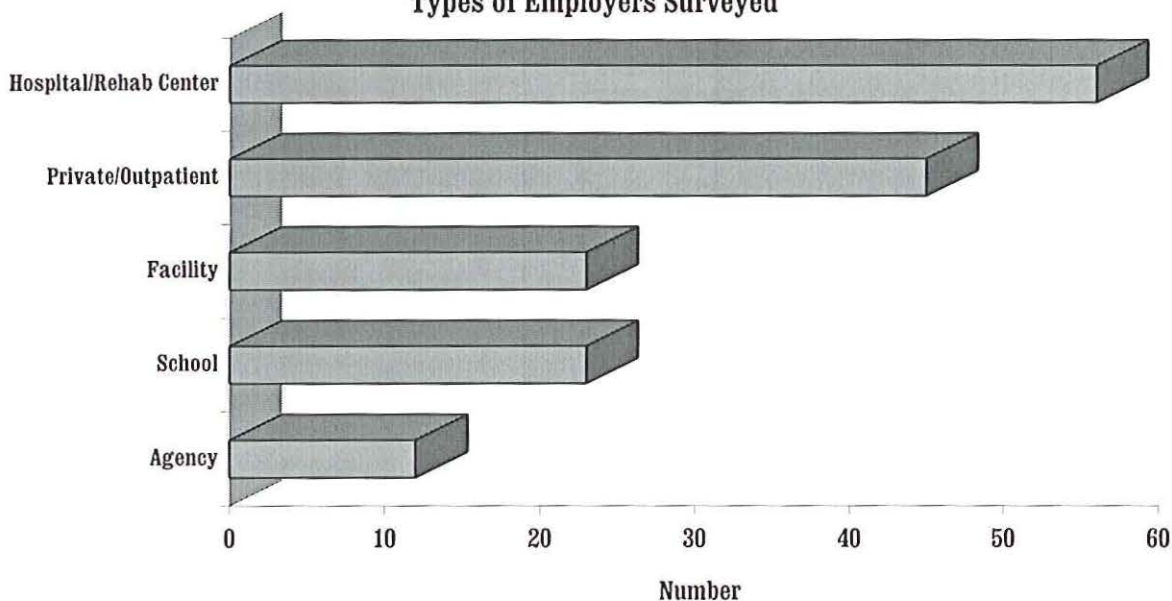
- 1) *Agencies*: home health care agency, social services agency;
- 2) *Private*: private or group practice, specialized clinic, outpatient clinic;
- 3) *Facility*: geriatrics, nursing home, residential care facility;
- 4) *School*: handicapped (center/school), industrial program, school system, sports medicine clinic/athletic team; and,
- 5) *Hospital*: hospital, rehabilitation center, research center.

**TABLE 2**  
**Types of Employers Surveyed**

	<i>Number</i>
<b>Hospital/Rehab Center</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Private/Outpatient</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Facility</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>School</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>12</b>

\* 88 total: respondents could indicate more than one category.

**FIGURE 2**  
**Types of Employers Surveyed**



In addition, a student survey was conducted from a possible pool of 343 students who claimed Pre-PTA as their major during the last six semesters (Summer 1994 to Fall 1995). A response rate of 51% (174) was obtained, and survey results were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The student survey appears in Appendix D, and student narratives can be found in Appendix F.

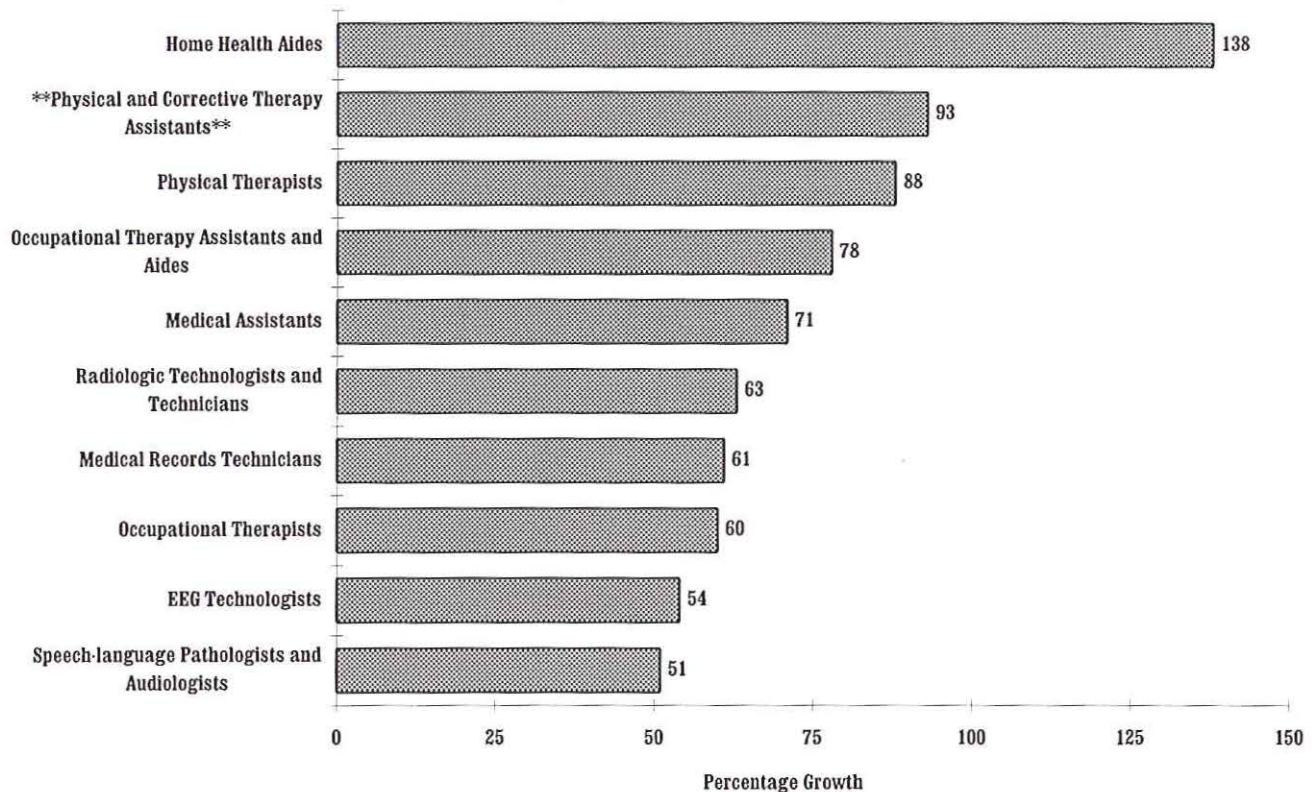
## ANALYSIS

### Occupational Outlook

#### Nationwide

According to the *Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook (1994-95)*, physical and corrective therapist assistants will see a 93% growth rate from 1992-2005 (see Figure 3). In addition, job opportunities for this occupation are projected to increase by 29,000 nationally from 1990 through 2005. This growth occurs as new technology allows advanced life-saving treatment for individuals with disabilities and as our elderly population increases. The wide-spread interest in health promotion should also increase demand for physical therapy services. A growing number of employers are using physical therapists to evaluate work sites, develop exercise programs, and teach safe work habits to employees in the hope of reducing injuries.

**FIGURE 3**  
**Physical Therapist Assistant Employment Growth**  
Employment in the Physical Therapy Assistant Occupation is Expected to Grow Faster Than in Most Other Health Care Occupations  
(Projection for 1992-2005)



## Statewide

The Michigan Occupational Informational System (MOIS) indicates that the employment of physical therapist assistants and therapy aides is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2000. Increased awareness of the role of physical therapy in rehabilitation, sports medicine, the growth of programs for physically impaired children and other rehabilitation activities, plus expansion of care and facilities for the elderly are expected to lead to the creation of many new positions for assistants and aides.

MOIS reports that most physical therapist assistants worked in or near metropolitan areas and large cities. In 1988, the industry distribution was:

Industry	% Employed
Hospitals	55.1
Health Care Practitioners	24.9
Nursing Personnel Care Facilities	8.4
Outpatient Care Facilities	6.1
Other	5.5

Despite the current demand in the field, some industry experts believe that the profession may be reaching a level of saturation. Ed Yuiska of American Rehabilitation Services suggests that insurance companies, particularly those in the area of managed care, are now looking more closely at patient needs for physical therapy and are placing more limits on the duration of treatment. With current efforts to regulate health care costs some experts predict this trend can only increase, and the days of unlimited physical therapy may be over. Managed care providers are concentrating more efforts on injury prevention, particularly in the workplace. Beth Marcoux, Program Director at Oakland University, agrees that the increase in managed care insurance may have important consequences for providers of physical therapy. In addition, some commentators believe that the health care industry in general is moving toward occupations which are broader in scope.

## Employment Opportunities

### Nationwide

*Discover (1996)*, a computer-based career planning program, indicates that the national demand for new workers in the field of physical therapy is growing rapidly, and considerably higher than the average for all occupations. The projected average growth is +25% for all occupations from 1990-2005, while the average growth is +92% for physical therapist assistants and aides. According to *Discover*, there were 61,003 physical and corrective

physical therapist assistants in the year 1990, and 56,554 new job openings would be available nationally for this occupation due to growth from 1990-2005.

## **Statewide**

MOIS indicates that approximately 70 physical therapist assistant and therapy aide positions are expected to open annually in Michigan, with 40 due to growth and 30 due to replacement of those who retire, die, or leave the labor force for other reasons. Additional openings will occur as workers transfer to other jobs or occupations. According to MOIS, there is a shortage of physical therapists in Michigan. The shortage, along with continued medical cost containment measures, results in an increased demand for qualified physical therapist assistants and therapy aides.

## **Employer Survey Analysis**

Nearly all respondents (96%,84) to the employer survey currently employ physical therapists, while only 72% (63) employ physical therapist assistants. Of those who don't employ physical therapist assistants, 72% (18) have, at one time, considered hiring a physical therapist assistant.

Those respondents (60) who employ full-time physical therapist assistants have an average of two employees, while those who employ part-time physical therapist assistants (31), had an average of one employee. Respondents, at the time of the survey, claim that they employ from one to 25 physical therapist assistants in their organization. Of those respondents who employ full-time physical therapist assistants, the majority (45) of them declared that these employees work 40 hours per week. Part-time physical therapist assistants work an average of 23 hours per week, according to their employers. The most common number of hours worked by part-time employees, according to respondents to the employer survey, is 20 hours per week. According to respondents, 61% of their physical therapist assistants work on-site, while only 13% work at a location other than the company. One quarter of the respondents claim that their employees work both on and off-site.

When asked if they have any difficulty in finding qualified entry-level physical therapist assistants, almost half (43%) claim that they never have difficulties. Consequently, the remainder of the employers do have some (21%) and frequent (36%) difficulties in finding qualified entry-level employees (see Table 4, Figures 4a & 4b).

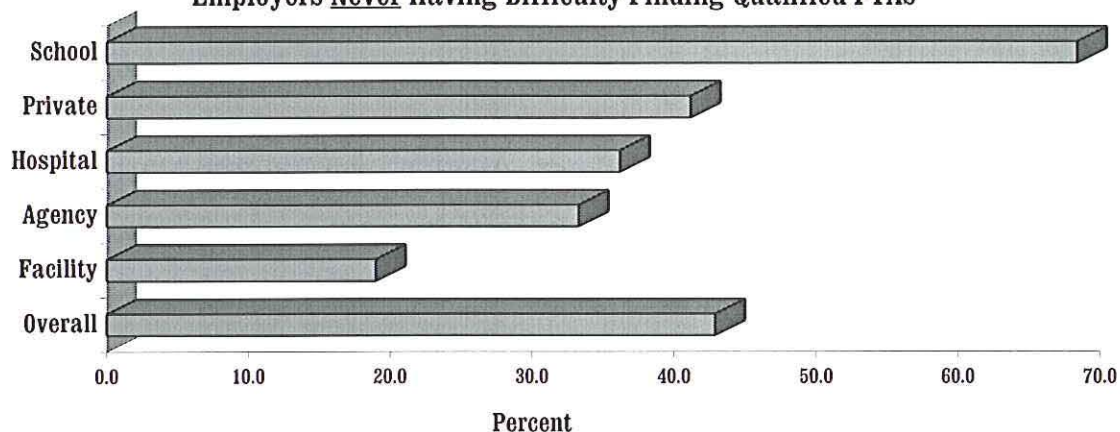
**TABLE 4**

**Employers Having Difficulty Finding Qualified PTAs by Types of Employers**

	Never		Sometimes		Frequently	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<i>School</i>	13	68.4	1	5.3	5	26.3
<i>Private</i>	14	41.2	6	17.6	14	41.2
<i>Hospital</i>	17	36.2	9	19.1	21	44.7
<i>Agency</i>	4	33.3	1	8.3	7	58.3
<i>Facility</i>	4	19.0	6	28.6	11	52.4
<i>Overall</i>	30	42.9	15	21.4	25	35.7

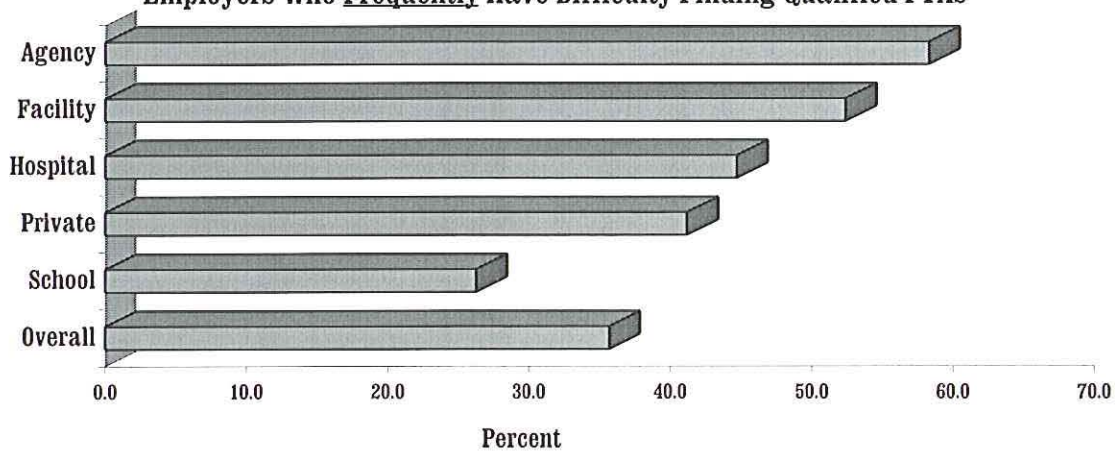
**FIGURE 4A**

**Employers Never Having Difficulty Finding Qualified PTAs**



**FIGURE 4B**

**Employers Who Frequently Have Difficulty Finding Qualified PTAs**

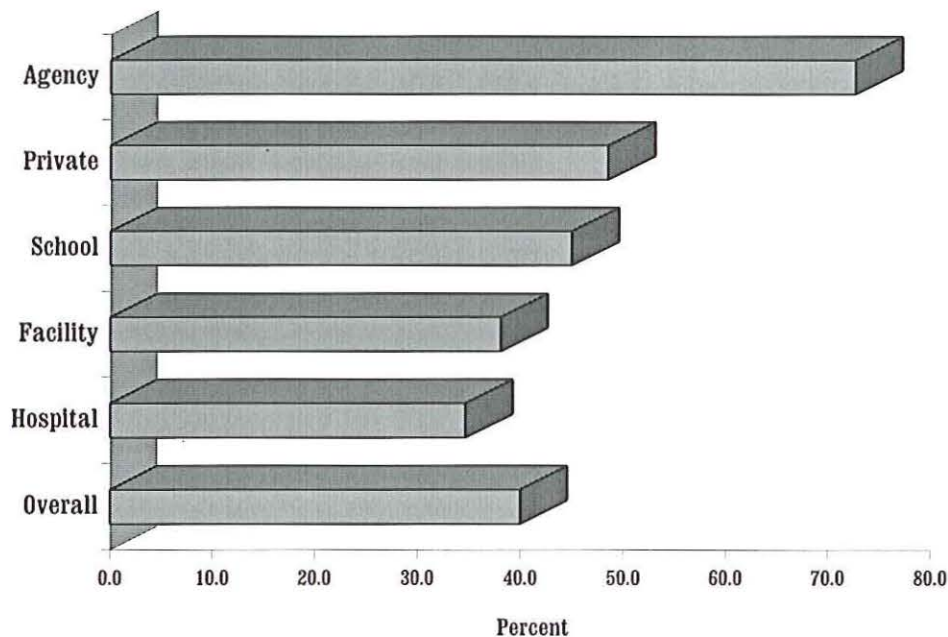


National and state data on employment opportunities is confirmed on the local level by data provided by the OCC Physical Therapist Assistant Employer Survey. Respondents to the employer survey were asked to predict their organization's need for PTAs over the next five to ten years. Of the 75 employers who responded to this question, 40% predict their need for employees will increase substantially and 41% predict a slight increase in need. Only 1.3% of the employers forecast a slight decrease and 4% expect a substantial decrease in the need for PTAs (see Table 5 & Figure 5).

**TABLE 5**  
**Prediction of Need for PTAs by Type of Employer**

	<i>Increase Substantially</i>	<i>Increase Slightly</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>	<i>Remain The Same</i>	<i>Decrease Slightly</i>	<i>Decrease Substantially</i>	<i>Total Responses</i>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>School</i>	45.0	35.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	20
<i>Private</i>	48.5	39.4	6.1	0.0	0.0	6.1	33
<i>Hospital</i>	34.7	51.0	0.0	10.2	2.0	2.0	49
<i>Agency</i>	72.7	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11
<i>Facility</i>	38.1	61.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21
<i>Overall</i>	40.0	41.3	6.1	10.7	1.3	4.0	75

**FIGURE 5**  
**Employers Who Predict a Substantial Increase in the Need for PTAs**



## **Employee Salary and Benefits**

### ***Nationwide***

Earnings of physical therapist assistants vary according to the size and type of employer, length of employment and level of responsibilities. Those working in urban areas generally earn higher salaries. Nationally, according to MOIS, physical therapist assistants employed in hospitals earned an average of \$16,400 yearly in early 1990 with most earning between \$13,600 and \$20,200. Physical therapist assistants in the federal government at Veteran's Administration hospitals had a starting salary of \$13,515 in 1991. Depending on the employer, most physical therapist assistants receive paid vacations; sick leave; life, health, disability, and hospitalization insurance; and, pension plans. Some also receive dental and optical insurance. Benefits are usually paid for, at least in part, by the employer.

Statistics from the Economic Research Institute shows the nationwide average starting salary of \$14,500 in 1995 for a physical therapist assistant. In addition, the average salary was \$30,500 for all workers in the physical therapy field and \$46,500 for those with experience. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) indicates that the average annual salary offered to entry-level physical therapist assistants was \$21,500 in 1993-94.

### ***Statewide***

MOIS reported an average annual income between \$23,484 and \$27,852 for physical therapist assistants in 1994, in Michigan. When converted to an hourly rate, using 2080 working hours per year, the statewide salary range was \$11.30 to \$13.40 per hour.

### ***Employer Survey Analysis***

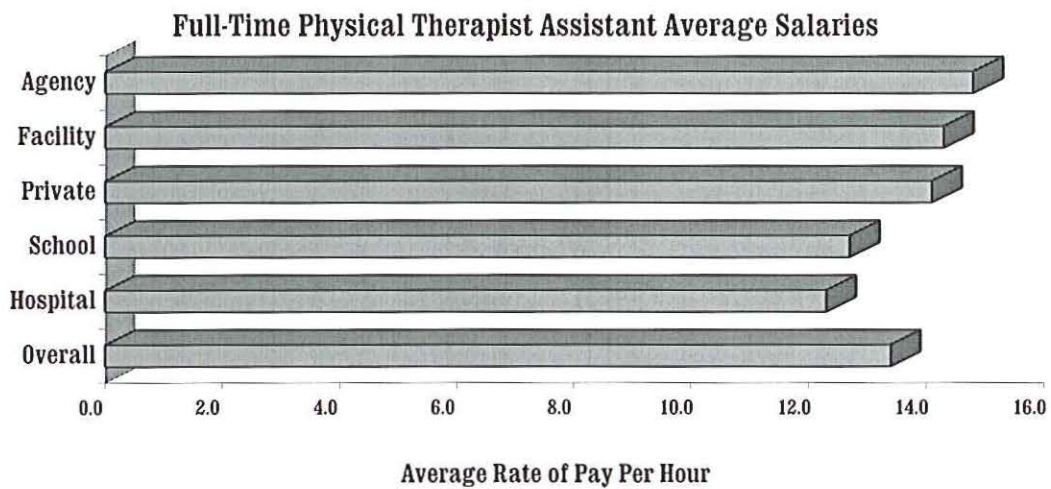
Data from the OCC Employer survey confirms these salary levels, closer to the high end of the range. The average pay rate per hour reported by respondents ranges from \$6.00 to \$30.00 per hour for full-time assistants, with an average rate of \$13.40 per hour (\$27,872 at 2080 hours per year). For part-time physical therapist assistants, the results of the employer survey showed that hourly wages vary from \$5.75 to \$22.00 with an average pay rate of \$13.50 per hour. The majority (94.5%) of employers surveyed offer some type of traditional benefits for their physical therapist assistants (see Table 6, Figures 6a & 6b).



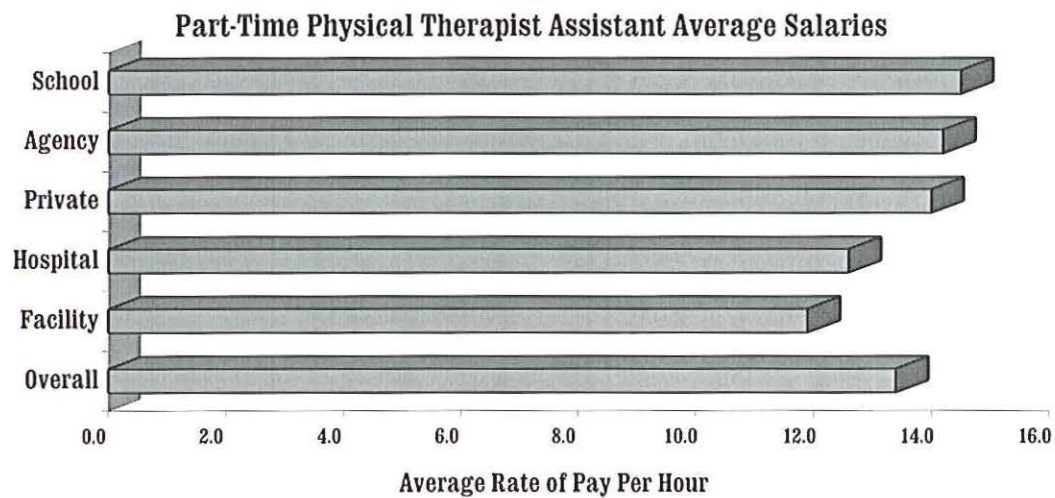
**TABLE 6**  
**Physical Therapist Assistant Average Salaries (Rate per Hour)**

	Full-Time		Part-Time	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>School</i>	11	\$12.70	5	\$14.50
<i>Private</i>	16	\$14.10	7	\$14.00
<i>Hospital</i>	29	\$12.30	7	\$12.60
<i>Agency</i>	10	\$14.80	3	\$14.20
<i>Facility</i>	10	\$14.30	2	\$11.90
<i>Overall</i>	47	\$13.40	16	\$13.40

**FIGURE 6A**



**FIGURE 6B**



## Advancement Opportunities

### Nationwide and Statewide

Limited advancement opportunities exist for physical therapist assistants without further education and training. Advancement to physical therapist requires a master's degree in physical therapy in Michigan and a license from the state. Physical therapy department heads and managers often have a graduate degree. A possible career ladder may be: physical therapy aide, physical therapist assistant, physical therapist, but each of those steps requires additional formal education.

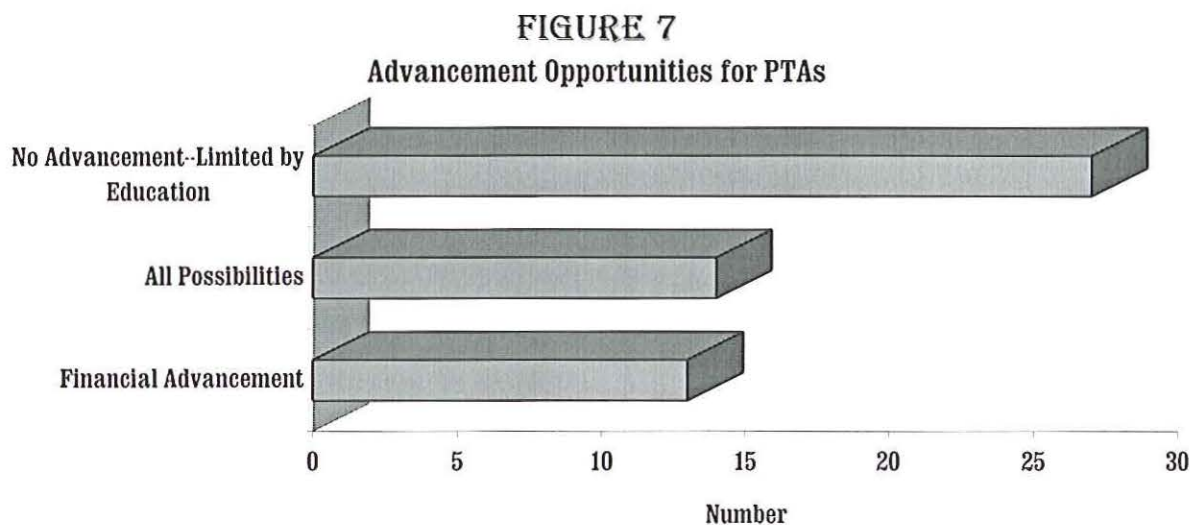
### Employer Survey Analysis

The OCC Physical Therapy Assistant Employer Survey indicates various advancement opportunities in the field of physical therapy. When asked the advancement opportunities for physical therapist assistants in their institutions, 27 employers reported "No advancement - limited by education," 14 respondents replied "All kinds of possibilities", and 13 employers mentioned financial advancement (see Table 7 & Figure 7).

**TABLE 7**  
**Advancement Opportunities for PTAs\***

	<i>Number</i>
<b>No Advancement--Limited by Education</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>All Possibilities</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Financial Advancement</b>	<b>13</b>

*\*Data derived from qualitative analysis of the employer survey.*



## **Opportunities for Women and Minorities**

### ***Nationwide***

The Statistical Abstract of the United States (1994 ed.), reports that there were 51.3% females and 16.1% minorities nationwide during the 1990 census. Analysis of the American Physical Therapy Association Survey shows that minority students comprised 11.2% of the nationwide enrollment in physical therapy assistant programs for the 1991-92 academic year. More specifically, of the minority students, approximately 45% are Hispanics and 22% are African Americans. Data also indicates in the same academic year, 17% of graduates from PTA programs are minority.

### ***Statewide***

Statewide, the Statistical Abstract reported 51.5% females and 16.6% minorities residing in Michigan in 1990. Within Oakland County over half of the residents (51.4%) were women, while 10.4% were minorities in 1995.

### ***OCC Pre-PTA Enrollment Data***

OCC's Pre-PTA program has higher minority enrollment than the national and statewide norms. The student population (343 potential student survey respondents), was made up of nearly one-third (29%) minorities. In addition, more than two-thirds (70%) of the Pre-PTA student database were female students. This compares with the College enrollment statistics, which report 59.6% females and 40.4% males.

Physical therapy has traditionally been a field dominated by women, and there is nothing in the literature to indicate that this aspect is in any way changing.

## **Level of Training Needed**

### ***Nationwide and Statewide***

A physical therapist assistant must graduate from an accredited PTA program at an institution of higher education. PTA programs usually entail one year of general education, one year of technical courses on physical therapy procedures, and lab and clinical practice. Physical therapy assistant training programs prepare students to work under the supervision of professional physical therapists in rehabilitating disabled persons, restoring physical functions, and preventing disability from illness or injury.

Training programs vary from school to school but usually include:

- \* Kinesiology
- \* Principles of Anatomy & Physiology
- \* Therapeutic Exercise
- \* Orthopedic Conditions

- \* General Psychology
- \* Physical Therapy Techniques
- \* Pathological Conditions
- \* Clinical Orientation
- \* Clinical Experience

(Source: The Michigan Occupational Information System)

## Employer Survey Analysis

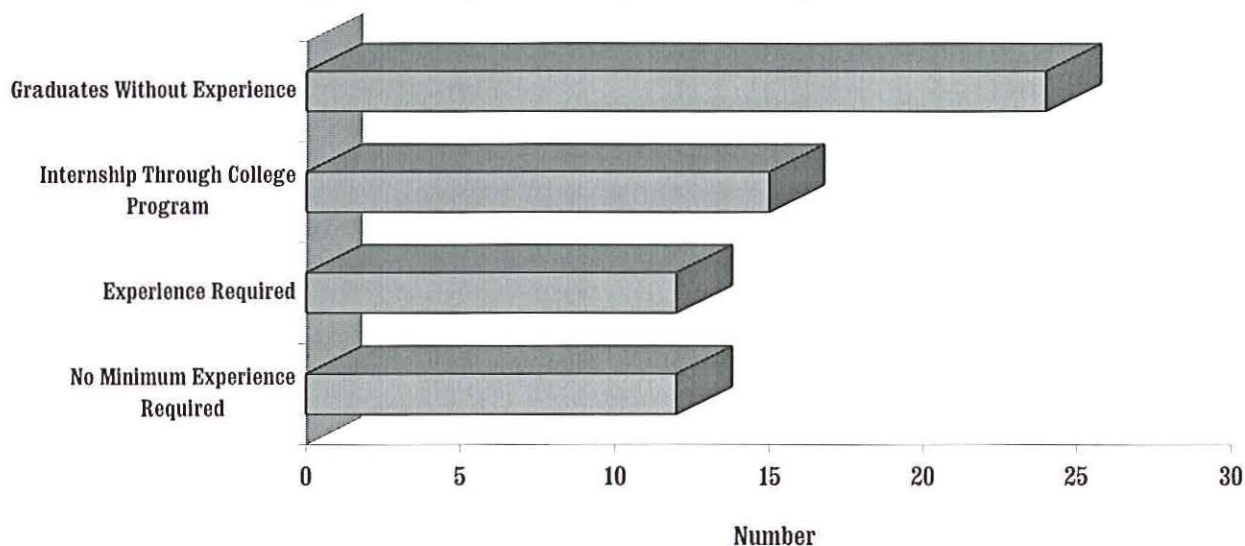
Findings from the OCC Physical Therapist Assistant Employer Survey support the national data on the level of training. Approximately 94% employers require a minimum associate degree from a physical therapy assistant program for entry level PTAs in their organization. However, mixed responses regarding the amount of experience required by employers are revealed in the qualitative analysis of the employer survey. Twenty-four employers would hire graduates without experience; 15 respondents require internship through college programs; 12 employers demand experience beyond internship; and 12 don't have any minimum experience requirement for entry level PTAs (see Table 8 & Figure 8).

**TABLE 8**  
**Minimum Experience Required for Entry-Level PTAs**

	<i>Number</i>
Graduates Without Experience	24
Internship Through College Program	15
Experience Required	12
No Minimum Experience Required	12

*\*Data derived from qualitative analysis of the employer survey.*

**FIGURE 8**  
**Minimum Experience Required for Entry-Level PTAs**

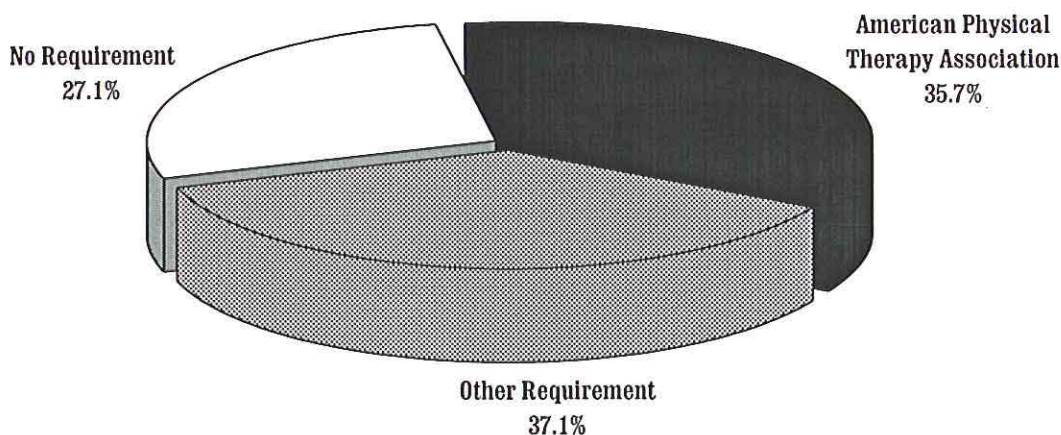


Employers were asked what type of certification, if any, they required for hiring entry-level physical therapist assistants. Over one third (35.7%) of respondents to the employer survey would like entry-level PTAs to be certified by the American Physical Therapy Association (see Table 9 & Figure 9). Unfortunately, the examination for this certification is not yet available in Michigan. These individuals must travel to nearby states in order to be APTA certified. When asked, 85% of employers provide some type of in-house training for PTA employees.

**TABLE 9**  
**Certificate or Registration Requirements for Hiring Physical Therapist Assistants**

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
American Physical Therapy Association	25	35.7
Other Requirement	26	37.1
No Requirement	19	27.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**FIGURE 9**  
**Certificate or Registration Requirements for Hiring PTAs**



\* Other requirements include "License" (11) and "Certificate" (5)

## Proposed PTA Program at OCC

### Employer Opinions

Overall, 81% of the employers surveyed think that a physical therapy assistant program at OCC would be worthwhile. Another 73% of respondents to the employer survey would be willing to provide internships, and 54% are willing to assist with such a program (see Table 10 & Figure 10). Comments regarding employer opinions are both positive and negative:

*I have never had a problem finding a PTA. They are not in great demand. For the most part, PTs will handle the workload themselves.*

*It's harder to get money from insurance companies. It will be more economical to hire PTAs at less money than a PT would cost.*

*Due to managed care, not enough money from insurance companies (can't afford as many PTs). Possibly more PTAs would be hired. Lots of people are doing this kind of work also (athletic trainers, exercise physiologists, etc.). They would be occupying PTA capacities in private practice as well as hospitals.*

*There is a growing need for both PTs and PTAs. No program in Oakland County. Would enable PTs to see more patients with PTAs to handle treatment and plans.*

*...some of our employees even went to school in Ohio.*

*Michigan already has 5 programs. Trying to find placements for clinical internships would be difficult.*

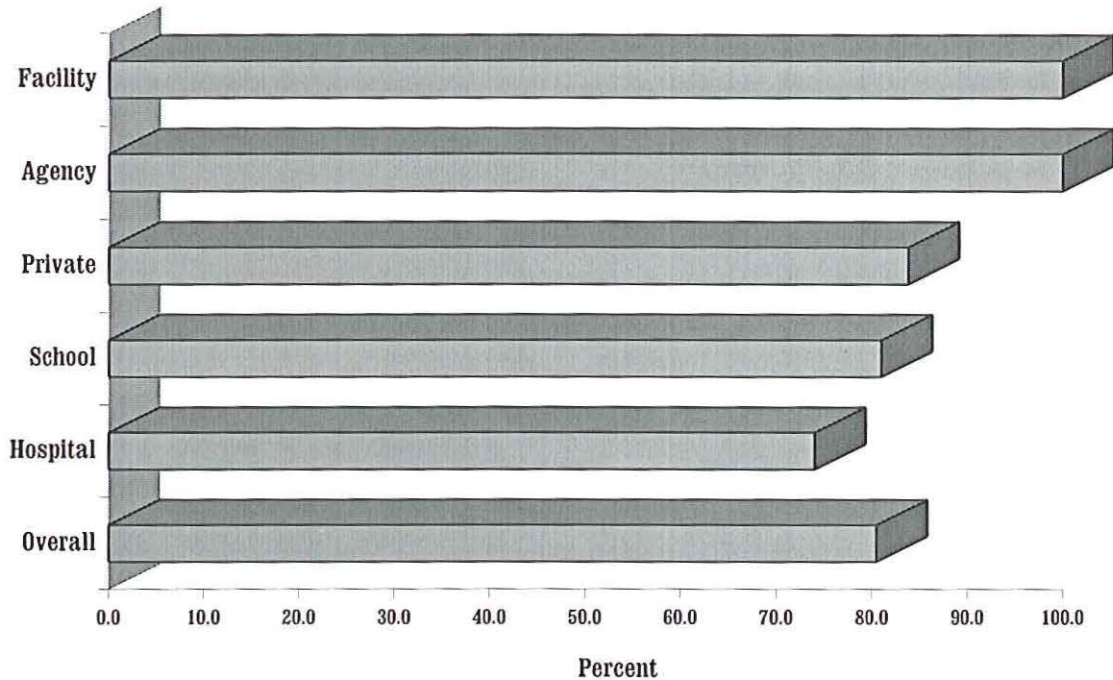
*Concern: Can we handle any more PTAs?*

**TABLE 10**

**Would a Physical Therapy Assistant Program at OCC be Worthwhile?  
 Employer Survey**

	Yes	No	Uncertain	Total
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Number
<i>School</i>	81.0	9.5	9.5	21
<i>Private</i>	83.8	2.7	13.5	37
<i>Hospital</i>	74.0	6.0	20.0	50
<i>Agency</i>	100.0	0.0	0.0	12
<i>Facility</i>	100.0	0.0	0.0	22
<i>Overall</i>	80.5	6.5	13.0	77

**FIGURE 10**  
**Employers Who Feel A PTA Program at OCC Would Be Worthwhile**



Employer survey respondents were asked to make any final comments regarding the proposed PTA program at OCC. Following are some suggestions and remarks made by employers:

*The staff at Henry Ford would be interested in teaching at PTA level. We currently teach PT classes at Oakland University and WSU. We would be very interested in providing instructors.*

*We (OCC) might have a problem locating faculty for a PTA program. Also, the classes should be small, so OCC will end up with a big waiting list.*

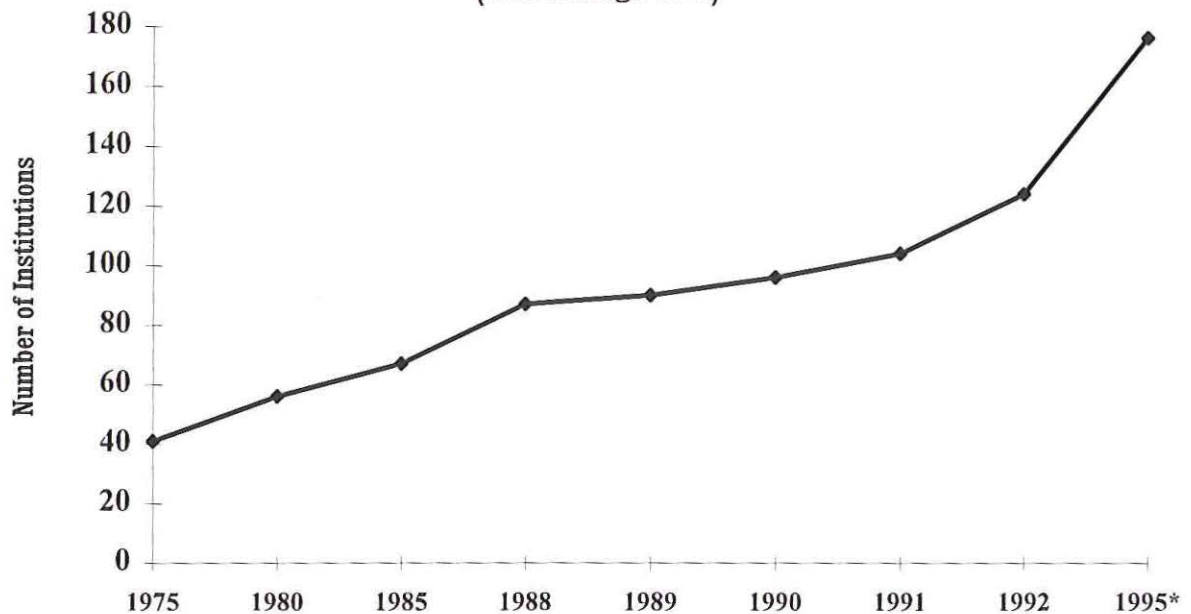
*All 3 owners are PTs, trained in the Netherlands. They are not familiar with a PTA program either on the job or in a training program. They are fearful of the dilution of quality of care with assistants.*

## **Adequacy of Currently Available Training**

According to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), as of August 1995, there were 176 accredited PTA programs and 63 developing PTA programs nationally (see Figure 11). In addition, data from the APTA survey for the 1991-92 academic year indicates that, of the 85 physical therapy assistant programs which responded to the survey, 83% are

located in two-year colleges, 15% are located in universities, and 2% are in other types of institutions. Ninety percent of PTA education programs are in public institutions. Six percent of the programs are in institutions that also have a physical therapy entry-level education program.

FIGURE 11  
Growth of Physical Therapist Assistant Education Programs  
(1975 through 1995)



Source: American Physical Therapy Association  
\* As of August 1995

### ***Physical Therapy Assistant Programs in Michigan***

Findings indicate that there are currently seven accredited physical therapy assistant programs in the state:

***Baker College, Flint:*** Elaine Murphy, director, reported that Baker College has had a fully accredited physical therapy assistant program since 1992. In addition to herself, the program is staffed with one full-time faculty member, a clinical site coordinator, a part-time laboratory assistant and adjunct faculty member. Staffing needs for the program are high because of small groups required for effective lab teaching. Enrollment in the program is currently at thirty-three students. Employment for graduates of this program is currently at 98%. Elaine is optimistic about future employment prospects for physical therapist assistants but agreed that members of the profession have concerns about the effects of managed care. There is also a PTA program at Baker College's Muskegon campus.



**Davenport College:** This physical therapy assistant program was established in 1994 at Davenport's Lansing campus. According to Ann Perkins, director, thirty students have been admitted to this program per year since the Fall of 1994. This program requires ninety credit hours including one year of general education classes and one year of physical therapy related courses with 480 hours full and part time clinical internships. Ann Perkins reported that the courses of the program are transferable to a master's physical therapy program. Currently, they are affiliated with 60 to 65 clinical sites all over the state of Michigan, and all the internships are unpaid. There were twenty-one graduates in 1995 and twenty students are expected to graduate in the August of 1996. Every graduate has found a job as a physical therapy assistant. Of the total twenty-one graduates, around eight people are working in the Lansing area. However, according to Ann Perkins, it will become more difficult for graduates to find jobs around the Lansing area and students must relocate to find employment in this field. She suggested that before starting a new physical therapy assistant program, OCC should consider the difficulties of obtaining internship sites and recruiting qualified faculty members due to competition with physical therapy programs and other existing physical therapy assistant programs in the state of Michigan.

**Delta College:** Deborah Sohn reported that Delta has a well established program which currently accepts thirty new students per year. She commented that typically all students are employed by graduation. However, she expressed some concern that a glut of physical therapist assistants may develop as hospitals and health care providers cut back. Students in this program are required to complete three internships a year. The program coordinator is having increasing difficulty finding clinical sites to provide this training and is having to send students greater distances. In addition, she commented on the problem of obtaining full-time faculty for the program. In her opinion, the use of part-time faculty only would affect the quality of program offerings. Other considerations mentioned were the difficulty of obtaining credit for PTA classes unless an institution has a formal 2+2 agreement with a four year college. Deborah also pointed out that physical therapy assistant programs have high overheads for labs and equipment.

**Henry Ford Community College:** HFCC's Physical Therapy Assistant program rewards its graduates with an Associate in Science Degree. There is currently an extensive waiting list to enter the program. Admission requirements for entry to HFCC's program are precisely spelled out in the college handbook, and necessitate high academic records during high school and college, a minimum number of 20 hours of volunteer work in a physical therapy clinic with a letter of recommendation from the supervisor, specific coursework and GPA achievements, and proof of health insurance. In addition, students must keep a minimum grade of C or better in all PTA classes, or risk failing from the program. A student is also required to complete the PTA course within three consecutive calendar years.

**Kellogg Community College:** This accredited physical therapy assistant program requires a minimum of eight hours of documented observational experience in a physical therapy setting before beginning classes in the fall semester (first year). In order to graduate with an Associate in Applied Science Degree, a student must have completed 74 credit hours, which includes an

eight-week summer semester and a 16 week (736 hours) semester of clinical experiences. According to Deborah Miller, enrollment in this 24 year old, two year program, is limited to 30 students. Problems afflicting this Kellogg program include a lack of appropriate faculty to support the classes (two full time, one part-time), and difficulties in finding clinical internship sites for the students.

**Macomb Community College:** MCC's 12 year old physical therapy assistant program accepts 30 students per year, which includes five students from OCC. About five years ago, OCC began a reciprocal program with MCC, whereby MCC would accept five of OCC's students into their PTA program, while OCC accepts five MCC students in another program. According to Dr. Collins of MCC, students are very well screened thus explaining their 100% graduation rate. Dr. Collins also declares that almost all students travel out of state to take their state licensing exam. Issues affecting MCC's program include; a shortage of clinical sites for interns, and problems with hiring faculty.

In addition to the seven accredited programs a pre-physical therapy program is offered at:

**Grand Rapids Community College:** The program is linked to transfer requirements for Grand Valley State University.

## ***Physical Therapy Programs in Michigan***

There are currently six accredited programs in the state at the following institutions:

**Andrews University:** A minimum of 80 hours of observation or work experience with a licensed/registered physical therapist, minimum 20 hours of observation in a general acute-care hospital, plus two other physical therapy settings of 16 hours each are required PRIOR to entry into this program.

**Central Michigan University:** CMU began their physical therapy program in 1995. This master's program requires a total of 108 credit hours. For the past two years, there have been 48 students enrolled in this program per year. Students must complete 6-week internships in the first summer and in the fall and spring term of their third year. CMU's physical therapy program has agreements with more than 100 clinical sites for students' internship placement in the state of Michigan and one site in the state of Indiana. Most of the internships are unpaid. There are 7 faculty members in the program and all of them are licensed physical therapists.

**Grand Valley State University:** GVSU offers a Master of Science in Physical Therapy, which is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association. This is a six year program which is divided into two parts. First, the student chooses an undergraduate major (suggested majors include health sciences, biology, biomedical sciences, or biopsychology), which will earn her/him a B.S. degree in their fourth year. Secondly, the student will begin the professional part of the curriculum at the beginning of their fourth year, after acceptance into the program. All classes

during the last three years of the six year program must be taken in the Physical Therapy Department. Students must complete a master's research project as well as several full-time clinicals. Entry requirements for this physical therapy program include a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, two recommendations from a PT, interviews, and a minimum of 50 hours of physical therapy experience. Currently, Grand Rapids Community College gears their PTA program toward entry to GVSU's PT program.

*Oakland University:* The physical therapy program prepares students for the master of physical therapy degree and professional careers in physical therapy, building upon the liberal arts curriculum to reinforce the role of the physical therapist as an actively contributing member of society and a rational and morally sensitive professional. Entry into the program is competitive and contingent upon satisfactory completion of the health science core curriculum, required courses complementing the core curriculum, and the university general education and rhetoric requirements. Students in the program are required to complete a Bachelor of Science in health sciences degree (138 semester hours), followed by a graduate level curriculum (49 semester hours). Completion of the graduate degree allows the graduate to sit for the professional licensure examination.

*University of Michigan - Flint:* This physical therapy program offers a master's degree upon completion of required credits and clinical internships. The director of this program, Paulette Cebulski, revealed that there were over 500 applications for 36 openings in this physical therapy program for entry this fall (1996). Over 300 applicants will be qualified as grade point average, experience in the field, and references are all considered for admission. Cebulski admitted that she has difficulty in finding qualified faculty to teach, along with appropriate clinical sites for the students. These problems have increased in recent years, and she does not expect to see any relief from these issues in the near future. In fact, she foresees increased difficulties in obtaining additional clinical sites in the Southeast Michigan area.

*Wayne State University:* The program prepares students for the master of physical therapy degrees, physical therapy licensure examinations and active membership in the American Physical Therapy Association. The program began in 1967 as a baccalaureate qualification. Currently, the Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Sciences (120 semester credits) is a prerequisite for entry into the graduate component of the professional program. Entry to the program is competitive. The available thirty-six places are typically heavily oversubscribed with between 150 and 200 qualified applicants. Clinical education is provided throughout this professional program with the final sixteen weeks spent in one or more assignments in selected clinical facilities in Southeast Michigan.

In addition to the six existing programs,

*Eastern Michigan University* is currently investigating the possibility of a new physical therapy program. Dr. Elizabeth King, Dean of Health and Human Services, commented that the university has established an advisory board for the program and has a faculty member developing curriculum. The proposal includes a linked Physical Therapy Assistant Program

which would be developed at Washtenaw Community College providing transfer opportunities to the community college students. Dean King expressed the view that this would be an expensive program to initiate, given the cost of labs and equipment. In addition, they are looking carefully at the issue of clinical sites and considering the possibility of sending students out of state for this experience.

## **Student Survey Analysis**

A student telephone survey was completed by 174 students of a possible 343 students who declared Pre-PTA as their major, over the past six semesters. Of the 174 students who declared the Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant program as their major, 71 were new students who began their studies in the fall of 1995.

### **Student Representation**

The population of those students who declared Pre-Physical Therapist Assistant as their major was made up of 70% females and 30% males. Of the 174 students surveyed, there were 72% females and 28% males. As mentioned earlier, this is not representative of College-wide gender statistics which comprise 60% females and 40% males.

Those who declared Pre-PTA as their major included 71% white and 21% black students. This minority representation is much higher than Oakland County and OCC statistics, which report 10.4% and 17.7% respectively.

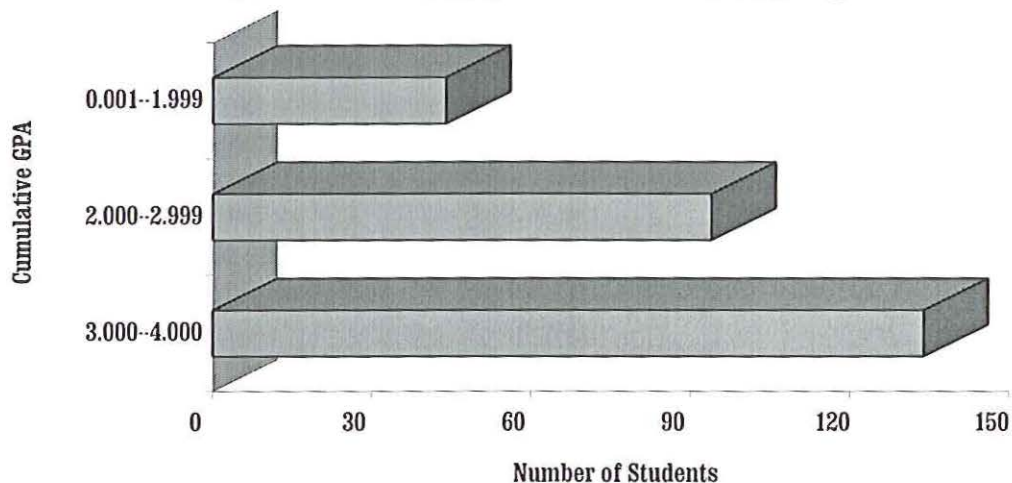
The average age of all students who declared the Pre-PTA program as their major was 25 years old. This would seem consistent with general OCC data which depict the average age of students as 28 years old. However, 19 years old was the most common age of a student enrolled in this program. Literature suggests that high enrollment of younger students is generally not considered typical. *PT Magazine* suggests, for example, that students typically enroll in a physical therapy assistant program in preparation for a second career. Consequently, experts claim that the average age of a PTA student by the time of completion of their PTA program is typically much older (27 years) (January 1993).

The average cumulative grade point average (GPA) of all students claiming Pre-PTA as their major, grouped in one-point scales, is as follows: 20.7% new students (thus no cumulative GPA); 12.8% at 0.001-1.999; 27.4% at 2.000-2.999; and, 39.1% at 3.000-4.000. Students surveyed for the purposes of this report had slightly higher cumulative GPAs: 38 new students; 16.2% at 0.001-1.999; 35.3% at 2.000-2.999; and, 48.5% at 3.000-4.000 (see Table 12 & Figure 12).

**TABLE 12**  
**Student Cumulative GPA in the OCC Pre-Physical  
 Therapy Assistant Program**

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0.001-1.999	44	16.2
2.000-2.999	94	34.6
3.000-4.000	134	49.3
New Students	71	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**FIGURE 12**  
**Student Cumulative GPA in the OCC Pre-PTA Program**



Only students with at least a 3.000 GPA are eligible to apply for admission to MCC's PTA program. With this in mind, 10% (27) of all students in OCC's program have a 4.000 GPA. MCC would have the "cream of the crop" for their program, as it would appear that only those students with a perfect GPA have a chance of entering the program; and only five students per year may enter, thus 22 students with a perfect GPA at the time of the survey potentially will not be admitted to MCC's program. OCC students may also apply to MCC through traditional open-application, but would have to pay out of county tuition rates.

### **Student Intentions**

Students surveyed for the purposes of this report were asked their primary reason for entering the Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant program. Over half (51%) of the respondents claimed that they were enrolled at OCC in order to transfer to a physical therapy program, while less than half (44%) of the students intended to transfer to a physical therapy assistant program.

Respondents to the student survey were also asked if their decision to enter a career in the field of physical therapy was a second career choice. Over three-quarters claimed that this is not a second career, while less than one-fifth claimed physical therapy as a second career. As the most common age of this student population was 19 years it would not be surprising to find a large proportion of first-career students. In addition, individual definitions of a "second career" may vary. This is inconsistent with results from APTA's 1992 *Affiliate Member Profile Report* which found that nearly half (49.6%) of the respondents reported that becoming a PTA represented a career change.

### **Student Employment**

When asked about their current employment situation, 40% of the respondents to the Student Survey claimed that they were employed full-time, while slightly more (42.5%) were employed part-time, and only 16% (28) were not employed at all.

Those student respondents who were employed, were also asked if their work was in a health-related field. Of the 146 respondents who were employed, nearly one-third (29.5%, 43) considered themselves employed in a health-related field. Positions held by these individuals include: massage therapist, physical therapy aide, nursing assistant, patient transporter, dental assistant, medical receptionist, physical therapist assistant, pharmacy technician, physical therapy technician, veterinary hospital worker, health care analyst, and exercise instructor.

### **Student Satisfaction with OCC Pre-PTA Classes**

Students were questioned about their satisfaction with the courses they have taken at OCC. Over one third (38%) declared that they were very satisfied, while half (50%) claimed that they were satisfied. Not one respondent revealed dissatisfaction with courses taken at OCC (see Table 13 & Figure 13). Comments included:

*Never cared for environment at Royal Oak campus, but my instructors have been very understanding.*

*I'm gaining more knowledge about the subject and becoming more comfortable in laboratories: biology and chemistry classes.*

*Satisfied with the math and psychology course, but a little disappointed with a career planning class.*

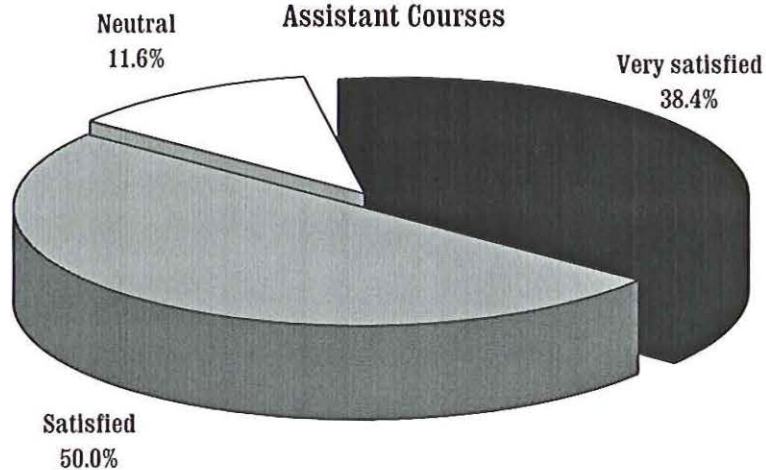
*Loved OCC! Would recommend it to everybody. I thought the program was very good and had good teachers.*

*All teachers and staff are easy to work with and willing to help.*

**TABLE 13**  
**Student Satisfaction with OCC Pre-Physical  
 Therapy Assistant Courses**

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Very satisfied	63	38.4
Satisfied	82	50.0
Neutral	19	11.6
Disatisfied	0	0.0
Very dissatisfied	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**FIGURE 13**  
**Student Satisfaction with OCC Pre-Physical Therapy  
 Assistant Courses**



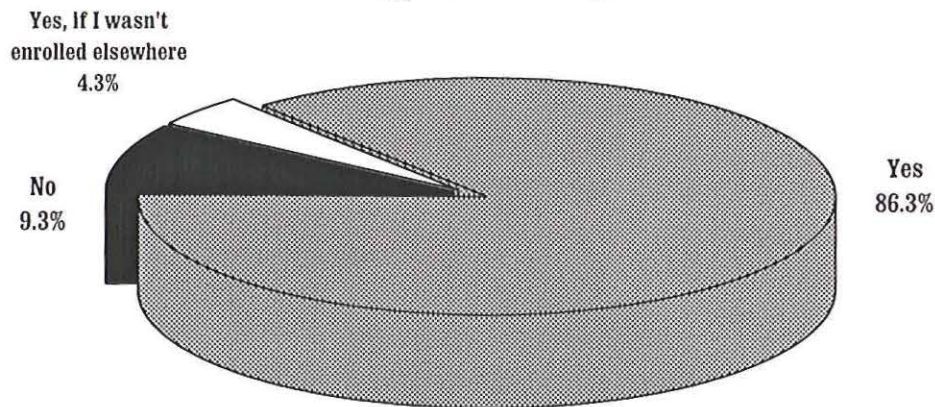
### ***Proposed PTA Program at OCC: Student Opinions***

During the course of the Student survey, respondents were asked their opinions regarding a proposed physical therapy assistant program at Oakland Community College. A significant number (86.3%) of respondents expressed an interest in a possible program, while another 4.3% said they would be interested if they were not enrolled elsewhere. Only 10% were not interested at all in the proposed program (see Table 14 & Figure 14).

**TABLE 14**  
**Students Interested in the Proposed OCC Physical Therapy Assistant Program**

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	139	86.3
No	15	9.3
Yes, if I wasn't enrolled elsewhere	7	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**FIGURE 14**  
**Students Interested in the Proposed OCC Physical Therapy Assistant Program**



When asked whether or not mandatory clinical internships would influence their interest in the proposed program, nearly all respondents claimed that an internship would have a positive influence on their decision. Well over half (58%) said internships would not change their previous decision, while 40% said they would be more likely to enroll if such a program ever came into place. Only 2% said that they would change their previous decision about the proposed program.

Students were also asked where they would prefer the internships be located. Results of qualitative analyses shows that the majority of students (69%) would like internships to be located close to home or school, and nearly one third (31%) had no preference. Comments included:

*Would enroll immediately. I want to be in a PTA program and OCC would be my preference.*



*Close to home. Comfortable at OCC. School deals well with older people returning to school.*

*It would help me determine whether I should go into this field.*

*Depends on how many classes would transfer for PT degree at Oakland University.*

*It would be convenient, location-wise. I like OCC, the teachers, the classes, the administration, and the counselors. Everything has been great so far, even though I would go on to become a PT, I would still like an associate degree.*

Student respondents were invited to share their preference for time of day and day of the week classes should be held for this proposed program. One third (33%) prefer mornings, 21% prefer evenings, and nearly one-quarter (24%) of the respondents had no preference. Almost three-quarters (71%) would prefer to take classes during the week, while one-quarter (25%) had no preference as to which days class would be held.

## ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) has been the only accrediting agency for education programs for the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant in the United States since 1983. The APTA publication "Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for The Preparation of Physical Therapist Assistants", effective July, 1994, elaborates on the history of accreditation and the Evaluative Criteria for accreditation.

According to this publication, the CAPTE makes autonomous decisions concerning the accreditation status of education programs for the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant. Members of the CAPTE are chosen from the representatives of physical therapy educators, clinicians, employers, institutions of higher education, medicine, and the public, which encompasses the communities of interest the accreditation process serves. Accreditation recognizes publicly those physical therapy education programs which demonstrate the standards of performance, integrity, and quality as determined by this accrediting body. CAPTE accreditation attempts to assure that recognized programs prepare graduates with effective contemporary practice.

The Evaluative Criteria for accreditation of the physical therapy assistant education programs is comprised of four sections: organization, resources, curriculum, and performance of program graduates. The CAPTE acknowledges that an accredited program has the right to establish objectives that are in keeping with its mission and the resources of the institution, in addition to those in the Evaluative Criteria. The accreditation process encourages diversity, innovation, and uniqueness in education programs.

## COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

The American Physical Therapy Association published a handbook "Considerations" (1993) containing recommendations for developing a physical therapy assistant education program. This handbook indicates that the essential resources for developing and implementing a new program include faculty and supportive personnel, space, and funding.

*Faculty and Supportive Personnel-* Though personnel from other programs and departments can be used to teach the basic sciences or other essential courses, in contrast to other community college programs, a physical therapy assistant program is unlikely to survive with a single full time faculty member. According to APTA, a PTA program requires at least two full time positions: the program director and the academic coordinator of clinical education (ACCE). The program director takes the responsibilities of curriculum evaluation and development, supervision of faculty, and some teaching. Since students have to be placed in clinical settings for their internship, the academic coordinator's main duty is maintenance of the clinical education component of the program. This person may also provide some teaching in the program.

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) suggests that student contact hours should be considered along with credit hours. In addition, the student to faculty ratio for laboratory activities should provide for adequate supervision and instruction and this ratio generally should not exceed 16 to 1. For other activities, however, the student to faculty ratio may vary depending on the learning experience, the complexity of the material being taught, and its effect on the physiological status of the patient.

*Space-* Minimum space requirements for a PTA program are; a therapeutic procedures laboratory, a classroom, student locker and dressing room, faculty-staff offices, and storage space for audiovisual and physical therapy equipment. These facilities should be in close proximity, preferably on the same floor, to facilitate daily interaction and activities. Some education programs have successful collaborative agreements with clinical facilities to provide space for learning experiences for physical therapist assistant students when patients are not being served. However, some respondents to the employer survey expressed a concern that interns should be prepared by their schools to use physical therapy equipment, instead of the employer using valuable time teaching, when it could be better spent working with patients.

*Funding-* The cost of initial program financial expenditure and ongoing expenses will depend on many variables including, but not limited to, the amount of building or remodeling necessary to provide and adapt adequate space; the number of faculty and staff; salaries; equipment and supplies; and the overhead expenses of the institution. It is recommended to lease some electrotherapy equipment from manufacturers or local vendors to reduce costs if it is not regularly used by program students. Off-site laboratories at health care facilities are another resource for providing additional equipment for students.

Beth Marcoux Program Director at Oakland University, points out that physical therapy assistant programs are expensive for colleges to implement and maintain. They require a low ratio of students to faculty, high safety considerations and expensive equipment needs. In addition, accreditation involves considerable expense. Ron Burdaka, Director of the Health Careers Division at Henry Ford Community College, estimated that lab equipment for a physical therapy assistant program would cost between \$60,000 and \$70,000. In addition, faculty are expensive as a result of the high salaries available in the industry. Both Oakland University and Henry Ford Community College each have two on-site labs. These labs typically require more space than the average lab facility and necessitate provision of an assistant as well as the instructor. The labs are supplied with basic equipment such as treatment tables, weight equipment, crutches, wheelchairs and other conventional treatment aids. More technical and expensive equipment such as electrical stimulation units is normally only available to students at their clinical sites.

## CONCLUSION

There is significant evidence of employment demand for physical therapist assistants, both nationally and in Michigan. Local employers confirm this need, with 40% of respondents predicting that the need for physical therapist assistants will increase substantially over the next five to ten years.

In addition, there is a high level of interest among prospective students. Eighty-six percent of respondents to the OCC student survey expressed an interest in participating in a proposed OCC physical therapy assistant program.

However, there are a large number of local physical therapy programs in existence which are currently experiencing various problems. Among the dilemmas of these programs are: extreme difficulties in securing sufficient clinical internship sites for their students, as well as the recruitment of qualified faculty. These are key issues; as provision of physical therapy assistant clinical internships is mandatory for APTA Accreditation, while the procurement of qualified faculty may be critical to the successful development of a physical therapy assistant program.

## ISSUES

- 1) Most of the existing program directors we contacted emphasized the difficulty of placing their students in clinical internships. Ron Burdaka at Henry Ford Community College indicated that this concern is currently inhibiting expansion of their program. In some cases students had to travel considerable distances to obtain an internship. Such travel is a particular concern for community college students who often cite proximity as a key factor in making their educational choices. It was felt that the difficulty of obtaining clinical internships is increasing as insurance companies tighten their requirements; therapists working with interns are unable to treat as many patients as they would on their own. Employers may well prove less willing to offer internships as a result. Terrie Warren of MPTA expressed her concern that clinical internships are an integral part of the PTA training and a new program should not go ahead unless arrangements for internships are complete.
- 2) A second difficulty cited by program directors is that of obtaining qualified faculty to teach in the physical therapy field. Salaries available in the educational arena do not match those available to therapists working in the health care industry. In addition, clinicians are reluctant to move to the academic field. Salary, location, academic rank, and advancement potential become key factors in the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel. All program directors to whom we spoke cited this concern. The APTA has emphasized the importance of faculty in maintaining and developing a physical therapy assistant program. In their experience, reliance on one single full-time person to run a program leads to individual burn-out within a short period of time, leaving the program without leadership.
- 3) Thirdly, the APTA suggests that institutions should consider their local conditions very carefully before developing a program to prepare physical therapist assistants. "There is a national shortage or maldistribution of physical therapy practitioners to fill positions that are vacant in the United States. Past experience with community college graduates has demonstrated a reluctance on the part of many physical therapist assistants to move to communities where their services are needed. It would be wasteful to develop a program whose graduates would saturate the community within a few years. The negative impact that this early saturation might have on further student enrollment could cause an early demise of an established program."

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Haskins, Jane (February 1996), Telephone Interview. Guidance Counselor, Health Science. Oakland University.

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Wangler, Teresa (Nov. 1995), Telephone Interview. Oakland Community College, Allied Health.

Warren, Terrie (January 1996), Telephone Interview. Michigan Physical Therapy Association.

Yuiska, Ed (January 1996), Telephone Interview. American Rehabilitation Services.

# APPENDIX A

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

### *CPT Codes*

# *Center for Educational Statistics*

## A Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)

### **51.0806 *Physical Therapy Assistant***

"An instructional program that prepares individuals to support physical therapists by providing assistance during patient examinations, treatment administration, and monitoring; by keeping patient and related health record information; and by performing a wide range of practice-related duties."

### **51.2308 *Physical Therapy***

"An instructional program that prepares individuals, upon referral by a physician, to evaluate patients and plan and execute treatment programs to prevent or remediate physical dysfunction, relieve pain and prevent further disability. Includes instruction in patho- and therapeutic kinesiology, equipment design and maintenance, treatment regimes, and the evaluation of skeletal, neurological and cardiovascular disorders. Also includes instruction in patient counselling, personnel supervision and record-keeping."



# APPENDIX B

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

### *Employer List*

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**Physical Therapy Assistant**  
*Needs Assessment*  
**Employers Surveyed**  
**November 1996**

Company Name	Address	Person Contacted	Telephone Number	Provide Internship	Willing to Assist OCC
Farmington Physical Therapy	23800 Orchard Lake Rd. Farmington	Elizabeth Bogdan	810-474-5516		
Metro Rehabilitation	4245 W. 14 Mi. Royal Oak	Nina Crimmins	810-549-8840	Uncertain	Uncertain
St. Joseph Mercy Hopital Rehab.	900 Woodward Pontiac	Doug Julius	810-858-3111	Yes	Yes
Jim Simpson Associates	Centerline	Jim Simpson	810-463-1477	Yes	
Cooper & Associates	Farmington Hills	Elaine Cooper	810-851-750		
Bloomfield Athletic Med.	Bloomfield Hills	Melissa Okun	810-647-8140	Yes	Yes
Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine	292 S. Hunter Blvd. Birmingham, 48009	Rebecca Williams	810-646-5911	Uncertain	Yes
Physical Therapy & Sports Med.	Birmingham, 48009	Melissa Baltz	810-646-5911		Uncertain
Prime Care Services	Southfield	Kathleen McAvoy-Black	810-646-5151		Yes
Don Graham Assoc., Inc.	Lathrup Village	Mark Glover	810-559-6730	Yes	Yes
McClaren Hospital	Flint	Dale Fitch	810-342-2356		
Active Physical Therapy	Southfield	Nina Nagle	810-443-0101	Yes	Yes
Work Recovery Centers, Inc.	Plymouth	Joseph Martinez	800-968-0331	Yes	Yes
Ed Fahey Associates PC, Inc.	7300 Dixie Hwy, Ste 101 Clarkston	Barb Marceau	810-625-5998		
Pro Therapy of America	Bingham Farms	Kathy Ebert	810-646-1150		Yes
Sportpro Physical Therapy	Redford	Geena Yarach	810-937-2001	Yes	Yes
Therapist Unlimited	Farmington Hills	Ellen Ballew	810-488-0123		
Rochester Hills Physical Therapy	Rochester, 48307	Mark Muzzarelli	810-650-7940	Uncertain	Yes
Holly Physical Therapy	Holly, 48442	Marie King	810-634-4424		
Physical Therapeutix	Brighton, 48116	Mike Lurvey	810-229-5022		

<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Person Contacted</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>Provide Internship</b>	<b>Willing to Assist OCC</b>
Pro Therapy of Cemerec	Bingham Farms, 48025	Terry	810-646-1150		Uncertain
Great Lakes Regional Rehabilitation	Southfield, 48075	Pam Govender	810-569-1500	Yes	Yes
Complete Fitness Rehab	1787 W. Big Beaver Troy, 48084	Mary Jo LaFata	810-649-4193	Yes	
Delta Physical Therapy and Rehab	7050 Snow Road Lansing, 48917	Selena Horner	517-323-0593	Yes	Yes
Novacare Outpatient Rehabilitation	Grand Rapids, 49503	Kim Pfeffer	616-451-2891	Yes	Yes
Ann Arbor Family Practice Associates	Ann Arbor	Lena Payne	313-761-2581		
Rehab Network	Bingham Farms	Mary Giordano	810-646-3080	Yes	Yes
Whitton Boutrous & Associates	900 Auburn Road Pontiac, 48347	Dawn Kissinger	810-333-3335	Yes	Uncertain
Advanced Physical Therapy	Dearborn, 48124	John Cascardo	313-565-4222	Yes	Yes
Physical Therapy Professionals	Chesterfield, 48051	Anna Stanek	810-598-0050	Uncertain	Uncertain
In-Home Therapies	Bingham Farms, 48025	Colleen Bunting	810-433-1080	Yes	Yes
Health Rehab, Inc.	25418 Goddard Rd, Taylor, 48180	Ash Ahmed	313-295-7180	Yes	Yes
International Health Group, Inc.	8850 S. Telegraph, Taylor, 48180	Cindy Roberts	313-295-1900	Yes	Yes
Great Lakes Orthopedic Therapy	Sterling Heights	Peter Kluba	800-664-7422	Uncertain	Yes
IHS Therapy	Plymouth, 48170	Terry Heaton	313-420-8003		
Gilboe & Associates	23161 Greater Mack Ave., St. Clair Shores, 48080	David Gilboe	810-779-8892	Uncertain	Yes
Apex Physical Therapy Inc.	Oakland Medical Center 1385 E 12 Mile Rd. Madison Hgts. 48071	Raj Kapur VP Adm.	810-414-6672	Yes	Yes
Great Lakes PT	396 Lake Nepessing Lapeer, 48446	Karen Allen ,P.T.	810-667-1962	Yes	Yes
Saratoga Physicans P.C. Inc.	15000 Gratiot Detroit, 48205	Donna Oswalt	313-245-1200	Uncertain	Uncertain
Vance's Rehabilitation Ctr.	Gaylord, Mi.		517-732-4753		
Metro Physical Therapy @ Rehab.	23268 Ecorse Rd. Taylor, 48180	Mr. Rafic	313-292-7700	Yes	

<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Person Contacted</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>Provide Internship</b>	<b>Willing to Assist OCC</b>
Northville Physical Therapy	332 E. Main Ste.A Northville, 48167	Joe Scagnetti	810-349-3816	Yes	Yes
American Rehabilitation Network	14799 Dix /Toledo Southgate, 48195	Melanie West	313-285-6767	Yes	Yes
Orthopedic Surgeons P.C.	14555 Levan Rd. Ste.#215	Mary Jaynes	313-953-8874	Uncertain	Uncertain
DMC Occupational Health Services	60 W. Hancock St. Detroit, 48201	James Brennan	313-326-2840	Yes	Yes
Henry Ford Health Systems Inc.	8033 E. 10 Mile Rd. Centerline	Jan Brock	810-755-1520		
Diversified Rehab Center	Farmington Hills, 48334	Carol Fix	810-539-3400	Yes	Yes
Four Chaplains Convelscent Center	28349 Joy Rd. Westland, 48185	Shawn Moran	313-261-9500	Uncertain	Uncertain
Glacier Hills	Ann Arbor	Marie Young	313-769-6410	Yes	Uncertain
Garden City Professional Group	Garden City, 48135	Rick Gawenda	313-458-3381	Yes	Yes
Clinton Aire Nursing Care	Clinton Township, 48038	Chris Supper	810-286-7100	Yes	Uncertain
Michigan Sports	Warren, 48092	Ed Yrieska	810-558-3600		
Active Physical Therapy	26751 Southfield Rd. Southfield,	Marion Williams	810-443-0101		
Prime Rehab	1350 Kirts Ste. 150 Troy, 48084	Faye Staggs	810-244-1314		
Physican's Physical Therapy Services	24011 Greenfield Southfield, 48075	Angela Allen	810-557-5440	Yes	Yes
Physical Therapy Professionals	50475 Gratiot Ste.#3 Chesterfield,48051	Diane Inch	810-598-0050		
Physical Therapy & Pain Clinic	Clinton Twp., 48038	Christal Piesko	810-263-7702	Yes	
Oakwood Sports Medicine	Dearborn, 48126	Lasandra G Baker	313-240-7595	Uncertain	
United Home Health Services Inc.	2200 N. Canton Center Rd. Canton,48187	Cheryl Dumas	313-981-8820	Yes	Uncertain
Dynamic Rehab Centers	1740 W. Big Beaver Rd. Troy, 48084	Terry Dibble	810-649-2323	Yes	Yes
Michigan Health Care Corp.	2600 MLK Blvd. Detroit, 48208	Ken Watson	313-899-5642	Yes	Yes
Claig, Guest, & Brabant P.T.'s	35143 Schoenherr Rd. Sterling Hgts., 48312	Stan Guest	810-978-7900		

<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Person Contacted</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>Provide Internship</b>	<b>Willing to Assist OCC</b>
VOCA	6600 W. Maple #304 W. Bloomfield, 48033	Jill Spokajy	810-737-2990	Yes	
Sinai Hospital	6767 W. Outer Drive Detroit, 48235	Gosia Serwatki	313-493-6824	Yes	Uncertain
Hospital Home Health Care	10000 S. Telegraph Taylor, 48180	Linda Montgomery	313-295-5342	Yes	Yes
Haggerty Center Neuro Rehab	22800 Haggerty Rd. Northville, 48787	Lorna Andrews	810-347-0370	Yes	
Center for Physical Therapy	Milford, 48381	David Roer	810-685-9623	Yes	Yes
Managed Care	3777 Fort St. Lincoln Park, 48146	Dr. Mohammed Pounas	313-389-4200	Yes	
Lapeer Regional Hospital	1375 N. Main Lapeer, 48446	Kathryn Nairink	810-667-5514	Yes	
American Rehab Institute	16400 J.L. Hudson Dr. Southfield	James Harper	810-559-2400	Yes	Yes
Oakland Physical Therapy PC Inc.	Novi, 48375	Laurie Greco	810-478-6140		
Rizvi Health Associates Inc.	Southfield, 48076	Jeri Sherman	810-557-2154	Yes	Yes
Health Team and Aquatic Therapy Group	Pontiac, 48340-2364	Loretta Fournier	810-335-1353	Yes	Yes
ASK Health Care Service Inc.	Southfield, 48075	Beverly Bright	810-355-1980	Yes	Yes
U.M. Hospital	Ann Arbor	Alexandra Sciaky	313-936-7060		
West Bloomfield Physical Therapy	W.Bloomfielf, 48323	Susan Tarnas	810-788-1400	Yes	Yes
Clinton Commons Physical Therapy	Clinton Twp., 48038	Bob Baker	810-286-1311		
Rehab of Michigan	Detroit, 48201	Wendy Rezeppa	313-745-9801	Uncertain	Uncertain
Sports Medicine Center of Detroit	755 w. Big Beaver #1300 Troy	Sue Cuillo	810-244-8887	Yes	Uncertain
Hands On Center	470 Forest #20 Plymouth, 48170	Johan Commuth	313-455-8370	Yes	Yes
Dequindre Physical Therapy	41069 Dequindre Troy, 48084	Doug Furdock	810-879-9400	Yes	Yes
Bloomfield Helis Care Center & Mi. Therapy	Bloomfield, 48302	Donna Parrish	810-338-0345	Yes	Yes
Sterling Physical Therapy	Warren, 48092	Mr. Singh	810-751-6667		

<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Person Contacted</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>Provide Internship</b>	<b>Willing to Assist OCC</b>
Optimax	1955 W. Hamlin Rd. Rochester Hls.,48309	Lori Kowalik	810-853-6900	Yes	
Advance Physical Therapy	Grand Blanc, 48439	Kim Solden	810-695-8700		
Annie's House , Health Care	2100 E. Maple Ste.302 Birmingham, 48009		810-649-0101		
Beaumont Hospital	Birminham, 48009	Helene Rosen	810-258-3700	Uncertain	Uncertain
Kenny Rehab	Waterford, 48328-1261	Arlene Vincent	810-673-9870		Yes

# APPENDIX C

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

### *Employer Survey*

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
*Physical Therapy Assistant*  
*Needs Assessment*

**Employer Survey**  
*November 1995*

Name: _____
Title: _____
Name of Business: _____
City and Zip Code: _____
Telephone: (     ) _____ -- _____

OCC is currently contacting organizations in southeast Michigan which employ Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs), and we understand that you employ people in this field. Do you have a moment to answer a few questions for us?

1. First of all, we'd like to know about the type of work your organization is involved in. How would you describe the type of service your organization provides? (*check all that apply; if needed, read list*):

- 13.6% (12) *Geriatrics*
- 4.5% (4) *Handicapped (center/school)*
- 11.4% (10) *Home health care agent*
- 12.5% (11) *Hospital*
- 0.0% (0) *Industrial program*
- 9.1% (8) *Nursing home*
- 23.9% (21) *Private or group practice/office*
- 51.1% (45) *Rehabilitation center*
- 0.0% (0) *Research center*
- 3.4% (3) *Residential care facility*
- 3.4% (3) *School system (high school, college, university, etc.)*
- 2.3% (2) *Social services agency*
- 27.3% (24) *Specialized clinic (therapy)*
- 18.2% (16) *Sports medicine clinic/athletic team*
- 11.4% (10) *Other (please explain \_\_\_\_\_)*

2. Please tell me whether you currently employ Physical Therapists:

- 95.5% (84) Yes
- 4.5% (4) No



3. Do you employ any **Physical Therapist Assistants**?

71.6% (63) Yes (*skip to question 6*)

28.4% (25) No (*If question 2 is "YES", ask question 4*)

(*If question 2 is "NO", thank them and terminate survey*)

4. Has your company ever hired or considered hiring any Physical Therapist Assistants?

72.0% (18) Yes (*ask for details, then to go question 5*)

28.0% (7) No (*ask for details, then terminate the survey*)

Why or why not? (*Probe*)

---

5. How many PTAs are currently working within your organization? (*fill in number*)

5.5 (54) Full-time PTAs

2.3 (30) Part-time PTAs

6. On average, how many hours per week do your PTAs work?

54.7 (58) hours/week (FULL-TIME)

23.2 (26) hours/week (PART-TIME)

7. What are the typical duties of a Physical Therapist Assistant?

---

8. Are these PTAs employed on site, or are they assigned to work outside the organization? (*such as contractual work in private homes, care facilities, etc.*)

61.8% (47) All work on site

13.2% (10) All work off site (if so, where?) \_\_\_\_\_

25.0% (19) A combination of both (please describe:) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Please tell me what your organization's minimum educational qualifications are for entry level PTAs: (*Only prompt by reading the list if necessary*)

1.3% (1) No specific requirements

2.5% (2) High school diploma or GED

93.7% (74) College associate degree (PTA program)

1.3% (1) Bachelor's degree (program: \_\_\_\_\_)

10. And, are there any certificate or registration requirements? If so, what are they?
- 27.1% (19) No Certificate or Registration Requirements
  - 35.7% (25) American Physical Therapy Association
  - 37.1% (26) Other (please explain: \_\_\_\_\_)

11. And what is the minimum amount of experience required for entry level PTAs? Can this include an internship through high school or a college program? (Probe)
- 

12. Does your company provide PTAs with any in-house training?

- 13.9% (10) Yes
- 80.5% (62) No (skip to 15)

13. What type of training do you offer these PTAs? (Probe)
- 

14. Do you never, sometimes, or frequently have any difficulty finding qualified PTAs?

- 42.9% (30) Never
- 21.4% (15) Sometimes
- 35.7% (25) Frequently

15. In your opinion, which of the following most accurately predicts your organization's need for PTAs over the next five to ten years: (read scale)

- 40.0% (30) Increase substantially
- 41.3% (31) Increase slightly
- 10.7% (8) Remain the same
- 1.3% (1) Decrease slightly
- 4.0% (3) Decrease substantially
- 2.7% (2) Uncertain

16. In terms of salary, what is the average starting salary for an entry-level PTA position in your organization?

- \$13.30/hour (47) (FULL-TIME)
- \$13.50/hour (16) (PART-TIME)

17. Are any benefits made available your PTAs? (health insurance, paid vacation, sick leave)

- 94.5% (69) Yes (if so, what?) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.5% (4) No

18. In general, what advancement opportunities do you see for PTAs? (Financial, preferential jobs, with or without further education, etc.)
-

19. Do you feel that a Physical Therapy Assistant program at OCC would be worthwhile to the community?

**80.5% (62)** Yes  
**6.5% (5)** No (*get response / terminate survey*)  
**13.0% (10)** Uncertain

Why do you feel this way? (*probe*)

---

20. If we had a PTA program, do you think that your company would consider providing an internship opportunity? (*OCC student*)

**54.1% (40)** Yes  
**25.7% (19)** No  
**20.3% (15)** Uncertain

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

21. How long do you believe an ideal PTA internship should last?

**5.5 Months (61)**

*Note:* Responses varied and were converted to monthly unit for analysis.

22. Would you be interested in working with OCC to develop a Physical Therapy Assistant program?

**54.1% (40)** Yes (*add to the help list*)  
**25.7% (19)** No  
**20.3% (15)** Uncertain

23. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to include concerning this proposed PTA program?

---

*Thank you for your time and assistance. We appreciate your help and believe that your responses will help to influence what happens at OCC in the future. If you have any further questions, please contact the Office of Planning & Analysis at 810-471-7746.*

***Interviewer Signature:*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Date:*** \_\_\_\_\_

# APPENDIX D

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

### *Student Survey*

# Physical Therapy Assistant

## PROPOSED PROGRAM

### STUDENT SURVEY

December 1995

OCC is considering the development of a training program for Physical Therapist Assistants. We are currently contacting students who have declared the **Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant** program as their major to determine the level of interest in this kind of training. Would you be willing to answer a few questions for us?

1. First of all, I would like to confirm that your declared major field of study at OCC is/was the **Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant** program?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes (*continue*)

0 \_\_\_\_\_ No (*thank them for their time and terminate survey*)

2. What is/was your primary reason for taking **Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant** classes at OCC? (*Interviewers: Presently, they CANNOT obtain an OCC certificate or OCC associate degree in PTA)(Check only ONE)*)

**0.0%** (0) To obtain an OCC certificate (*what program?*) \_\_\_\_\_

**1.1%** (2) To obtain an OCC associate degree (*what program?*) \_\_\_\_\_

**43.7%** (76) To complete courses necessary for transfer to a **Physical Therapy Assistant** program

**23.7%** (18) If yes, is this a SECOND career? (*Go to #4*)

**51.1%** (89) To complete courses necessary for transfer to a **Physical Therapy** program

**17.0%** (15) If yes, is this a SECOND career? (*Go to #5*)

**0.0%** (0) Increase chances for a raise and/or promotion

**0.6%** (1) Personal development

**3.4%** (6) Other (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you ever considered continuing your education by enrolling in a **Physical Therapy Assistant Program**? (*Read list*)

- 57.1%** **(4)** Yes (*Ask where and when, then go to #6*)
- 42.9%** **(3)** No, not interested (*Ask why, then go to #6*)
- 0.0%** **(0)** Maybe (*Ask why, then go to #6*)
- 0.0%** **(0)** Already enrolled (*Ask where, then go to #6*)

*Comments:*

---

4. Do you still plan to, or have you enrolled in a **Physical Therapy Assistant** program?

- 82.7%** **(62)** Yes (*Ask where and when, then go to #6*)
- 9.3%** **(7)** No, not interested (*Ask why, then go to #6*)
- 6.7%** **(5)** Maybe (*Ask why, then go to #6*)
- 1.3%** **(1)** Already enrolled (*Ask where and when they enrolled, then go to #6*)

*Comments:*

---

5. Do you still plan to, or have you enrolled in a **Physical Therapy** program?

- 88.6%** **(78)** Yes (*Ask where and when, then continue*)
- 5.7%** **(5)** No, not interested (*Ask why, then continue*)
- 5.7%** **(5)** Maybe (*Ask why, then continue*)
- 0.0%** **(0)** Already enrolled (*Ask where and when they enrolled, then continue*)

*Comments:*

---

6. How would you rate your satisfaction with the **Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant** courses you have taken at OCC?

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <u><b>38.4%</b></u> <b>(63)</b> Very satisfied  | <i>Comments:</i><br>_____<br>_____ |
| <u><b>50.0%</b></u> <b>(82)</b> Satisfied       |                                    |
| <u><b>11.6%</b></u> <b>(19)</b> Neutral         |                                    |
| <u><b>0.0%</b></u> <b>(0)</b> Dissatisfied      |                                    |
| <u><b>0.0%</b></u> <b>(0)</b> Very dissatisfied |                                    |

7. What is your current employment situation?

- 1.7%** **(3)** Self-employed
- 39.7%** **(69)** Employed full-time
- 42.5%** **(74)** Employed part-time
- 4.0%** **(7)** Not employed, actively seeking employment (*Go to #9*)
- 2.1%** **(21)** Not employed, not seeking employment (*Go to #9*)

8. Do you work in a health related field? (*Probe for job title*)

---

9. OCC is considering a program for people interested in the field of physical therapy. This **proposed** Physical Therapy Assistant program would provide students with an OCC associate degree.

If this program was available at OCC, would you be interested in enrolling?

- 86.3%** (139) Yes
- 4.3%** (7) Yes, if I wasn't enrolled elsewhere
- 9.3%** (15) No (*Ask #10, then go to last question*)

10. Why do you feel this way?

11. A Physical Therapy Assistant program would include mandatory clinical internships. At the present time, there is no detailed information with regards to internship scheduling, but it would include a time commitment. Would mandatory participation in an internship influence your decision to enroll in this **proposed** program?

- 2.1%** (3) Yes (*not likely to enroll*)
- 39.6%** (57) Yes (*more likely to enroll*)
- 58.3%** (84) No (*it would not affect my decision at all*)

*Comments:*

12. Would you have a preference as to the type and location of clinical internships? (*Read the list ONLY if necessary: Outpatient therapy, rehabilitation center, hospital, handicapped school/center, nursing home, sports medicine clinic/athletic team, etc.*)

- 69.3%** (104) Yes (*Ask their preference for type and location*)
- 30.7%** (46) No

*Type*

*Location*

---

---

13. In terms of scheduling Physical Therapy Assistant courses, what would be the best time of day for classes to be offered?

- 33.1%** (52) Morning (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- 9.6%** (15) Afternoon(12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
- 20.4%** (32) Evening (6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)
- 9.6%** (15) Morning & Afternoon
- 2.5%** (4) Morning & Evening
- 1.3%** (2) Afternoon & Evening
- 23.6%** (37) Does Not Matter

14. What would you consider the best time to attend class, weekdays, weekends, or does it matter?

- 70.7% (111)** Weekdays (Monday - Thursday)
- 4.5% (7)** Weekends (Friday and/or Saturday)
- 24.8% (39)** Does not matter

15. Are there any other comments you would like to make about this **proposed** program at OCC?

---

"We want you to remember that this is only a **PROPOSED** program at this stage. When and **if** this program is implemented, literature will be made available. Please **do not** alter any current educational plans you may already have."

"Thank you very much for your time and assistance. We sincerely appreciate your help."

**Interviewer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



# APPENDIX E

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

### *Employer Survey Narrative Responses*

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
*Physical Therapy Assistant Program*  
*Needs Assessment*  
Employer Survey Narratives

**PT: Physical Therapist**

**PTA: Physical Therapist Assistant**

1. *How would you describe the type of service your organization provides?*

*Other:*

4. Orthopedic Therapy Outpatient Clinic
15. National Contract company for traveling PTs and PTAs
17. Contracting Agency
21. Contract staffing/traveling
27. Contractual Service
47. Contracting Agency
63. Contract with Agencies, Schools, Homes and Children's Clinic at their location.
70. Contract work.
74. Placement Service
82. Contract

4. *Has your company ever hired or considered hiring any Physical Therapist Assistants? Why or why not?*

1. In the past we hired 2 PTAs. I don't know if it was their training or personalities, but they thought they could assume all the responsibilities of a Physical Therapist.
5. I employ massage therapists, athletic trainers, etc. We are a specialized clinic and I hire people geared to specific injuries - dancers and some athletic injuries.
6. Some of our other clinics hire PTAs. Here we use athletic trainers in that capacity because we deal so much with sports medicine and the high schools.
13. We had PTAs in the past, but due to re-organization we presently do not employ them. However, we would like to hire two PTs and one PTA in the near future.
14. We had one PTA in the past. We have PTs and aides now with no intention of hiring any PTAs in the future. This company is being sold and we're not sure what the new owners will do.
17. We have in the past, we currently don't. We are a contracting agency having to meet state standards specifying that a licensed person is always in control. We work with only PTs and OTS to guarantee that a licensed person will be on the job.
20. Because we are specifically sports related. We hire athletic trainers rather than PTAs
26. Hired PTAs 5 yrs ago. None on staff now.
35. We prefer to use only licensed PTs. They're more versatile-able to assume any responsibility necessary.
41. We had PTAs employed, but lost contract with two nursing homes and let PTAs go. Happened very recently.

44. To help the PT.
45. The PTAs are competent and can assist the PTs with treatment.
62. We handle all work successfully as presently staffed.
66. We were planning to hire PTAs on a trial basis to determine need. To date PTs have done all the work.
70. There is a definite need for PTAs to ease the case load of PTs. They would follow protocol set up by PTs and allow PTs to see more patients.
71. Our physical therapist does everything with the patients -evaluation, hands-on exercise program, correspondence with physicians, documentation, and charting. Our organization won't be hiring PTAs, but we have 6 part time PT Aides who are presently in a PTA program. Once these people become real PTAs, they move on to another job since there are no positions for them here.
73. We had one PTA in the past and that position was just recently vacated. We want to fill that position in December.
76. Business is growing. When the time comes we will hire a PTA vs another PT for cost reasons.
79. Hard to find a certified and/or experienced assistant.
80. We feel we are well balanced and give good service. We are uncertain if that would be continued by PTAs.
81. Cannot find a PTA, would hire at least one right now.
84. We are expanding and looking into hiring a PTA. I have interviewed some PTAs already and am in the process of selecting one.
85. More important to have a Physical Therapist in program. It's a knowledge-based reason.
86. Hiring has been considered, but no decisions of any kind have been made.

## 8. *What are the typical duties of a Physical Therapist Assistant?*

1. At the directions of the Physical Therapist: traction, ultra-sound, overseeing the exercise programs and modules used in physical therapy.
2. They do everything a PT does, except evaluations. They can carry out a treatment plan but can't change it.
3. Supporting the work of the PT. Provision of modality, gait training, assist in supervision in on-the-job PT aides.
4. Patient treatment, keeping notes on patient progress, cleaning, etc.
6. Care of patients per the PT's orders. Follow through with treatment of patients, record keeping.
7. Treatment and assisting PT in treatment of patient. Record keeping for the PTA in setting up treatment plan.
8. Assisting the PT. Following the PT's guideline for the case.
10. Monitoring and implementing exercise programs and performing treatments prescribed by the Physical Therapist.
11. They work one to one with a Physical Therapist - directly under their supervision.
12. Assist in treatment i.e. hot packs, cold packs, keeping notes, changing linens.
13. PTA assists with modalities-works with clients under supervision of PT. This includes testing functional capacity evaluations, post-offer agilities tests, work hardening (conditioning).
15. Assist PT in administering therapy for patient.
16. We use a team approach. A PTA works with PT and does everything other than initial evaluations and re-checks. Modality and exercises included in duties.

17. Treatments and modalities as prescribed by PT.
18. Carry out treatment program of PT. Keep notes relating to treatment.
19. Follow plan of care established by PT. Daily notes for charting, some discharge summary.
21. Depends on the facility.
22. Do everything. Discharge planning, team conferences, manual therapy and evaluations.
23. Treating, documentation, conferences.
24. Progress notes to assist PT. Manual therapy, if trained, discharge notes. All under PT supervision.
25. Same as PT except for initial evaluation, all follow up treatment and notes
26. Assist in prep, ultra sound, traction.
27. Assist in everything except evaluations.
28. Administer activities, massage, light, sound, water treatments, ultra sound, hot & cold packs, compile data to PT, assist with evaluations.
29. Treat patients in connection with PT. Administer modalities, perform all therapy, strength testing, range of motion-all duties short of evaluation and discharge.
30. Progress notes, work under direction of PT, re-evaluate patients, develop treatment plan under direction of PT.
31. They carry out actual plan of care PT has set up.
32. Treatments as prescribed by PT
33. Under direction of PT, do treatment, follow up with physician. Visit with patient and PT one time every five visits or treatments.
34. Under guidelines of APTA, apply modalities: moist heat, cold pack, ultrasound, traction, T.E.N.S. unit, electrical stimulator, whirlpool and some therapeutic exercises.
36. Primarily exercising with patients, also doing modalities.
37. Treatment of patients. Participate in development of patient care program, assist PT.
38. Assist PT with patient care.
39. To assist with patient care according to Doctor's orders, under supervision of a supervisor.
41. Perform treatment as ordered by PT.
43. Follow treatment plan by PT.
44. Treating patients, charting, and assisting PTs.
45. They double as Administrative Assistants, assist PTs with patient treatment, perform general clerical and office duties.
46. Follow the work plan set up by the PT. Assists PT with treatment.
47. Generally to assist the PT with evaluation and carrying out treatment plans.
48. Progress notes, intake evaluations, medical forms, hands on, and ultra sounds.
49. Ambulating residents. Assist PTs in lab.
50. Follow treatment plans prescribed by the PT.
51. Aids and supervises treatment of patients, paperwork.
52. Assist PT ( PT establishes program.) PTAs do ultra sound, heat treatments. Trained to do Myo facial application (which is a specialized treatment).
53. Help out PT. Charting, carry out protocol that PT has set.
54. Treat patient under direction of PT. Handle patients treatment.
55. PTA will carry out the program. We use PTA similar to a PT. We use them as we do a PT except they cannot evaluate and establish program or discharge patients.
56. PTAs help PTs with modalities, evaluations and exercises.

57. Modalities, acarus, and general assistance to PTs.
58. Assist the PT with treating patients.
59. Following treatment plan. Note changes, documentation of work performed.
60. Hot pack, etc under direction of PT or Physician.
63. Execute treatment as outlined by PT. Assist in evaluations.
64. Carry out treatment as directed by PT.
65. PT and OT duties.
66. Following through treatment and techniques from PT. Charting, Modaliter set up by PT.
67. Delivery of patient services, paper work, administer medicines, etc.
68. Under PT, work in nursing homes and at clinic. Following treatment plan set up by PT.
69. Following treatment of a PT, charting, acarus, modalities, etc.
70. To assist PT in following plan set up by PT. Charting, providing treatment plan and modalite determined by PT.
72. Follow the direction of the physical therapist, give treatment according to Doctor's orders - varies from patient to patient.
73. Going out to nursing homes and assisting PT there.
74. Assist the PT with treatment.
75. Providing Therapeutic acarus modalities under the supervision of a PT.
76. They will do massage, stretches, acarus and modalities as needed.
77. Assist in patient care, perform modality treatments.
78. Treatment, follow up care of patients, helping the PT.
81. Perform procedures as outlined by PT.
82. Carry out treatment as outlined by PT.
83. Follow treatment as directed by PT.
84. To progress treatment of patient after evaluation by PT.
87. Do therapies as ordered by PT and outlined in the Association (PT) manual and directives.
88. Direct patient care using modalities, working with exercise program, progress notes, communication with PT, doctor, etc. as necessary.

9. *Are these PTAs employed on-site, or are they assigned to work outside the organization?*

3. Combination. Main campus and satellite, long term.
9. Off site: In homes
13. Combination. Newly hired PTA works on-site for first 6 mo. After that, PTA can go to a variety of industrial and occupational settings, i.e. factories, retail stores, to do job analysis.
15. Off site: Private clients, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities.
17. Off site: Hospitals and clinics
24. Combination: 90% on-site, 10% home health.
27. Combination: In hospitals and in homes
31. Combination: Home and clinic.
32. All off-site: homes and hospitals
41. Nursing Homes.
42. Some nursing homes under contract.
59. Homes

- 64. Combination: Hope to increase number of PTs and will consider off-site services also
- 68. In clinic and nursing homes.
- 69. One is at Imlay City Center and rest are in hospital. Both in patient and out patient.
- 72. One works on-site and one is sent to patients' homes.
- 73. Presently all off-site, but hope to hire more PTAs and these will be working on-site.
- 74. VA hospital, and sports medicine center.
- 82. Nursing homes on contract.
- 87. At Hospital PT Clinic and also in home settings.

*10. Please tell me what your organization's minimum educational qualifications are for entry level PTAs.*

*Other educational/training requirements:*

- 9. College associate degree plus 5 year experience in field working successfully under a PT. Require 2 weeks intense orientation within facility. Ninety days of intense training followed up by PT and administration. Contact with patients. PTs and PTAs are paid by the visit to patients. 27/week minimum. Part time PTAs all have other employment in the same field.
- 56. Continuation of PTA training throughout year.
- 65. In house experience.

*11. Are there any certificate or registration requirements? If so, what are they?*

*Other:*

- 4. License obtained in Ohio or Indiana
- 7. A certificate of completion of program.
- 9. Certificate of PTA
- 15. Passed national exam.
- 17. Have to pass an in-house (4 hr.) Workshop
- 18. Must take test in Indiana or Ohio and receive license.
- 29. Recommend be independently licensed in Ohio.,
- 33. Associates degree from Ohio.
- 37. Certificate
- 42. Licensed in Indiana.
- 46. Not required in Michigan.
- 47. No, not in Michigan
- 48. PT Certificate
- 49. Certification test.
- 51. Prefer licensing in Ohio or Indiana
- 52. None required in Michigan.
- 53. None required in Michigan.
- 55. None required in Michigan
- 56. Ohio PTA license, Michigan does not require one.

67. None required in Michigan currently.
68. None required in Michigan
69. CPTA license
70. State does not require.
72. Must pass the state test.
77. No, because the state of Michigan has no license requirements.
84. PTA certificate

12. *What is the minimum amount of experience required for entry level PTAs? Can this include an internship through high school or a college program?*

2. Some clinical experience which has exposed them to what they would deal with in an actual work environment.
3. Graduates; one internship is part of the 2 year program.
4. I hire a graduate student and train them myself, to my office standards and specifications
10. None. Hire new graduates.
11. Just graduation from PTA program which includes an internship.
12. Most are involved in a P.T. program.
13. The bare minimum is whatever internship is required by the school, but work recovery centers would prefer a little more than that, perhaps nursing home experience.
15. The clinical students have in their college program would be the minimum. Would hire these as new grads.
16. Clinical required by college program.
17. Degree and 2 years experience because of contractual nature of business.
18. We consider the abilities of the individual.
19. Experience through internship in associate degree program.
21. License eligible.
22. Hire new graduates.
23. Associates degree and internship.
24. Most 2 yr. programs have internships involved.
25. Only completion of PTA program.
26. Therapy, no entry experience required. Aid on job training.
27. No minimum. Internship through high school or college.
28. New graduates.
29. A 2 yr degree. That is the "golden key". Does not necessarily have to include an internship.
30. Hired right out of school.
31. One-year in a facility.
32. Two-year degree.
33. Internship through High School or college program.
34. Varies; I prefer 1-2 years of experience.
35. None.
36. One year experience.
37. One year experience, internship can be included.
38. No minimum. Graduate of accredited PTA program

39. No minimum, but graduate of PTA accredited program.
41. Experience helpful in rating applicants.
43. College Associate degree which may include internship.
44. None required.
45. Two years experience with 1 year in occupational medicine.
46. We accept new grads from a PTA program, no minimum experience required.
47. We accept new grads or 1 part or full time affiliate.
48. No minimum.
49. No minimal, we base a lot on personality.
50. Graduated from an accredited college with a PT program.
51. Right out of school.
52. Right out of school.
53. None. Right from school (training is provided).
54. None. Right out of school.
55. None. We do student training with Baker College and HFCC.
56. We hire PTAs right out of school.
57. No minimum experience required.
58. New grads with 1 year of clinical experience before we hire.
59. About 2 years experience.
60. High school diploma - internship.
61. 1-2 years experience. Hiring without experience would be an exception.
63. Typically require experience because a home setting is more demanding.
64. Would hire new PTAs with no experience.
65. Not sure, we're flexible. Home care requires a very different approach and skills in addition to those required for clinical situation.
66. Completion of accredited program including clinical rotation.
67. From school with an associates degree. Clinical rotations during school.
68. From accredited program, after receiving degree.
69. Out of program, after rotations and graduation.
70. Right from college program.
72. No experience is required, but previous work in a nursing home or hospital would be a plus.
73. None, they get experience right on the job.
74. No experience required
75. Nothing beyond the clinical internship in degree programs.
76. 1 year experience in Orthopedics.
77. None.
78. New grads and PTAs with clinical experience.
79. Would hire a certified PTA and train.
81. No experience required if they work at clinic.
84. Associate degree and certificate, but not so much experience necessary.
87. No experience required if certified.
88. No experience required for new grad of approved PTA school with associate degree.



*14. What type of training do you offer these PTAs?*

1. Trained by Physical Therapists. Every PT has his/her own techniques; some stress manual therapy, etc.
3. Working with the PT, assisting in physical therapy treatment, keeping notes. Graduate PTAs help in training, giving hands-on training in patient care.
4. Intense training, by myself, as to how things are to be done. I train them to do job specific things.
6. Use of ISO kinetic, other machinery. They are trained to the specific tasks they will be doing. It is not a general traditional program.
7. Work with the PT learning from them. The therapist will train according to their way of doing things.
8. Trained under the therapist according to how the PT likes things done. Works hand in hand with the PT.
9. Two week house orientation. Ninety day phone follow up with clients by administrators.
10. In-service training on new equipment procedures.
12. They work directly with me (physical therapist), assisting in whatever is necessary.
13. They provide training specific to their own technology which leads to their own certification. PTAs are certified in ERGOS-work simulator technology. This is a four day training period, either on or off-site. PTAs also certified in ADAMS- essential functioning job analysis technology- a two day training.
16. Training is on-going. PTA works one to one with PT. Monthly in-service for everyone.
18. In-service on all aspects of patient care. Application modalities and therapeutic procedures.
19. Hands on training, on the job.
22. Competency check. Entry level things. Documentation and ethical issues. Facility orientation. They work with PTs first week.
23. Treatment under supervision of PT, discussions re: improvement of patient.
24. Orientation can go to continuing ed. Company will pay for it.
25. In-service in general for treatment staff.
26. Prep, ultra sound, tracking
27. Orientation. Mentorship with a Physical Therapist.
28. Training on all new services and equipment. Provide financial help for continuing ed., seminars, etc.
29. Continuing education, both informally, and with formal in-services. Encouraged to attend continuing education, at office expense.
30. Train with owner. Continuing education, specific number of hours are required.
31. Orientation. Some clinical training to the extent of refresher training. Educational reimbursement for individuals choice of outside training.
33. Familiarize them with procedures of this organization.
34. Train on all equipment, and spend time working with patients under direct supervision of PT.
35. We have weekly in-service meetings for everyone.
37. One at 2 months orientation. Patient ethics, on the job training.
38. Working with PT. Observation and evaluation.
39. Orientation
41. Work in clinic and nursing homes with whom employer has a contract.
42. Orientation with procedures and machinery.

43. Skills orientation and familiarizing PTA with their specific equipment.
44. Orientation, but I don't consider that training.
45. We provide a dollar amount for PTAs to take classes and additional training. We do internships.
46. In service training, outside professional workshops, and seminars.
47. Orientation on-site with a PT.
48. Whatever we feel is necessary.
49. Orientation and seminars.
50. Orientation, etc.
51. Go over the basics and specific treatment regimes.
52. None really. We will train PTA for a specific treatment, if PTA does not know how.
53. Complete training. The PTAs are trained to office procedures, all treatments and exercises. On the job training from time to time.
54. Regular in-services. New hires are trained to office procedure.
55. We train them all to our policies and procedures when they work here. The students get on the job training.
56. Hands on training, working with PTs.
57. Policies and procedures.
58. In service training with PT and a Physician.
59. Financial assistance for continuing education.
60. Depends on skills and training they already have.
61. Continuing education (not in house), and money help for tuition.
63. We familiarize with our system and have close supervision by PT.
64. Three months probation.
65. Working closely with office manager, PT and MD if one is on the case.
66. In service training. Head injury related training. Specific training according to patient load.
67. Trained to our specs. After graduation, they are trained to how we do things.
68. In service in clinic under Pt in nursing homes and clinics. Training to specs of our needs.
69. In service given by PTs. Whatever continuing education classes hospital determines is needed.
70. Would hire PTAs to our standard of practice when hired.
72. They work directly with the PT for 2 weeks. They learn how to set up, run machines, and basically observe everything.
73. Learn how to take progress notes, do some clinical stuff, and patient motivation.
75. Extensive orientation and bi-monthly in service. Also continuing education fund so they can seek out classes on their own.
76. Train in exercises and massages, counter-strain techniques, mio-facial stretches.
77. In service programs. 3-4 day continuing education money, (\$800.)
78. Orientation, new employee orientation and team orientation.
79. We would offer orientation - hands on training with close supervision
81. Money for continuing education.
82. Orientation with office procedures and close supervision by PT.
84. Would be interested in an internship and we would train to our specific needs.
87. Lots
88. In service education, outside continuing education programs.

19. *In general, what advancement opportunities do you see for PTAs?*

3. Clinically, by law there is no advancement. However, as the field grows, I see a need for management, program activities coordination, and administrative positions opening.
4. None. There is no ladder for them. They can't advance. Most of their schooling is not applied toward a PT degree, so they can't really go farther.
6. Advancing within hospital would be minimal without further education. The duties of a PTA are limited to assisting a Therapist.
7. The need for re-hab will continue to grow. The PT program is long and the need for PTAs may grow accordingly. We hire PTs first and then for over load work we hire PTAs. The positions first go to PTs and then any part time extra work goes to PTAs.
9. Paid education
10. None here. Possibly in larger facilities, a supervisory status.
11. None currently. We're considering creating the position of senior PTA, but haven't done so yet.
13. We don't have a formal structure or a planned ladder of advancement. A person could become a Lead Clinical Supervisor, and could go all the way up to and including a management position such as facilities director.
15. We have PTA make one year commitment to company. After that, they can renew their contract for an upgrade in pay. Some go on to get a B.S. in PT., leaving work to do it. They come back as PTs and are compensated. There is no advancement into management positions.
16. No advancement-limited by education.
18. Financial. In larger organizations possibly program development or supervisory positions.
21. Must obtain degree to become PT. No advancement opportunities.
22. No advancement. They stay at PTA level.
23. Financial, preferential jobs.
24. PT schools have strict requirements and don't make it easy for PTAs to continue their education. They consider "book learning" over experience.
25. Up to 6% raise per year. Different opportunities to participate in various programs. Can move into program director.
26. Any position that becomes available, if qualified.
27. Increase in salary.
28. Higher income. Could become instructors.
29. Without further education, only financial is possible. With further education, can become PT.
30. Normal financial progression, possibly supervision of others, unless they become PT.
31. Other types of jobs between PTA and PT. Senior PTA or technician
32. With further education, yes.
33. Financial, preferential jobs.
34. Not sure, possibly supervisory.
35. Don't know.
36. None.
37. They can become lead PTA.
38. Financial advancement within our organization.
39. We have a small department, but they can be a team leader.
41. Very few unless they get more education and can advance to PT. Management already in place and very little room there.

42. Management, supervision, and administration.
43. None.
45. Professional advancement with additional education.
46. Financial advancement longer the PTA stays with company.
47. They can go into different settings and/or run a facility.
48. Not much without going back to school.
49. The way the market is, more organizations will turn to PTAs rather than PTs. But PTs have more chance for advancement.
50. They have it not so good as PTs, because of cost consideration. There's a wide variety of opportunity.
51. All nursing centers bring in patients, so there is a need for more PTAs.
52. Hard to predict based on the health insurance situation. There is not much advancement even for PTs. It may be wind up being too many PTs for the job market.
53. Hard to say. This is a small practice. Here there would be none because of the clinical limitations.
54. Hard to say. Can't comment.
55. Clinical limitations. APTA can be invaluable to a clinic. It is a wonderful career, but as to growth potential, they are limited. This question is unfair and can make it seem that PTAs are not valuable.
56. Increase in pay with additional education. We are too small an organization for position upgrade.
57. I don't really see any unless they become PTs.
58. I don't know.
59. Management (limited).
60. To technician - promote as they become more skilled.
61. A few, especially if they obtain further education.
63. Possible supervision of other PTAs.
64. Not established at this point.
65. Continued education would be necessary.
66. Not a lot. Remain a staff position with no room for advancement without further education.
67. Raises and increased vacation time. Clinically, PTAs cannot advance. Further education to PT would be good for PTAs.
68. None. They cannot advance without further education.
69. No advancement now. Only in a very large clinic could they advance in terms of being senior PTA. No further responsibilities or money.
70. Increased level of responsibilities. Clinically, they are as far as they could go. Should be encouraged to go on to PT program.
71. Think there will be more jobs out there because managed care will be the driving force.
72. Once a PTA always a PTA unless they continue their education and get their PT degree. Can only advance by getting credentials to move to a higher job classification.
73. Depends on their performance, there's always a chance for advancement.
74. They can advance if they further their education. Get their PT degree and get moved up in job classification.
78. Depends on the PTAs career track, additional training and education.
79. None unless they obtained PT degree.

- 81. All possibilities.
- 84. Go up in salary year to year but not much career advancement without further education.
- 88. Financial - salary increases at cost of living.

20. *Do you feel that a Physical Therapy Assistant program at OCC would be worthwhile to the community? Why do you feel this way?*

- 2. No one is training in Oakland County, we have to go to Henry Ford Community College.
- 3. There is such an advantage of PTAs in the area. The demand is going to grow and there are not enough programs to support that need.
- 4. I can't really say. I have never had a problem finding a PTA. They are not in great demand. For the most part, a PT will handle the work load themselves.
- 6. Not enough schools have followed through with a PTA program. Would give students a good start in this field.
- 7. Not enough schools have developed a PTA program. There is a need for PTAs in the field.
- 8. Other schools in Michigan have a program. Would be a good idea for OCC to have the program available to students.
- 11. We're in the Flint area, so it's hard to say. WE have no need. We've got Delta, Mott, Baker, Macomb, and Central's new PT program. We have many unemployed PTs in the area.
- 12. It's harder to get money from insurance companies. It will be more economical to hire PTAs at less money than a P.T. would cost.
- 13. Need more PTAs. OCC is very close to clinic. Only other schools are EMU, U of M. I don't want to work with WSU.
- 15. There will be an increased need for PTAs. The market is gearing toward hiring 1 PT with 5 PTAs working under that person. PTAs will be taking over PTs work, which does not bode well for PTs
- 16. This is a growing field. Department can team two PTAs with one PT.
- 17. Within the field, I see a shortage of Pts. Those trained as PTAs might go on to fill this void.
- 18. Field is continuing to grow. There is a need for a good educational basis to build from. Also continuing education.
- 19. North Oakland County has many schools already turning out PTAs (Mott, Baker, Macomb) Several years down the road I'm afraid we will have an over supply of PTAs who can't get jobs.
- 21. Yes, because of the need and difficulty in hiring.
- 23. Yes, waiting list at all colleges of up to three years.
- 24. If you could do a quality program. Other programs have problems getting clinical sites for students to do their rotations.
- 25. Less pay for PTAs can benefit the clinic.
- 26. The way medicine has evolved recently with more out-patient care, there will be more need to go to homes to provide services, in addition to medical attention.
- 27. OCC has excellent reputation. Good geographic location.
- 29. I'm on board at HFCC, and there are hundreds of applicants, but few spots to be filled.
- 30. A lot of people have applied to Macomb program, and could not get in. They allow 30 per year.
- 31. There's already a shortage of PTAs needed for skilled home care.
- 34. There is currently a shortage of PTs, therefore a need for PTAs who can do many things.

35. Due to managed care, not enough money from insurance companies (can't afford as many PTs). Possibly more PTAs would be hired. Lots of people are doing this kind of work also (athletic trainers, exercise physiologist, etc. They would be occupying PTA capacities in private practice as well as hospitals.
36. In certain areas of the state there was a shortage of PTAs, now more are being turned out and there could possibly be a glut.
38. It would be good in a school that also has a PT program.
39. I believe the position should be eliminated.
41. A lot are going out of area for their training.
42. Distance.
43. There is a continual growing need.
44. Because I think that there is a need in the community for PTAs.
45. Because in the Metro Detroit area it is difficult to find qualified people in occupational and sports medicine.
46. Because it is hard to find qualified people and it is needed more.
47. They are really needed. Henry Ford and Macomb have long waiting lists.
48. That's the way of the future -PTA.
49. There is such a need.
50. Yes, because there is a shortage out there.
51. I know Macomb has more applicants than it has spots for. We are utilizing PTAs more and more now.
52. We need to wait and see what the health insurance situation will be. I think we should work within the PTA programs now available and offer continuing education classes to help them keep abreast of new treatments.
53. Good program as a career. There aren't many PTA programs at other schools.
54. PTAs are used like PTs. They are needed and valuable in a clinic setting.
55. It is a program that is needed in Oakland County. PTA is a wonderful job.
56. Yes, but we are still getting resumes from people who graduated 2 years ago. And Macomb has a program, I wonder if we will have more applicants than jobs.
57. We have a lot of volunteers so there is a need for PTAs to help with patient care.
58. Aren't too many.
59. Trend using more Assistant PT, and also OT Assistant.
60. Another avenue to find people to work in their field.
61. This level provides hands-on experience approach to theoretical treatment.
63. Expanding field that will increase as HMO and other managed health care expand.
64. Already have program at Macomb CC and HFCC.
65. Growing need.
66. There is a growing need for both PTs and PTAs. No program in Oakland County. Would enable PTs to see more patients with PTAs to handle treatment and plans.
67. OCC has good programs and a new managed health care is in place. The need for PTAs will increase dramatically. A program is needed.
68. There are not enough PTAs to assist PTs. Can't find PTs willing to do PTA work. PTAs are hard to find.
70. They are very hard to find. Aides are easily available, but PTAs are few and far between. We have no PTAs working because we can't find any.

71. There is growth in this job area, also there's a long waiting list for PTA program at HFCC and a program at OCC would alleviate that.
72. More PTA programs are needed. There's only one in Wayne City. And another in Macomb. Some of our employees even went to school in Ohio.
73. I got my Aquatics Therapy training at OCC so I'm a little prejudicial in your favor.
74. Using PTAs is becoming more and more feasible and is the way to go nowadays.
75. No. Michigan already has 5 programs. Trying to find placements for clinical internships would be difficult. It's already happening, for example Mott is having problems currently.
76. The direction in health care is to cut back. It's more cost effective to hire PTAs than PTs.
77. No. Whether independent facilities will be hiring more in the future depends on legal fight now going on with BC/BS. They currently only want to reimburse hospital based facilities. Until 2 years ago, when one was established in Ohio there was no program where you could take your training as a PTA and continue to become a PT. I don't think a PTA program at OCC would serve the community very well unless OCC were to develop something in conjunction with Oakland University enabling students to attain bachelors degree in PT. I've been a PT for 20 years and I've seen the burn out and the frustration in the PTA field because there is nowhere to go from there.
78. There are so many programs already.
79. Demand for specialized and managed health care is expanding.
81. Field and need is expanding and will not be a threat in any way financial or careerwise to present providers.
84. Health care is becoming more focused on prevention and there is a need for more qualified people in this field.
87. Concern: Can we handle any more PTAs ?
88. I don't know how many grads we are getting from presently established schools and if the needs of community are met. Many PTAs and PTs leave state for greener grass.

22. *How long do you believe an ideal PTA internship should last?*

1. 3-6 months
3. 3-6 months applied in the 2nd year; first year-onsite visits.
4. The internship is in 3 parts: 1stYear #1- limited on-site visits, 2nd.Year #2 - 3 days per week for 1 month, #3 - 5 days per week for 2 months.
6. 4-6 weeks
7. One semester
9. 6 months
10. Should be more than one, ranging from two to four weeks to three months.
11. 2-3 months
12. 6 mo.
13. 16 hrs per week for 1 semester, 2-2 ½ months during summer.
15. 8 wks. Full time
16. 6 wks. Full time.
17. 6 mo.
18. 6 wks
22. Three 4-6 week rotations..
23. 8 wks- 24-30 hrs. Per wk.

24. 2 mo. Most internships are shorter. It's hard to get all educational and clinical crammed into a 2 yr. program. Most students memorize, but can't think or problem-solve.
26. 6 mo.
28. 1 yr.
29. 4 mo. Full time
30. 1 yr. Or 30 hrs. Per week for one semester
31. 1 yr.
32. 6 mo.
33. 6 mo.
34. 2 mo.
36. 26 weeks
37. 12 wks.
38. 8 wks.
39. 10 weeks
41. 3-6 months
42. 4-6 months
43. 6-12 weeks.
45. 1 month
47. 12-15 weeks
48. A few months
49. 6 months
50. It needs to be spread out - as you do rotations while in school.
51. 6-8 weeks
53. 1 year
55. 6 weeks
56. 6 months
57. 2 months
58. 3 months
59. 3 months (full time)
60. 240 hours
61. 6-9 month
66. 3 months (follow OT Assistant guideline)
67. Maybe 8-12 weeks.
69. Whatever the standard is.
71. Should be a 40 hour week clinical for 4-5 months or however long the semester is.
73. 6 months
76. 2-3 months
78. 6 months
80. 1 year
82. 6 weeks but uncertain
84. Two 4-5 week affiliates
87. 18 weeks ( 3- 6 week sessions)
88. 6 months to 1 year approx.



24. *Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to include concerning this proposed PTA program?*

2. I think it is a great idea. The field is changing, and we're relying more on PTAs to do a lot of the work that was previously done by Pts.
6. The staff at Henry Ford would be interested in teaching at PTA level. We currently teach PT classes at Oakland University. And WSU. We would be very interested in providing instructors.
7. I think it is a good idea. It would be a positive move for OCC to have this program available.
9. Changing health care environment.
10. Line up your internship well ahead of time. There is a lot of competition for sites.
11. As I said earlier, we have no need in the Lapeer, Flint area. Please make sure you research this thoroughly so you won't be turning out a lot of unemployable people.
13. Would like to be contacted when program gets going. Prefer to hire from colleges before putting ad in paper.
15. We might have a problem locating faculty for program. Also, the classes should be small so OCC will end up with a big waiting list.
16. Good direction to go into. Should educate students on insurance industry and business aspects. This is the reality of situation.
17. Please stress basic literacy skills.
22. More manual therapy for peripheral joint neuro and orthopedic manipulation is ok.
28. Will, on occasion, use sport therapists.
31. Include an instructional unit for home care, and administrative side of health care so PTAs will know how to deal with patients.
32. Mr. Ahmed is in process of establishing a training program for PTAs.
34. Be sure you're accredited with the APTA, so graduates will have no problem with registration.
37. Start the program immediately.
42. Presently working with Macomb C.C., Henry Ford C.C., and Kellogg who train PTAs.
48. There is a need for good PTs and PTAs.
49. I'd like some general information. We'd like to help you develop your PTA program.
50. I think it's good as there is a need out there.
51. I'd say do it, just do it.
55. With limited time, I can do what I can. I have helped set up other programs.
56. PTAs help us to keep the quality of patient care high.
59. There is a definite need.
60. Ours is an acarus based program. Patients must be somewhat mobile and not in constant pain. There is less future for PTAs than PTs for money reasons. They can qualify for greater money reimbursement when billing for services of a certified PT over services provided by PTA.
61. I'd be willing to help subject to approval by a committee which controls direction of the corporation.
64. Sinai Hospital also employs sports trainers with AT Certification.
67. PTAs will be more involved in managed care. Program is necessary.
68. Just that a PTA program would be worthwhile because of the lack of PTAs available.
70. Just that they are badly needed.
73. They should include aquatic therapy in the PTA program, it's the up and coming thing.

78. I have heard that there are 11 PTA programs with OCC's, Macomb C.C., HFCC, Baker College, Delta College and I can't think of all of them but the grapevine says so.
80. All 3 owners are PTs, trained in the Netherlands. They are not familiar with a PTA program either on the job or in a training program. Are fearful of dilution of quality of care with assistant.
81. OCC should get started ASAP!
82. This field will expand because with PTAs we can reach more clients and at less cost.
84. Maybe in another year we will be more equipped to aid your program. There may be a PT here who would be interested in working with the program, however I am too busy at this time.
87. I question the need and ability to assimilate them into present programs.

# APPENDIX F

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

### *Student Survey Narrative Responses*

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
*Physical Therapy Assistant Program*  
*Needs Assessment*  
Student Survey Narratives

2. *What is/was your primary reason for taking Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant Classes at OCC?*

*Other reason?*

- 20. To take classes and eventually become a PT. I have a career, going to school is a hobby now really. It will take years to obtain any degree and I have made no decisions.
- 27. May want to go into sports medicine.
- 44. Something I thought I'd like to do.
- 46. My brother got hurt and I wanted to help him and this is how I decided on this program.
- 118. Not sure if I want PTA. I think I'm going into nursing.
- 173. Refresher course. I already have a degree from Alma College in Exercise Science and have been out of the field for a while. I want to brush up before I get back into it.

3. *Have you ever considered continuing your education by enrolling in a PTA program?*

- 72. Not sure where.
- 118. Don't know where. I really lost interest in this program.
- 145. As I completed the classes in OCC's Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant Program, I came to the realization that I wouldn't be able to hack it as either a PT or a PTA. That's why I got my associate degree from OCC in General Studies. I would like to go on to get my bachelor's degree in another health-related field.

4. *Do you still plan to, or have you enrolled in a PTA program?*

- 2. I'll enroll at Macomb next year sometime. I have to finish an anatomy class and I work, so I'm not sure exactly sure when I'll be able to do this.
- 5. Macomb, not sure when. Have to finish the prerequisites.
- 7. Macomb, not sure when.
- 8. I want to get into the Macomb program, but not sure when. I was in a car accident and am going for physical therapy myself 4 times a week.
- 14. Macomb, I'm not sure when. It takes a while.
- 15. Macomb, but I'm not sure when (it will be after my marriage in July).
- 16. Macomb. I'm in my first semester now.
- 17. Macomb, Fall 97.
- 22. Macomb. Not sure when. I have tried to get in, but was not accepted. Will continue to try.
- 23. Not really sure at this time, but would want to continue. I was told I could finish at Macomb, not OCC.

26. Macomb.
28. Macomb, '97 Fall.
31. Macomb, won't start until Sep. '96.
34. Still attending classes at OCC and have changed my mind. I'm now interested in sports medicine.
38. I want to get into the program at Wayne County Community College, but I'm not sure when I'll be able to go.
39. I want to get into the program at Macomb. I should be done at OCC after the spring term.
41. I plan to enroll in a PTA program, but I can't tell you where right now. I don't know.
42. Macomb in the Spring of '96.
47. Macomb, Winter '96.
50. WSU, Fall 1997.
55. Spring of 96 directly to Oakland University.
60. No, but I intend to.
62. Just completed state boards in Toledo Ohio Professional Skills Institution.
63. Macomb. Unsure because I have to take a test before Christmas. Hopefully in Spring '96.
64. My plans are on hold. I am starting my own business now and am unsure when or where I will attend.
66. Macomb, Fall '97.
67. Macomb, Fall '96.
68. Macomb, not sure when.
75. Have not had opportunity or know the particulars of where and when.
80. Have completed almost all requirements, but not sure of acceptance at Macomb. Will enroll if all the tests, etc. are satisfactory.
81. Have applied to Macomb.
83. The waiting list at Macomb was too long. I've switched to Occupational Therapy.
84. Enrolled at Macomb now.
89. I have changed my mind. I am going to be a P.A.(physician's assistant).
90. Have applied at MCC, Baker, and Delta and am waiting for acceptance.
94. I saw hands-on in a hospital and decided I did not want to be a part of physical therapy. I didn't want to be responsible for someone's life.
95. Macomb, I don't know when.
96. I haven't finished my prerequisites, but when I do, I'll transfer to Macomb. I don't know when.
97. Macomb, don't know when.
98. Macomb, not sure when.
101. Macomb, Fall '96.
102. Macomb, January 31, 1996.
104. Fall '96, Macomb.
106. Do not have enough credits to enroll at Macomb yet, but I do desire a medical related career.
108. HFCC, Fall '96. I have been on a waiting list for 2 years.
109. Macomb, Fall '96.
110. On waiting list for both Macomb and HFCC. I would transfer ASAP. Both schools have a long waiting list.
111. Macomb, not sure when. After I finish my prerequisites.
113. Macomb, Fall '96.
115. I think I won't stay at OCC or in the program. I have worked 10 years at GM and will become an electrician and stay at GM.

116. I don't know when. I have to meet with my advisor to see how long it will be. I'll attend Macomb.
119. Don't know where or when.
121. Macomb, Fall '95. I'm in the program now.
124. Don't know where. I'd love to then I could eventually become a PT.
128. Not yet. When I can afford it and then eventually to Oakland University for a full PT.
130. After I finish my prerequisites, I'll enroll at Macomb Community College.
132. Yes, I start classes at Baker Community College in the Fall of 1996.
134. Oakland U, but I haven't contacted them yet.
135. Macomb, Fall '96. Then I will go on to Wayne State to get my PT degree in their master's program.
138. Macomb, Fall '96.
140. Macomb, Winter '96.
142. I don't know where, Fall 1997.
146. I have one more semester here at OCC and then I'm thinking of getting into the PTA program at Macomb College or any other program that will accept me.
148. I'm going to OCC part time and am not sure when I'll be done here. I want to get an associate degree as a PTA, but I'm not sure where I want to go. After I get my associate degree, I want to continue my education and get my masters in PT. I'm not sure when this will come about, but I have contacted Oakland University for information on this.
154. Macomb, but there is a long waiting list.
160. OCC for pre. Don't know where after that.
163. This is going to be my life's career.
165. Plan to go into Veterinary Medicine.
166. Get an associate degree at Macomb and then get a bachelor degree at Oakland University or Wayne State University.
172. I had a baby recently. I heard the program was hard to get into and I'm working days so I don't have much time.
174. I will go to Macomb when I finish my pre - requisites at OCC.

*5. Do you still plan to, or have you enrolled in a PT program?*

1. I'd like to enroll at the University of Missouri.
3. I plan to enroll at Eastern eventually.
4. Oakland University. Fall of '96.
6. Not sure. Possibly Oakland University.
9. Oakland University. Fall 96.
10. Oakland University. Fall '96.
12. I currently have problems at home.
13. I plan to enroll at Wayne. Not sure when.
18. Not sure where. Hope to transfer next year. Maybe Wayne or Oakland University.
19. Wayne State, in one year.
21. Not sure. Probably Oakland University. Don't know when.
24. Wayne, not sure when, but after I get my associate degree.
25. Fall 97 - Oakland University.
29. I want to enroll in the PT program at Oakland University next fall.
30. I have applied at Oakland University. for the accelerated program (2 ½ yrs.)
32. EMU, winter term, Jan 96.

33. Transfer to a 4 year to finish, maybe Oakland University.
35. This is my first semester at OCC, and I want to finish in 2 years and go to Oakland University to become a PT.
36. Have sent applications to Oakland University, U of M, Andrews University (Berrien Sps), Central, and Grand Valley State, but haven't been accepted yet. I prefer to go to Oakland and hope to get into the Spring program.
37. I have twins that are 2½ years old and I'm not sure when I'll get into a program. I'm taking a full load of classes next semester.
40. Wayne State - Winter 1996.
45. Wayne State, Sep. '96.
48. Master's program at Oakland University.
49. Not sure what medical specialty I want.
51. After the PTA program at Macomb.
52. In 2 years - WSU or Oakland University.
53. Classes at OCC and transfer to Oakland University, starting in Spring 1996
54. WSU in the near future.
56. I will enroll in the PT program at Oakland University as soon as I finish the Pre PTA classes at OCC.
57. Not sure.
58. I will enroll in the PT program at Wayne State or Oakland University in 1997.
59. When I finish my prerequisites at OCC, I will enroll at Oakland University.
61. Oakland University when I finish my prerequisites at OCC.
65. Oakland University, Fall '96.
69. Haven't made a firm commitment to this program. I may change majors and not go into PT.
70. Oakland University in 1 year.
71. Long term goals not clear yet. I want to be a PT, but unsure where or when.
73. Wayne State - Jan. '97.
74. I had planned to enroll at Oakland University. but I changed my mind because of work and family. I just don't have the time.
76. Have called Oakland U. and [name deleted] is not available and I have had no calls returned.
77. Not yet enrolled, investigating.
79. Have contacted Wayne State and Oakland U. Wayne State responded, Oakland University did not.
82. I plan to talk to a counselor, I'm not sure.
85. Oakland University, 1997.
86. Oakland U. In the Fall of '96.
87. I plan to enroll in the PT program at Washington U. after I complete my prerequisites at OCC.
88. As soon as I finish at OCC, I will transfer to Wayne State.
91. Spring 1997, not sure where yet. Currently checking out schools.
92. Not sure where or when because of new marriage and baby.
93. Don't know yet, depends on how long it takes to get through classes at OCC. Plan to go to Oakland University or WSU.
99. U of M (Flint), Spring '96.
100. Winter '96, Oakland University.
105. Have not achieved credits, changed my mind, will go to WMU for Business Adm.
107. Florida State University, Summer '96

112. Spring '97. I am getting married and husband is in the service. I will apply wherever we are living. My plans now are up in the air.
114. Oakland University, Fall '96.
117. Oakland University, don't know when.
120. Oakland University. Maybe in the Fall '97. Not too sure (family illness may delay the start date).
122. Ohio State after 2 years.
123. Not sure, but I want to get my Master's in it.
125. Oakland University after I get my associate degree. I want a master's degree in PT.
126. I'm really going for PT 1 year and then transferring to Oakland University.
127. This is the last trial or shot I'm giving it. If I can't get into a program, I'm going into engineering. I've applied to over 10 PT schools and there's 2 years or more waiting lists and lots of competition.
131. I plan to enroll in a PT program after I finish my prerequisites at OCC. I have not considered any school for the PT program yet.
133. I have an application from MSU and will return it soon. (Wants PT).
136. Eastern, Fall '96.
137. WSU, Spring '98 or Fall '97.
139. Fall '96, Grand Valley State University.
141. I changed my major to OT. I was going to transfer to OU to get a PT, but decided to get a straight master's and become an OT.
143. I plan to enroll at Oakland University, but I'm not sure when.
144. Still have 1 ½ more years here at OCC. After that I'm going to apply to these colleges (in order of preference) Central, Oakland, or Wayne State.
147. I have no idea when I'll be done at OCC and don't know what college I'll go to for a Physical Therapy program.
149. Wayne State in two years.
150. Not sure when or where.
151. OU in two years.
152. I'm applying for a PT position as I speak with you.
153. I'm going to volunteer at Beaumont Hospital.
156. WSU in two years.
157. I will enroll in the PT program at OU when I finish my prerequisites at OCC.
158. I transferred over to OU about a year ago with the intention of getting into their PT program. I have one more class to take and hope to get accepted into the program in the spring term.
162. OU or WSU both will send applications.
164. Plan to enroll at OU after prerequisite courses are done. Probably January, 1997.
167. Most likely OU within 1-1½ years.
168. Considering next year at Central.
169. Have not enrolled, but plan on doing so, but don't know where yet.
170. Plan to enroll at WSU, but don't know when. Might be within a year if enough credits are earned for a transfer.
171. By 1997 at Central, Georgia State University, Howard University, or Wayne.



6. *How would you rate your satisfaction with the Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant courses you have taken at OCC?*

*Comments:*

4. Classes are good. I'm learning a lot.
6. I am taking 1 pre-req. course now. Can't really determine satisfaction.
8. Never cared for environment at Royal Oak campus, but my instructors have been very understanding.
11. Classes are good. Some are hard for me.
12. I haven't really taken any courses except Math, English, etc.
17. Graduation next year in general studies, I haven't had many pre-req. courses.
29. I'm gaining more knowledge about the subject and becoming more comfortable in laboratories. Biology and Chemistry classes.
31. Excellent ratings.
32. Excellent.
35. Satisfied with the Math and Psych. courses, but a little disappointed with a Career Planning class.
36. Loved OCC! Would recommend it to everybody. I thought the program was very good and had good teachers.
37. Just took one class so far and thought the teacher was good.
38. I was satisfied with the medical class.
39. Very good, pleased with classes. I always had my questions answered.
44. I haven't taken any classes yet. I'm registered for Winter term '96
49. Haven't taken any Pre PTA classes.
50. Want more Pre PTA classes offered at Auburn Hills campus.
52. Taking basic classes and not taken any pre PTA classes yet.
53. Good teacher and learned a lot.
60. All teachers and staff are easy to work with and willing to help.
64. Not taking classes this term.
71. Only taking 1 class. I registered too late and was closed out of most classes.
72. Am just taking basic pre-req. classes now.
77. Only taking general education classes at the present time.
80. I have been out of school a long time. I graduated in '79 from Olivet.
90. Did not like Organic Chemistry class. Did not think instructor communicated well. She read right from the book.
91. I was impressed and surprised by level of work in class.
92. Haven't taken any pre PTA classes.
94. Didn't take any.
106. Doing poorly in Human Anatomy course.
111. A lot of classes were closed and I didn't get some classes I wanted or needed.
112. Only took one class and can't say.
118. Just taking prerequisite courses now. Won't take any PTA courses.
119. Just taking Pre requisites.
120. Just taking prerequisites now.
141. I have only taken Math, but it was good.
143. I've only taken 2 courses.
144. I've enjoyed teachers and classes very much.

- 146. Had fun at OCC.
- 148. Most were pretty good, but disappointed with my Biology class.
- 154. They prepared me.
- 158. Loved the instructors at OCC. I think OU is a big change.
- 160. Have had the general education classes only, none strictly connected to PT.
- 164. I'm dissatisfied with pre-anatomy class because the instructor gave assignments that did not consider the student's needs. We are working adults. There were no study guides and too many unfair practices.
- 165. Teachers were good. I like OCC.
- 166. The majority of teachers are good.
- 167. Instructor for anatomy was very good.
- 168. Enrolled, but haven't taken courses yet.
- 169. They are challenging and I have learned a lot. I wish more would be offered.
- 171. Anatomy and Physiology were especially good. Psychology and other science courses helped you to decide what you want to go into.
- 172. Leaned a lot.
- 173. It's a lot different at OCC then at Alma. At Alma they worked on real cadavers for their anatomy classes.

*8. Do you work in a health related field?*

- 15. Yes. Primary care worker.
- 22. Yes. Massage therapist.
- 28. Yes. In Beaumont Hospital physical therapy off site facility. I work as an aide.
- 39. Yes, nursing assistant in a Nursing Home and also do private duty work.
- 40. Yes, at Grace Hospital as a patient transporter.
- 42. Yes, medical assistant.
- 44. Yes, medical assistant.
- 48. Yes, dental assistant.
- 51. Yes, physical therapy clinic assisting with patients.
- 57. Yes, medical receptionist/assistant.
- 59. Yes, CENA at Oakland County medical. Certified L. Nursing Assistant (has more responsibilities).
- 62. Yes, I am a PTA.
- 63. Yes, personal trainer at health club.
- 67. Yes, direct care worker with mentally impaired.
- 71. Yes, massage therapist.
- 78. Yes, pharmacy technician - retail pharmacy.
- 80. Yes, transport patients to recreational therapy - assisting therapist.
- 83. Yes, private duty work.
- 84. Yes, aide in PT outpatient clinic.
- 86. Yes, I'm a physical therapy technician.
- 90. Yes, PT technician (part time).
- 96. Yes, Oakland General Hospital/Pharmacy Tech.
- 104. Yes, Veri -nutrition rep.
- 120. Yes, Veterinary Hospital ( assist doctor, dispense medicine).

128. Yes, Grace Hospital in medical records.
130. Yes, I am a biller at Home Equipment Medical company.
136. Yes, in summer I am a PT technician, transportation of patients, paperwork, and do many modalities under supervision of PT.
138. Yes, I am a volunteer at St. Joseph Hospital in PT dept., working in Orthopedics.
139. Yes, PTA in an out patient facility.
140. Yes, direct care/disabled adults.
141. Yes, hand clinic (occupational therapy).
151. Yes, I work with handicapped children and adults.
152. Yes, nursing home. I work with contracted PTs.
153. Yes, I work at First of America bank and volunteer once a week at Beaumont.
154. Yes, I work with PTs. My dad owns five PT clinics.
155. Yes, I take care of older people.
158. Yes, I'm a receptionist in a doctor's office.
159. Yes, PT of Southfield.
163. Yes, PT technician for 2½ years at Total Rehab at Wyndamere Nursing Home.
164. Yes, health care analyst.
166. Yes, appointment clerk at Beaumont.
167. Yes, owns a gymnastic instructing business.
171. Yes, City of Southfield. Trainer for weight training and cardiovascular fitness.

*10. If this program was available at OCC, would you be interested in enrolling?*

*Why do you feel this way?*

2. Convenient location.
5. Closer now driving.
6. The classes would be close to home. Convenience.
7. Close to home. I wouldn't have to change schools.
8. It would be more convenient than Macomb. I live in Southfield.
9. I already have most of the classes required. If it would all transfer to OU, I'd go for the associate degree.
10. I am going to be a PT and am not interested in obtaining PTA certification.
11. The more I learn the better. As much education as I can get. Wouldn't matter where I took classes. OCC is closer to home, but if Macomb has better classes, I'd go there.
12. It's close to home. I think it would be good to get an associate degree, learn something about the field, and then go into physical therapy eventually.
13. I'd have to find out more about it, but I'm pretty sure I would still pursue my goal of being a PT.
14. Very interested. OCC is more convenient for me than Macomb.
15. I wouldn't have to transfer to Macomb. It would be a lot more convenient.
16. I would have before, but I'm already enrolled at Macomb. These are tracked courses offered in groups and aren't transferable.
17. Would take the courses at OCC rather than Macomb. Hope it happens before I am finished there. Would rather stay at OCC, it is closer to home and convenient. Not many schools offer PTA program.
18. Just to get the associate degree. Should be in the field of study I am pursuing after OCC.
19. Opportunity for more education and another degree.

20. My interests are sports and therapy. I'll continue in school anyway, and as long as a PTA degree was available, I would take this program toward becoming a PT.
21. I want to obtain my certification anyway. Would like to have an associate degree in PTA before transferring to Oakland University for my PT degree.
22. Would enroll immediately. I want to be in a PTA program and OCC would be my preference.
23. Was told Macomb had the program, not OCC. Would be convenient to stay at OCC and get a PTA degree.
24. I am going for an Associate degree. Should be in PTA, since that is course of study.
25. I will probably get an associate degree anyway, might as well be in PTA.
26. Close to home. Comfortable at OCC. School deals well with older people returning to school.
27. With an associate degree I could go on with my education and decide if physical therapy and sports medicine is what I really want.
28. I intend on going to get my PTA degree. Would be more convenient at OCC.
29. I'd become more familiar with the field of physical therapy. I think I'd still go on to get my masters, however.
30. That is the field I want.
31. I'm ready to enroll right now if that were only possible.
32. Close to home.
33. Wish a career with more future.
34. I want to get into sports medicine. I think it's completely different from being a PTA. I want to try to get into the sports medicine program at Eastern.
35. I really don't have the money now to go to a university. If I could get the PTA associate degree and could get a good job right away, maybe I wouldn't have to get a master's in PT. Depends on the situation.
36. I already have over 100 credits from OCC and I'm set on going for my master's and becoming a PT.
37. It would help me determine whether I should go into this field.
38. OCC would be a lot closer for me than WCC ( I live in Highland) and I'm more familiar with OCC and it would be more convenient.
39. It would be closer to home.
40. I've been accepted at Wayne State, but would have stayed at OCC had the program been available at an earlier date.
41. I like the field.
42. Because it's closer to where I live.
43. More convenient, it's closer than Macomb.
44. More convenient.
45. It would help me out before I transfer.
46. So it can help me.
47. Tuition residency, less drive time, convenience, and I like OCC.
48. It would help me to become a PT.
49. Currently taking class as ward clerk so that I can see what jobs are like personally before I decide.
50. I would like to continue taking classes at school where I started and not have to learn about a new school.
51. Would like to enroll "yesterday" or ASAP. Contact me.
52. Would like to take PTA classes at OCC if available.
53. Depends on how many classes would transfer for PT degree at Oakland University.

54. I am very interested and would like to be a part of an OCC program.
55. I've always been interested in PT because of family situation.
56. If the program was available at OCC I would be interested in enrolling because I think the classes would be offered on a regular basis and at an OCC location near me.
57. I love the way the teachers give individualized attention to students.
58. If the PTA program was available at OCC, students who are interested in the field would not have to be placed on a waiting list to get into a PTA program.
59. It would be more convenient for me and because I am pursuing a career in physical therapy.
60. Counselor suggested I would be able to enter a PTA program if I finished an associate degree first.
61. I think that a PTA program at OCC would be financially cheaper and more convenient for students.
62. Because it would have been the third program in the area and more students could have enrolled.
63. I want to enroll anyway. I'd prefer to be at OCC and not have to go to another school.
64. Location is great. I love OCC and would be convenient for me to be here.
65. It would be a wonderful program. As long as I am attending OCC, I would want to benefit by getting an associate degree in PTA. More educational experience is better.
66. I'm an Oakland County resident and would prefer to stay at OCC. I like the school.
67. I like OCC. I'm closer to all OCC campuses than to Macomb. I'd prefer to stay at OCC and finish my education here.
68. When I found out about Macomb's program, I realized how far it is and how long the wait is to get in, and I would prefer staying at OCC. I like the school and hope the program begins.
69. As long as program was offered at OCC, I would stay to get associate degree in PTA, unless I decide to change my field of study.
70. I hadn't considered a degree, but if a PTA program were offered, I'd go into it and get my associate degree before transferring to Oakland University.
71. I like OCC. It is close to home. This is the program I would major in. Getting a PTA degree would help me work my way through PT school.
72. This will be my major field of study. If program is at OCC, I will stay here and finish my education.
73. I want to get enough credits to transfer to Wayne, I'm not interested in PTA program. I want to go on to be a PT only, and am anxious to begin program at Wayne.
74. It would be a shorter time commitment than PT and an easier way to get into the field.
75. I have received PT help for an injury and became interested in the work through association with therapist.
76. This is my career decision. I want this type of work.
77. I only want the PT program - nothing less.
78. I want PTA to be my life's work.
80. Distance. Macomb is 35 miles each way.
81. Definitely would. I've been pleased with all aspects of my educational experiences at OCC.
82. My plans aren't real developed at this stage.
83. PTA was really the field I wanted, but it would take too long because of the waiting list at Macomb.
84. Absolutely. It would be much more convenient. I currently drive 1 hour each way to Macomb. That's 2 hours of study time wasted.
85. Would be next step up for training. OCC is close and convenient.
86. I think the PTA program would prepare me to continue in a PT program.
87. A program at OCC would be at a location near me.
88. Because it's hard to find a school with PTA program.

89. I am not completely sure if I want to be a physician assistant, and if I could take the necessary classes, I'd consider taking the PTA courses.
90. Not discounting any opportunity to learn skills toward being a physical therapist.
91. I feel any experience/education geared toward PT would be valuable.
92. I still want to be a PT, but can't do it right now.
93. Because it would be beneficial to me to get classes in one place and be able to transfer them to another school.
94. Been scared away because classes were tougher than high school.
95. It's closer to my home.
96. OCC is a good school. I've been going there and am satisfied with instructors. They give you a lot of help.
97. Close to home.
98. It's closer
99. It's close to my house and I enjoy the school.
100. I'd like to get started and Oakland University accepts so many a year.
101. It would help me get further in my career.
102. That's the field I'm interested in.
104. It's closer to home.
105. Have been accepted at WMU (for Business Administration), and am waiting for financial aid and/or loan arrangements.
106. OCC is close to home and it is the field I have chosen.
107. I am moving out of state and want a PT degree, not a PTA.
109. I'd like to stay at OCC. It's closer to home. I work at GM and they are paying for my education and I'd like to continue my education at OCC.
110. I am waiting to get into a program now. I would love to stay at OCC and begin a program here. I hope it happens.
111. I live in this area. I would prefer staying at OCC and not driving so far to Macomb.
112. I don't know where I'll be in the Spring of '97. I'd hate to begin a program and then have to move away.
113. It's closer. I really like OCC. The professors are good and I would prefer to stay at OCC.
114. It's the beginning of the field I want to be in. As long as I was getting an associate degree, it should be in PTA.
115. I'm not interested in the program anymore. I plan on becoming an electrician.
116. Accessibility. OCC is closer to me than Macomb.
117. It's close to home. I'm not 100% sure if I want to make the time commitment to a PT program. This may be the answer for me right now.
120. While attending OCC getting an associate degree would be beneficial to me, especially in the field of study that I am interested in.
121. I am in the program at Macomb. Will complete there. Don't know if program at OCC will begin before I finish at Macomb.
122. So I can learn all I can and I'd like to stay at OCC.
123. Anything to further my education and get more experience.
124. It's something I want to get into.
125. I feel that the more experience I get, I'd benefit from it.
126. Probably not for the assistant. I'm going all the way!

127. Sure, but I'd like to see where I am at that time of my life.
129. Very much so. I used to work at a nursing home and really loved it. It would make it easier to actually become a PT.
130. PTA program at OCC location would be more convenient for me.
131. OCC would be a more convenient location for me. I think the cost of the program would be cheaper for students.
132. If I wasn't enrolled elsewhere, location of a program at OCC would be more convenient for me.
133. PT is my main interest at this time.
134. 2 year program would enable me to start my career sooner.
135. It would be closer than Macomb. I am used to OCC campuses and would prefer to continue here and then go on to Wayne for my PT.
136. I would want to be sure that the program was accredited.
137. It's close to home and as long as I was enrolled at OCC, I would take the courses necessary to get a PTA and then transfer to Wayne for my PT degree.
138. I'm already attending OCC and I am happy with my time at OCC and would like to remain here.
139. If I'm not already past that point, I'd consider it. I am so close to entering a PT program that I think I'd be finished before this program is in place.
140. Would stay at OCC to finish education. No openings for students entering this field. There are limited spaces at other schools in the area.
142. It's close to my home.
144. As long as all the classes I'd be taking would transfer over to another college's PT program. I have my mind set on getting my masters in PT.
145. Already have an associate degree and don't want to come back to OCC. I'm done with OCC.
146. I would grab it in a minute if it was available at OCC. It would be very convenient because it's close to my house.
147. I have my mind set on going for my master's in Physical Therapy.
148. I'm already affiliated with OCC. It would be cheaper than Oakland University and my sister went through OCC, nursing program and she gives that a good recommendation.
149. I want to go right for my PT.
150. It's a start. A means to an end.
151. I do want to go with pre PT. It will enable me to get a job later on.
152. I want to be in PT school.
153. If it's to my advantage, why not?
154. Of course. That's probably the first thing I'd do.
155. I'm definitely interested if the program takes off.
156. If I could eventually move up.
157. OCC location would be convenient for me and the tuition would be cheaper.
158. I'm not sure because I don't know if I could get into OU's PT program. Around 400 people are applying to get in and if I'm not accepted, OCC's program might be a good alternative.
159. This is going to be my career.
160. This is my first choice of a career.
161. It is a way to get started in my chosen career.
162. Only if entrance to PT program is blocked.
163. This is my field and Macomb is 50 miles drive each way.

164. Even though it's only an associate, it would give a head start towards a four year degree, an extra edge.
165. I changed career goals.
166. It's convenient. I know the campus because of going there so long. It's a field that would fulfill career goals.
167. It's an opportunity to complete a degree as opposed to a certificate without trying to get into a four year program, which is difficult.
168. After receiving physical therapy, I became interested in it.
169. Even just getting an assistant's degree would help further your education in getting started in the field if you plan to go further.
170. It would be convenient, location wise. I like OCC, the teachers, the classes, the administration and the counselors. Everything has been great so far, even though I would go on to become a PT, I would still like an associates degree.
171. Could transfer credits to a four year school.
172. I like the way things are run at OCC. It has a convenient location that's closer than Macomb or Dearborn.
173. It would be a stepping stone to getting my masters.
174. Location of PTA program at OCC would be closer to me and would probably be cheaper.

*11. Would mandatory participation in an internship influence your decision to enroll in this proposed program?*

1. Depends on the time commitment involved.
3. I'm pretty sure I want to go into Physical therapy, but I'm not real sure.
5. Convenient location is a factor.
6. I understand internships are necessary in the field of study.
7. Need internship for experience.
8. I'd have to work during my internship.
11. More experience the better. Internships are important before we begin working.
12. I know internships are necessary.
15. I worked in a physical therapy clinic previously and I would like more exposure to it.
20. Important fact of education is clinical rotation.
24. Give more experience in dealing with patients, learning more through internship.
29. I'd know exactly what I'd be doing on the job, get more familiar with it.
30. Understand internship programs.
31. I understand the internship program.
35. I'm working almost full time now to put myself through school, so it would be difficult to work in an internship. I'll figure that out later.
37. It would show what exactly is entailed in the job.
38. I'm presently working an afternoon shift, so I'm not sure how I could swing an internship.
39. I think the practical experience is a good idea. The student can find out for him or herself whether they like this type of work.
56. Most places require internships.
57. My current job is a clinical internship.
58. I think the clinical internships are necessary for certification.



59. I would be more likely to enroll if clinical internship was mandatory.
60. It would depend on how many hours per day.
61. I have chosen physical therapy as my profession. Mandatory participation in an internship would not affect my decision to enroll in the proposed program at OCC.
62. Because clinical internships are required for a PTA approval for college PTA programs.
63. Clinical internships are important to show students what they will actually be doing when they finish with the program. Good exposure to actual work situations.
64. I know clinicals are a part of this program.
67. I would look forward to internships in hospitals.
70. Would be a well rounded program with an internship.
71. Give me more experience. Learning the exercises and programs PTs use will help me when I begin working.
72. More experience through internship. It is a necessary part of the program.
74. Internships are necessary.
80. Everyone has this requirement in this and other fields.
81. You need all the work experience you can get. It's necessary if you want to be well rounded as a graduate.
82. Any training you can get is valuable.
83. Internships are important experiences.
84. I'm strongly for it because you need experience. But I'm sure it would probably be necessary if OCC wanted to get a PTA approval.
86. Mandatory participation in an internship would not influence my decision to enroll in the program.
88. I think it's an important part of training.
90. Internship would be the best learning experience.
91. Would check into scheduling first and see if I could work it into my schedule.
92. Still want to take PTA and would fit in an internship.
93. I expect an internship in program.
94. I would expect an internship as part of the program.
106. I'm familiar with internships with or without pay.
109. As long as it would work into my work schedule.
110. I understand internships are important and mandatory.
111. I work full time and hope it would not interfere with my work schedule. I have to work to be able to stay in school.
114. Clinicals are good experience.
120. Hands on training is important. More experience for us before finishing school.
122. I don't know what the mandatory length would be.
123. You have to - anywhere you go.
124. I would enroll into it even if it were volunteer work. Experience matters.
127. The rewards you get after finishing the 2 year program are just great.
130. Mandatory participation would not affect my decision at all.
131. I think the professional hands on experience in a clinical setting is necessary training before going into the field.
138. Makes sense to have internship program. Have hands on, clinical experience with patients.
144. I know that I'm going to have to do a clinical somewhere down the road and if OCC can arrange it for me, so much the better.

146. Think an internship should be necessary. The experience would let the students know what they're in for.
148. I'm aware that most programs would have internships.
154. That's what I'm doing right now.
158. I already assumed that a clinical would be necessary.
164. It would depend on what was offered because of employment schedule.
166. It is necessary because it helps to prepare you for the actual job.
167. It's a good policy. Hands on training is necessary for this profession.
168. It would be easier if the school arranged the internship.
169. I really want to do this type of work, so I would make time.
170. I hope the proposed program comes through. I would jump at the chance to enroll and to take an internship.
171. These experiences would be useful because you have to deal with people who have problems such as stroke, injury, and so forth.
172. Would want to know how much time is involved.
173. I already figured I'd have to do an internship.

### *12. Preference for type/location of clinical internships.*

3. Sports Medicine. Not sure about location.
4. Located close to home.
5. Hospitals. Close to home. Drive distance is a factor.
6. Close to home.
7. Close to home
8. Outpatient therapy or sports clinic. I want to avoid hospitals. Oakland County/parts of Macomb.
9. Close to home.
11. Close to home.
21. Hospitals.
22. PT office. Myo-facial release technique is something I want to learn and would like to be in a clinic that teaches that.
26. Hesitant to go into downtown Detroit.
29. Sports medicine clinic. Oakland County, but I'm open to travel.
30. Hospital or clinic. Near home if possible.
31. St. Joseph hospital - Pontiac. Oakland County area.
32. OCC area (OR) in controlled clinic or hospital setting.
33. Near Waterford, Mi. In some type of permanent clinic or hospital setting.
35. Something close to Auburn Hills campus .
37. Something in the Waterford area.
38. Rehab center or hospital. I want to work with stroke victims. Oakland Cty.
39. Oakland County - nothing that's more than an hour's drive.
40. Hospital, preferably Providence (9 mile and Greenfield).
41. Clinic in Farmington Hills.
42. Rehabilitation in Royal Oak.
46. Hospital (Children's).
47. Hospital, Madison Heights.

48. Pediatrics, Troy.
49. Rehab Hospital with coma patients or children, near Auburn Hills. Or Royal Oak.
50. Sports medicine in Oakland County.
51. Orthopedic hospital, within 10-15 miles of Royal Oak. campus.
52. Sports medicine clinic/hospital near Royal Oak campus.
54. No preference as to type, but near Southfield campus.
55. Rehab center, the best facility in the area (even willing to go to Ann Arbor).
56. Rehabilitation in Oakland County.
57. Sports medicine in the Pontiac/Walled Lake area.
58. Hospital and clinics.
59. Physical therapy in Auburn Hills.
60. Does not matter.
61. Outpatient in Oakland County.
62. Pediatrics/SXI, metro Detroit East.
63. Just close to home.
67. Pontiac area hospitals.
70. Near home and school.
71. Close to home.
72. In Detroit
75. Sports Rehab. In Madison Heights./Troy area.
76. Undecided, but prefer working with children. Area not important, but subject to baby sitting arrangements.
78. Hospital, location not important, I have my own reliable transportation.
79. Doesn't matter what, but close to home.
80. Hospital, the closer the better.
84. Not for type, but location- Oakland County.
85. No preference for type, but within 10 miles of Waterford.
86. Orthopedics, Oakland County.
87. Sports medicine, Oakland County.
88. Nursing Home, Oakland County.
90. Hospital, acute care within 20 miles of Northville.
91. Sports medicine - Metro Detroit area and suburbs.
92. No preference, but within 30 miles of Waterford.
93. No preference, but close to Lake Orion ( within 30 miles).
94. Sports medicine or Out patient within 15 miles of Southfield or Orchard Ridge campus.
101. Clinic, Milford area.
102. Hospital, Royal Oak area.
105. Rehab center, location not a factor.
106. Rehab center as close as possible to home.
109. Close to home, no preference as to type.
112. Clinic or hospital.
113. Young adults or sports medicine.
114. Sports medicine, close to home.
116. Close to home.
117. Outpatient facility extension.

120. Close to home - Southfield.
122. Probably sports medicine.
123. Hospital, close to home.
124. Hospital or clinic almost anywhere. I'd go out of state if that was required.
125. Hospital, not sure where.
127. I'd take anything in PT (I have a lot of practice with PT) in Wayne or Oakland Cty.
128. Hospital or Outpatient clinic.
129. Close to home if possible.
130. Hospital in Metro Detroit West.
132. Hospital in Oakland County.
133. Hospital, Grace Hospital.
134. Hospital/Outpatient work in Pontiac/Waterford area (30 min. Drive OK ).
135. Close to home and school.
136. Neural unit, spinal cord, closed head injuries, and pediatrics.
139. Hospital close to home.
140. Close to home.
142. Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak.
143. Pediatrics, don't know where.
144. Somewhere in Oakland County.
146. Would like to be exposed to all kinds of therapy. Something close to home (Oakland County).
148. Rehab center in Oakland County.
149. Rehab in Detroit, Southfield, Farmington Hills area.
150. Hospital, rehab as close to home as possible.
151. Hospital close to home.
153. Hospital setting close to home.
154. Any field of PT in the tri-county area.
155. I favor working with children, hospital, schools, etc. in Oakland County.
156. Private therapist in a hospital.
158. Outpatient therapy in Oakland County.
159. Hospital setting because of more serious cases to work with. It doesn't matter where.
160. Not important to me.
161. Sports Medicine in Madison Heights area. Would travel a reasonable distance.
162. Especially out-patient in the Troy, MI area.
163. Hospital close to Novi.
164. Hospital, Outpatient, or Sports Medicine in Oakland Co.
166. Sports Medicine, spinal injury, adults or children, hospital in Troy or Beaumont Hospital.
167. Sports Rehab facility close to Royal Oak.
168. Sports Medicine/Athletic around Troy, Rochester, Sterling Heights, or Madison Heights.
169. Sports Medicine/Athletic. Flexible in location, doesn't matter.
171. In-patient hospital in Southfield Sinai Hospital if possible.
172. Out-patient or nursing home in the Royal Oak area.
173. Sports Medicine Clinic the closer the better in the tri-county area.

### 15. *Final comments.*

2. My daughter is a Physical Therapist. She told me there is a big difference between hospital and clinical internships. I think students should experience both.
4. Great idea.
5. Would be convenient to me. Hope program goes through.
6. Better than going to Macomb. Convenient to home. More spots for OCC students.
8. Think it's a good idea.
10. Really good idea for those students interested in becoming PTAs.
11. Really good idea. Hope it goes through.
12. I'd love to see it happen.
17. Hope they really do it. I would like to enroll in the PTA program at OCC if it goes through.
20. Would like to see program implemented at OCC. PTA is a good career and area needs more schools offering it.
21. Anxious to know when program may begin. Would like to be contacted.
22. Would like to see the program go through. Would benefit many Oakland County students waiting to get into Macomb.
23. Hope it happens. Physical therapy career is important to me, due to my own injuries and subsequent therapy. Having program at OCC would be convenient to Oakland County students.
26. Hope the program is implemented. It is a good idea to have this PTA program in this area.
28. Good idea. Hope information will be easily available when program begins.
29. Volunteering opportunities should be made available to students.
31. Let's go!
32. Would enroll ASAP!
33. Anxious to begin such a program.
36. I think it's a worthwhile program and many people will sign up for it.
38. Can't think of anything.
39. Hope the program can get started so I won't have to go to Macomb.
42. Just when will this program start and how will you determine if you'll have it.
47. Just get it.
49. I think it should be included.
50. I hope it takes roots. Makes it hard when you have to transfer to another school.
52. I hope it works!
55. I am willing to volunteer services to help put the PTA program through.
58. The sooner the better. It would be more convenient. Students would not have to be placed on a waiting list. Classes should be scheduled for morning and evenings.
62. Need more emphasis on pediatric care.
63. Hope it goes through. Hope we will be notified as soon as it happens, so present students will have first crack at getting into the program.
64. Sounds great. Hope the program begins. I would definitely enroll at OCC for the PTA program.
65. Great program for OCC to have. Now students have to go to Macomb. It would be much more convenient for classes to be at OCC.
66. Hope the program begins, and that information should be made available directly to Pre PTA students to let us know the status of program.
67. Hope the program goes through. I like OCC and want to stay here.
68. I really want to be a PTA, and hope OCC begins the program soon. My main comment is please do it!

70. The program should be implemented. Would be a good career choice for students not wanting the time commitment for PT program, and they wouldn't have to commute to Macomb.
71. Please do it!
72. Sounds good to me. Hope it begins when I am ready to start. Would like information sent to me when and if the program begins.
73. The program would benefit students who want to become PTAs. I don't think there are other schools nearby offering this program.
75. Hope the program begins soon.
79. PT is my primary goal. I would enroll at OCC for PTA if it were available soon enough prior to becoming involved in PT courses. Travel is a big concern.
80. Have had OT and PT myself and was attracted to the field through my contact as a patient.
81. Please do it as soon as possible.
83. Unfortunately this comes too late for me. If this were available I would not have gone into occupational therapy, which I did because of the long waiting list for PTA at Macomb.
84. OCC might consider a 2½ year program. Macomb's 2 year program is very difficult. Most students are mature, with jobs and families and it's very hard to keep up.
85. By the time they spend the money on research, they should just do it!
89. Sounds like a good idea. It's my understanding that the only other schools to offer PTA are Macomb and HFCC.
90. Send literature if/when program is available.
91. Sounds great. Wish it was already in place.
92. Go for that program.
93. Make sure accredited classes transfer to other schools.
94. Would be nice to see OCC in more health related programs. OCC needs better P.R. about the health related programs offered.
96. When will the program go into effect?
104. I think it's a good idea.
106. Time of classes would have to work in with hours of employment.
108. Hope it goes through. I want to get into PTA program by Fall of '96. If I don't get in, I will change my major. Not enough schools offer this program.
109. Hope it happens. Would be nice to stay at OCC and get my degree.
110. I am motivated to be a PTA. I really want this as my career and am disappointed with the long wait at Macomb or HFCC...I hope OCC begins this program soon.
111. Hope the program begins. Would be easier on OCC students to not have to commute to Macomb. I feel more at home at OCC.
113. It's a great idea. There are limited slots available at Macomb. Baker college is too expensive and I would like to see Oakland County students have the opportunity to get into this program.
114. It's a good idea. I know a lot of people trying to get into PTA programs. They are hard to get into. If OCC offered it, more students would have the opportunity for a career.
116. Not really. Hope OCC begins the program.
121. Wish it had started before I began Macomb. Still may not happen at all, so I'm glad I'm in Macomb's program.
122. My mother is a PT and she talked me into it.
123. I'd like to see it happen.
124. The long wait makes me want to withdraw.

125. I think it sounds good. I need as much field time into it as I can get for my benefit.
127. They should put students on a waiting list, it would at least give students hope.
128. If they have one, I'll get in it! I just can't afford it now.
129. No, it just sounds like a very good idea and I'd be very interested in it.
132. If the proposed program is implemented, I recommend the Baker Community College 2 year curriculum model. The student would enroll in prerequisite courses the first year and professional courses the second year.
134. I have employment connections which would permit practically any class schedule. Let's go!!
135. I hope they do it. I would be very interested in attending OCC.
138. I'd like to see it happen.
143. An associate degree would allow good job opportunities for people who aren't able or interested in a 4 year degree. OCC is an affordable school for Oakland residents.
144. I think that it's a good idea.
145. Wish you would have done this a long time ago. Now it's too late for me. I think it's a good idea.
146. Think this program is the ideal idea and hope it gets started next semester so I can get in.
148. I think more hands on experience the student can get, the better. Also I have a question about the internships - would these be paid or unpaid?
150. I've already worked in a nursing home and direct care and I worked with physically handicapped people.
152. It's a good idea. There is so much demand and so few places to go.
153. I hope it works out.
154. My father owns five clinics.
155. It sounds wonderful. I hope it's a go because I'd be really interested. The demand is there.
156. Sounds like a great program.
157. I hope that OCC will offer the PTA program.
158. I think it's a great idea. I would like information if it gets off the ground.
160. The sooner OCC starts, the better.
161. I hope to continue my education and become a PT at a later date.
162. I have a bachelor's degree. I'd like a PT program if possible.
164. When does it start?
165. It's a good idea.
166. It would be great. I would prefer the Auburn Hills campus.
167. Would like to see it. Macomb's is very popular and successful, but I would rather go to OCC and would like to be put on the list to be notified about this program, if there is one.
169. Would be helpful. It's about time. Since Macomb has it, OCC should have it also.
170. I hope it goes through because I like OCC and it would be a convenient location. It's a field I'm going into no matter what, but OCC is preferable.
171. It's a great idea since a lot of schools have a pre-PT program and the location is more convenient than Macomb.
172. Very interested to see what develops. I would like a program that you could take at your own pace, part-time, and still continue working.
173. It would be nice if OCC would have this.

Physical Therapy Assistant  
**PROPOSED PROGRAM**  
**STUDENT SURVEY**  
December 2002

**STUDENT LABEL**

OCC is considering the development of a training program for Physical Therapist Assistants. We are currently contacting students who have declared the **Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant** program as their major to determine the level of interest in this kind of training. Would you be willing to answer a few questions for us?

1. First of all, I would like to confirm that your declared major field of study at OCC is/was the **Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant** program?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes (continue)  
0 \_\_\_\_\_ No (thank them for their time and terminate survey)

2. What is/was your primary reason for taking **Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant** classes at OCC?  
(Interviewers: Presently, they CANNOT obtain an OCC certificate or OCC associate degree in PTA)(Check only ONE)

0%(0) To obtain an OCC certificate (what program?) \_\_\_\_\_  
1.1%(2) To obtain an OCC associate degree (what program?) \_\_\_\_\_  
43.7%(76) To complete courses necessary for transfer to a **Physical Therapy Assistant** program  
23.7% (18) If yes, is this a SECOND career? (Go to #4)  
51.1%(89) To complete courses necessary for transfer to a **Physical Therapy** program  
17.0% (15) If yes, is this a SECOND career? (Go to #5)  
0%(0) Increase chances for a raise and/or promotion  
0.6% (1) Personal development  
3.4% (6) Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



3. Have you ever considered continuing your education by enrolling in a **Physical Therapy Assistant Program**? (*Read list*)

- 1 **57.1% (4)** Yes (*Ask where and when, then go to #6*)
- 0 **42.9% (3)** No, not interested (*Ask why, then go to #6*)
- 2 **0% (0)** Maybe (*Ask why, then go to #6*)
- 3 **0% (0)** Already enrolled (*Ask where, then go to #6*)

*Comments:*

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4. Do you still plan to, or have you enrolled in a **Physical Therapy Assistant** program?

- 1 **82.7%(62)** Yes (*Ask where and when, then go to #6*)
- 0 **9.3%(7)** No, not interested (*Ask why, then go to #6*)
- 2 **6.7%(5)** Maybe (*Ask why, then go to #6*)
- 3 **1.3%(1)** Already enrolled (*Ask where and when they enrolled, then go to #6*)

*Comments:*

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5. Do you still plan to, or have you enrolled in a **Physical Therapy** program?

- 1 **88.6%(78)** Yes (*Ask where and when, then continue*)
- 0 **5.7% (5)** No, not interested (*Ask why, then continue*)
- 2 **5.7% (5)** Maybe (*Ask why, then continue*)
- 3 **0% (0)** Already enrolled (*Ask where and when they enrolled, then continue*)

*Comments:*

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6. How would you rate your satisfaction with the **Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant** courses you have taken at OCC?

- 5 **38.4%(63)** Very satisfied
- 4 **50.0%(82)** Satisfied
- 3 **11.6%(19)** Neutral
- 2 **0%(0)** Dissatisfied
- 1 **0%(0)** Very dissatisfied

*Comments:*

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7. What is your current employment situation?

- 1 **1.7% (3)** Self-employed
- 2 **39.7% (69)** Employed full-time
- 3 **42.5% (74)** Employed part-time
- 4 **4.0% (7)** Not employed, actively seeking employment (*Go to #9*)
- 5 **2.1% (21)** Not employed, not seeking employment (*Go to #9*)

8. Do you work in a health related field? (*Probe for job title*)

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9. OCC is considering a program for people interested in the field of physical therapy. This **proposed Physical Therapy Assistant** program would provide students with an OCC associate degree.

If this program was available at OCC, would you be interested in enrolling?

- 1 **86.3% (139)** Yes
- 2 **4.3% (7)** Yes, if I wasn't enrolled elsewhere
- 0 **9.3% (15)** No (*Ask #10, then go to last question*)

10. Why do you feel this way?

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11. A Physical Therapy Assistant program would include mandatory clinical internships. At the present time, there is no detailed information with regards to internship scheduling, but it would include a time commitment. Would mandatory participation in an internship influence your decision to enroll in this **proposed** program?

- 1 **2.1% (3)** Yes (*not likely to enroll*)
- 2 **39.6% (57)** Yes (*more likely to enroll*)
- 0 **58.3% (84)** No (*it would not affect my decision at all*)

*Comments:*

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12. Would you have a preference as to the type and location of clinical internships? (*Read the list ONLY if necessary: Outpatient therapy, rehabilitation center, hospital, handicapped school/center, nursing home, sports medicine clinic/athletic team, etc.*)

- 1 **69.3%(104)** Yes (*Ask their preference for type and location*)
- 0 **30.7%(46)** No

<i>Type</i>	<i>Location</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

13. In terms of scheduling Physical Therapy Assistant courses, what would be the best time of day for classes to be offered?

- 1 **52.5%(52)** Morning (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- 2 **15.2%(15)** Afternoon(12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
- 3 **32.3%(32)** Evening (6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

*Morning*

14. What would you consider the best time to attend class, weekdays, weekends, or does it matter?

- 1 **70.7%(111)** Weekdays (Monday - Thursday)
- 2 **4.5%(7)** Weekends (Friday and/or Saturday)
- 7 **24.8%(39)** Does not matter

15. Are there any other comments you would like to make about this **proposed** program at OCC?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

"We want you to remember that this is only a **PROPOSED** program at this stage. When and if this program is implemented, literature will be made available. Please **do not** alter any current educational plans you may already have."

"Thank you very much for your time and assistance. We sincerely appreciate your help."

*Instructor Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

**TABLE X** (algebra 14)

**Student Satisfaction with Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant Courses at OCC** (Clarendon condensed 13)

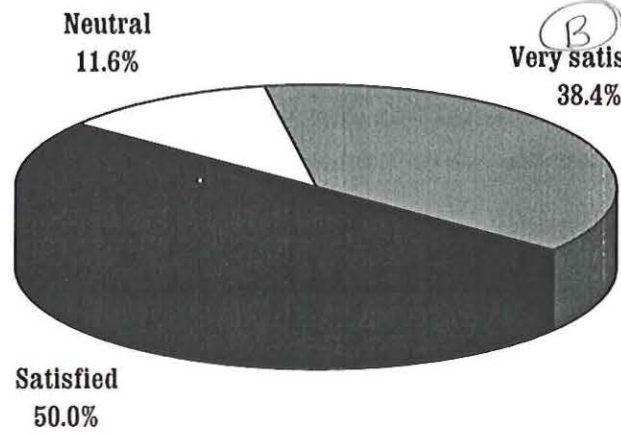
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	(B) 1 Number	Percent
Very satisfied	63	38.4
Satisfied	82	50.0
Neutral	19	11.6
Disatisfied	0	0.0
Very dissatisfied	0	0.0
Total	164	11.6

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**Student Satisfaction with Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant Courses at OCC**

(B) Clarendon Condensed 12



(B) Clarendon condensed 11