

APPENDIX D
Program Planning Summary
State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education
(Not to exceed three pages in length)

1. College: Piedmont Technical College

2. Award: Associate in Health Science

3. Major: Physical Therapist Assistant

4. Designation (Check one)

a. New Program Proposal
 Number of credit hours 78

b. Program Modification
 Number of credit hours _____

5. Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall Semester 2008

6. Justification of Need:

Piedmont Technical College's (PTC) mission is to respond to the academic, training, and public service needs through excellence in teaching and educational services. PTC contributes to the economic growth and development of the largest geographical region of the technical college system: Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, and Saluda counties. In support of this mission, PTC proposes to develop and implement an Associate in Health Science with a major in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) to assist preventative and rehabilitative health care providers in meeting the needs of the college's service area.

In the seven county service area, there are five hospitals, thirteen independent rehabilitative agencies, nine long-term/residential care facilities, three home health care agencies, two sports medicine facilities, and one rehabilitative hospital that is scheduled to open in 2007. All of the identified agencies employ PTAs. A survey of the agencies has been completed, and there is two-fold support for clinical affiliation and graduate employment.

The US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, projects that employment of PTAs "is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2014." In 2004, there were 59,000 PTAs in the United States. By the year 2014, it is anticipated that there will be a need for 85,000 PTAs. This can be attributed to the "growing elderly population who is particularly vulnerable to chronic and debilitating conditions that require therapeutic services. The large baby-boom generation is entering the prime age for heart attacks and strokes, further increasing the demand for physical rehabilitation." In addition to the native baby boomers, the geographical area

served by PTC is attracting a large retiree population which will contribute to increased demands for physical therapy treatment.

7. Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity:

Currently, PTC has linkages through a one-plus-one PTA program agreement with Greenville Technical College (GTC). Annually, an average of 20-25 students enroll at PTC in the Phase I track of the PTA program. Remarkably, our most recent numbers reveal that there are 57 students enrolled at PTC who are taking courses in anticipation of entering Phase II at GTC. The existing one-plus-one agreement ensured that five students would be accepted into Phase II, leaving many students discouraged and abandoning their goal of becoming at PTA.

As previously noted, there are approximately 32 employers of PTAs in the college's service area. Eighty percent anticipate employing more than 50 full-time and 36 part-time positions over the next three years. The full-time entry level average salary is expected to be \$35,140. This is consistent with the US Department of Labor 2004 data which reports a median salary for PTAs of \$37,890.

The proposed new PTA program will enroll 24 students annually. An attrition rate of 25% to 30% is anticipated. This estimate is based on the average attrition rate of the three technical colleges - GTC, Trident Technical College (TTC), and Midlands Technical College (MTC) - that are currently graduating PTAs.

8. Assessment of Extent to Which Program Duplicates Existing Programs in the State:

Five technical colleges across the state, MTC, TTC, GTC, Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) and Technical College of the Low Country (TCL) currently offer an Associate Degree in Health Science with a major in PTA. According to the most recent program evaluation report the PTA programs at MTC, TTC, and GTC are in good standing. The PTA programs at HGTC and TCL were recently approved and are not subject to the program evaluation productivity standards at this time. All of these programs are designed to prepare graduates for success on the licensure exam. GTC also offers the PTA program at Aiken Technical College (ATC) and Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC).

As noted above, PTC has a one-plus-one agreement with GTC. The agreement assures that five PTC students will be accepted into Phase II in the GTC program annually. Because of an increase in the number of facilities employing PTAs and the influx of retirees in the PTC's service area, the agreement is no longer meeting the needs of the college.

9. Relationship of the Proposed Program to Existing Programs at the Proposing Institution:

Through the Health Science, Biological and Chemical Division, PTC offers Associate Degree and Diploma programs in five health science related fields including the following fields: Pharmacy Technology, Respiratory Care Technology, Radiologic Technology, Medical Assisting Technology, and Surgical Technology. Certificates are offered in Massage Therapy, Medical Coding and billing, Patient Care Technology, Phlebotomy, and Veterinary Technology.

The proposed PTA program will be under the umbrella of the Health Science, Biological and Chemical Science Division. All of the general education courses required for the proposed program are currently in place at the college. PTC will add PTA courses to the local catalog.

10. Relationship of the Proposed Program to Other Institutions Via Inter-Institutional Cooperation:

This proposal supports a two-year associate degree program designed primarily as a terminal stand-alone degree program. The goal of the proposed program is to provide program graduates with the competencies to successfully complete the licensure requirements for PTA. As previously discussed, the current articulation agreement in place with GTC is not meeting the needs of the local service area.

11. Total New Costs Associated with Implementing the Proposed Program (General Estimates Only):

	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
Faculty Salaries	\$140,500	\$144,215	\$149,056
Supplies and Materials	\$66,993	\$25,000	\$26,250
Library Resources	\$700	\$700	\$700
Equipment	\$11,095	\$5,000	0
Facilities	\$26,200	0	0
Accreditation	\$18,000	\$2,700	\$2,700
TOTAL	\$263,488	\$177,615	\$178,706

(Signature of College President)

(Date)

(Revised 10/2/2007)