

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

1. College: Horry-Georgetown Technical College

2. Award: Associate Degree in Health Science

3. Major: Physical Therapist Assistant

4. Designation (check one)

a. New Program Proposal

73 Number of credit hours

b. Program Modification

Number of credit hours

5. Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall Semester, 2007

6. Justification of Need:

Horry-Georgetown Technical College's (HGTC) mission is to provide quality education programs and career options that meet the workforce development needs of employers in the College's service area. In support of this mission, HGTC proposes to develop and implement an Associate Degree in Health Science with a major in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) to assist preventative and rehabilitative health care providers in Horry and Georgetown counties.

The Horry-Georgetown area has one of the highest-ranking general population increases in the state with a growth rate significantly above the State average according to US Census data for the period of 2000 through 2004. Horry County alone experienced over twice the State's average growth rate during this period. An influx of relocating retirees is fueling continued growth in demand for qualified health care professionals. The recent completion of South Carolina highways 22 and 31 expanded the residential growth westward. Future transportation improvements will continue to attract more residents and provide a continuous growth in demand for health care professionals within the College's service area. Data from the US Department of Labor project an estimated increase of Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) job openings of over 44 percent during the period of 2002 through 2012. Additionally, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that employment in this occupation is projected to "grow much faster than average reflecting the growing number of individuals with disabilities or limited function and the increasing use of physical therapist assistants to reduce the cost of therapeutic services." This growth will require well-qualified professionals to meet the continuing demands of the health care providers.

Several health care entities have informed the College's staff that they are limited in the timeliness of service delivery by the lack of adequate staffing of qualified physical therapist assistants. The providers have requested that the College develop a program to meet this need for well qualified physical therapist assistants. In response to their request, a needs assessment was conducted.

The needs analysis of HGTC's service area indicates there are approximately 50 potential PTA employers of varying sizes. The results from a survey show about 45 new and replacement positions projected for 2005. For the years 2006 and 2007 there is an average of about 45 new and replacement positions anticipated each year.

7. Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity:

Horry-Georgetown Technical College's needs assessment echoes national and state-wide trends in the physical therapist assistant field. The analysis depicts a significant need for the program within the College's service area. Approximately 95% of survey respondents in the HGTC service area indicated that they expect to employ additional physical therapist assistants within the next three years. Specifically, respondents in the College's service area anticipate more than 75 full-time and 60 part-time positions will become available over the next three years with an average entry level salary of about \$33,331 for full-time and \$18.29 per hour for part-time. This is consistent with the US Department of Labor's May 2004 data reporting of the annual median wage for PTAs of \$37,890.

The proposed new Physical Therapist Assistant Associate Degree is expected to generate an enrollment of 20 full-time students the first year. Program enrollments for the second and third years will include 35 full-time students (20 freshman and 15 sophomores) each year. These figures are based on an attrition rate of 25%.

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

Three technical colleges across the state, Midlands Technical College (MTC), Trident Technical College (TTC), and Greenville Technical College (GTC), currently offer an Associate Degree in Health Science with a major in Physical Therapist Assistant. All of these programs are designed to prepare graduates for success on the licensure exam. This mirrors the goal of HGTC's proposed program outcome. Greenville Technical College offers PTA coursework at Aiken Technical College (ATC) and at Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC). Currently, Horry-Georgetown Technical College has linkages through one-plus-one PTA programs with TTC and GTC. However, very few students are able to allocate the time and fiscal resources required to successfully participate in and complete the PTA program outside the local area. Therefore, the need of HGTC's service area health care providers is not fully being met through the existing linkages.

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

Horry-Georgetown Technical College offers associate degree and diploma programs in several health care related fields including: Dental Hygiene, Pharmacy Technology, Radiologic Technology, Nursing (ADN), Emergency Medical Technology, Expanded Duty Dental Assisting, Nursing (PN), as well as a large variety of certificate programs. The wide array of health care programs offered at HGTC will complement the proposed program.

All of the general education courses required for the proposed program currently exist within the College's course offerings. This will give the College the benefit of economies of scale in offering those courses that are applicable to other related health care professional programs.

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

This proposal is a two-year associate degree program designed primarily as a terminal degree. The goal of the proposed program is to provide the graduate with the required competencies to successfully complete the licensure requirements of Physical Therapist Assistant. Currently, Horry-Georgetown Technical College has linkages through one-plus-one PTA programs with TTC and GTC. However, very few students are able to allocate the time and fiscal resources required to successfully participate in and complete the PTA program outside the local area. The needs of the College's service area are not being met as evidenced by repeated requests by area health care providers for a local PTA program.

Although the proposed program is designed as a terminal degree, the College will seek articulation with Coastal Carolina University with its Interdisciplinary Studies Bachelor of Science degree and with the Medical University of South Carolina.

The proposed program will seek accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

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

ANNUAL ESTIMATED COSTS

	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year
Equipment	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
Operation Budget	\$24,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
Library Supplies	\$6,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Personnel	\$70,400	\$85,000	\$88,000
Total Projected Costs	\$140,400	\$131,000	\$124,000

President

Date