



2018 East Liverpool Campus Physical Therapist Assistant Technology (PTST) Major Technical Study Application Information

This packet contains important information about the application and selection process for acceptance to technical study in the Physical Therapist Assistant Technology (PTST) major at Kent State University (KSU). ***It is each applicant's responsibility to acquire, read and understand the application and selection process as described in this packet and available on the PTST webpage. All applicants should meet with an academic advisor while preparing to apply to PTST technical study.***

Students in the PTST major, who meet the minimum qualifications, must apply and be accepted to technical study. The online application to PTST technical study at East Liverpool is due by April 1, 2018. Evidence that the applicant meets the minimum qualifications must be received on or before the application deadline. **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all application materials are received in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program office.**

The selection committee ranks and accepts a maximum of 28 students annually to PTST technical study. Accepted students will begin critical (!) PTST courses in Fall Semester, 2018. Applicants who have not completed BSCI 11010 or PSYC 11762 may be accepted conditionally with the expectation that these courses are passed with a grade of "C" or better in the Summer session prior to the start of critical courses.

Students interested in the PTST major are encouraged to attend a regularly scheduled Information Session on either the Ashtabula or East Liverpool campus. Topics during these sessions include: review of the minimum qualifications, the application and selection processes, expectations of students accepted to PTST technical study, and current career information.

Academic advisors are available on the East Liverpool and Ashtabula campuses to help students in the PTST major select courses and plan for success. It is strongly recommended that all PTST students meet regularly, in person or by phone, with an advisor. To schedule an advising appointment, contact the PTA program office at 330-382-7448 or driggs@kent.edu.

Thank you for your interest in the Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant Technology at Kent State University. We look forward to helping you reach your career goals.

Physical Therapist Assistant Technology (PTST) at Kent State University Ashtabula Campus, the expansion program on the East Liverpool Campus, and the Athletic Trainers Transition (PTST-ATT) concentration are each accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@APTA.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

CAREERS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

The physical therapist (PT) and physical therapist assistant (PTA) are part of a team of healthcare professionals who help patients achieve their goals to improve physical function, whether those goals are to be able to walk or to set an athletic achievement record. Information about physical therapy, [the Role of a Physical Therapist](#), and the [Role of the Physical Therapist Assistant](#) is available at the American Physical Therapy Association website at www.apta.org, the [Home : Occupational Outlook Handbook : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) at www.bls.gov; or O*Net Online [Summary Report: Physical Therapist Assistants](#) at www.onetcenter.org.

Physical Therapist Assistant Career Overview (Retrieved from www.apta.org; June 2014)

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants (PTAs) under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist are the only providers of physical therapy services. In many practice settings, physical therapists rely on the PTA to assure that all patients/clients have access to physical therapy services. Physical therapy has a long history of returning individuals to their maximum level of physical function and in many cases, patients are being sent to physical therapy instead of surgery. Patients/clients value the individualized, "hands on" approach that characterizes physical therapy care. When a physical therapist sees a patient/client for the first time, he or she examines that individual and develops a plan of care that promotes the ability to move, reduces pain, restores function, and prevents disability. The physical therapist may choose to utilize a PTA in the provision of components of the physical therapy treatment. The physical therapist, PTA, and the patient/client then work side-by-side to make sure that the goals of the plan or care are met.

Depending on the particular needs of a patient/client, physical therapists may direct components of a patient/client's interventions (treatments) to a PTA. PTAs provide a variety of physical therapy techniques as they carry out the physical therapist's plan of care for the patient, including therapeutic exercise, functional training, deep soft tissue massage, and physical modalities such as electrotherapy and ultrasound. PTAs may also assist the physical therapist by working with individuals to prevent loss of mobility by implementing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.

Benefits of a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Career (Retrieved from www.apta.org; June 2014)

There are many reasons you should consider a career in physical therapy.

Make a Difference. *"I feel that this career has allowed me to help my patients, community, and fellow staff members. When choosing a profession, I was looking for options that would allow me to make a difference while having the freedom to do different things. I feel that I've found that by being a PTA," said Julie Meseck, PTA. Whether the patient's problem is a result of injury or disease, the physical therapist assistant is an important part of the rehabilitation team dedicated to returning the patient to maximal function. Physical therapist assistants also work with individuals to prevent loss of mobility through implementing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.*

Be a Movement Expert. *Physical therapist assistants receive an intensive 2-year (usually 5 semesters) education in human movement and physical function. Physical therapy is an essential element of patient care to promote the patient's ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. Depending on the particular needs of a patient, physical therapists may choose to utilize a PTA to provide therapeutic exercise, functional training, or soft tissue massage. PTAs may also provide electrotherapy, ultrasound, and other treatments when included in the physical therapist's plan of care for the patient.*

Enjoy Job Security. *For individuals looking for a rewarding career in a struggling job market and down economy, a career in physical therapy could be the perfect answer. The soaring demand for physical therapist assistants can be attributed to the aging population, particularly baby boomers who are more*

vulnerable to chronic and debilitating conditions that require physical therapy services. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for physical therapist assistants is expected to spike upward by an astonishing 35% between 2008 and 2018-a much quicker rate than average. As of 2010, there are approximately 63,800 licensed/certified physical therapist assistants working in the United States, and that number is expected to jump to 85,000 over the next 10 years.

Love Your Job. *Helping people to attain or regain the ability to walk and carry out daily life can lead to a great feeling of personal satisfaction. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wages of PTAs in May 2008 were over \$46,000 with the highest salaries in home health care services and nursing care facilities. Physical therapy services are typically offered during normal working hours, which contributes to life balance for many PTAs.*

Choose Your Location. *Physical therapist assistants work with patients of all ages all across the country. Choose from a wide range of locations and work settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, employer settings, and nursing homes.*

Expand Your Skills. *Many PTAs expand their responsibilities in the clinical setting by assuming additional knowledge, skills, and responsibilities in medical billing and coding, clinical management, education, quality improvement, and risk management.*

Required Licensure or Certification to Work as a PTA

Licensure or Certification is required to work as a Physical Therapist Assistant. Earning an associate degree from an accredited PTA program is the first step in being eligible for licensure as a physical therapist assistant. Graduates must also pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) and meet all the standards of the state jurisdiction where they plan to work. Each student is responsible for understanding the laws and rules controlling the practice of physical therapy in their home state. The Federation of State Boards in Physical Therapy (www.fsbpt.org) manages the NPTE and provides access to [licensing authorities](#). In Ohio the licensure process is under the direction of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board. (<http://OTPTAT.ohio.gov/>).

Market Outlook

The [U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor and Statistics](#) gives the physical therapist assistant (PTA) career outlook their fastest growing ranking ("much faster than average") and projects that between the years 2014-2024, the need for PTAs and physical therapy aids will increase by 40% in response to the healthcare needs of a growing elderly population.

Nationally, [O-Net Online](#) projects the market for PTAs to have a "Bright Outlook" with 45,000 projected job openings over the 10 year period ending in 2022. O-Net Online also reports the median wages for PTAs in 2016 at \$56,610 annually, with a mean hourly wage of \$27.21. Pay rates for skilled nursing facilities and casual call therapists tend to be higher due to the high demand for personnel in these positions. While the national job outlook is strong, local demand for PTAs may vary.

EXPECTATIONS OF PTST STUDENTS

Essential Functions of a PTA

Essential functions are the abilities, knowledge, and skills required for a career as a physical therapist assistant. The [Summary Report for 31-2021.00 Physical Therapist Assistant](http://www.online.onetcenter.org), available at www.online.onetcenter.org, provides a detailed list of the technology, tools, knowledge, skills, abilities, work activities and work context, as well as other career related information.

PTA students must be confident that, with reasonable accommodations, they are able to perform the essential functions of a PTA. Impairments that limit the student's ability to perform core tasks may affect program progression, licensure, and career opportunities. Any future PTA student with a concern regarding the ability to perform core tasks, should discuss this with a program advisor.

Core Tasks (6 of 18)

- Instruct, motivate, safeguard, and assist patients as they practice exercises or functional activities.
- Observe patients during treatments to compile and evaluate data on their responses and progress and provide results to physical therapist in person or through progress notes.
- Confer with physical therapy staff or others to discuss and evaluate patient information for planning, modifying, or coordinating treatment.
- Administer active or passive manual therapeutic exercises, therapeutic massage, aquatic physical therapy, or heat, light, sound, or electrical modality treatments, such as ultrasound.
- Measure patients' range-of-joint motion, body parts, or vital signs to determine effects of treatments or for patient evaluations.
- Communicate with or instruct caregivers or family members on patient therapeutic activities or treatment plans.

Background Clearances

All students in PTST technical study are required to complete a civilian background check during the second semester, and are expected to disclose the report to any assigned clinic site that requests the information. A negative report may prevent the student from being a) accepted as a student at a specific clinical site, b) approved by a jurisdiction for license, or c) being hired as a PTA. **Students who are refused placement in three clinic sites will not be able to complete the degree requirements for the AAS-PTST degree.** Students with concerns about their background should consult with an attorney, and their licensing authority.

The practice of physical therapy is regulated by state and federal law. Many jurisdictions require federal and state background clearances before a license is granted. Students with a previous conviction may not be approved to be licensed or sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).

Medical Clearances

Physical Therapy clinics have a duty to protect the patients and staff in their facilities, therefore licensed PTAs and students in PTST technical study are required to document their health status and are expected to provide this documentation to assigned clinic sites. Disclosure of personal medical information may include: immunization records, drug test results, physical exam, laboratory tests, or other requested medical information.

Kent State University has no use for student medical or background information, other than to assist students to meet the requirements of contracted clinical education sites. Signed consent, by the student, allows the ACCE or Program Director to disclose requested confidential information to a student's assigned clinic site. The Program only serves as a conduit between the student and clinic sites and does NOT maintain any electronic or paper images of a students' medical records.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program History & Accreditation

Kent State University at East Liverpool (KSU-EL) was first accredited in 1989 by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) as a Physical Therapist Assistant program. The program was expanded in 1996 to the Ashtabula Campus (KSU-A). The PTA programs on each campus sought and received independent accreditation from 2005 to 2013. In 2009, KSU-A was also accredited to offer the Athletic Trainers Transitions concentration, which provides advanced placement to certified athletic trainers.

In April, 2013, KSU received CAPTE approval to re-structure the administration of the Physical Therapist Assistant Technology (PTST) degree programs under one director and with one accreditation for all degree options offered at Kent State University (KSU). Independently, the three degree options have consistently received the longest accreditation periods possible. In November 2015, all three programs were re-accredited for 10 more years.

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Mission

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Kent State University prepares graduates to be employed as physical therapist assistants who work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. Graduates will have the critical thinking skills, excellent knowledge base, competent technical skills, and behaviors consistent with expectations of the physical therapy profession and the communities it serves.

Program Goals

The PTA Program will,

- 1. Graduate students who**
 - a. Earn an Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant Technology
 - b. Pass the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination
 - c. Are employed as a licensed physical therapist assistant
 - d. Provide safe and effective patient care in a legal, ethical and culturally competent manner
- 2. Provide a curriculum that**
 - a. Is current, relevant and effective
 - b. Includes a variety of appropriate learning experiences in both the academic and clinical settings
 - c. Is sequential and cumulative to facilitate student achievement of the curriculum objectives
- 3. Retain faculty who**
 - a. Are qualified to teach their content areas
 - b. Model and mentor the behavioral expectations of physical therapy practitioners
 - c. Foster an environment of mutual respect and collaborative learning

AAS-PTST Degree

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Physical Therapist Assistant Technology (PTST) provides students with the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary to become licensed or certified as a physical therapist assistant (PTA). Licensure or certification in most states requires graduation from an accredited PTA program, background clearances, and passing the National Physical Therapy Examination.

The integrated curriculum includes lecture, lecture/lab, seminar and practicum courses. Core PTST course content is cumulative and taught in four sequential semesters in a two year cycle. The Technical Study curriculum requires student to be on campus or in the clinic three to five days per week each term.

Three practicum courses require students to complete a minimum of 640 off-campus clinical education hours under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Under certain circumstances, students in practicum courses are required to attend clinicals on days outside of the academic calendar. These circumstances may occur on scheduled or unscheduled campus closures or on days when classes are cancelled. Examples include: certain holidays, spring recess, snow days and/or prior to the start of semesters. Students are notified in advance of the clinical education schedule.

Contracted clinical education sites normally require students to demonstrate both medical and background clearances, as well as the ability to perform the core tasks and essential job functions of a physical therapist assistant. Students who are unable to perform the core tasks and essential job functions, or who cannot demonstrate medical and background clearance may not be able to complete the requirements for the Physical Therapist Assistant Technology.

Admission to the PTST major is open to anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent. Acceptance to Technical Study is a selective process.

Student Outcomes

The Kent State University graduate with an AAS-PTST degree demonstrates the ability to provide physical therapy services in a legal, ethical and culturally competent manner.

1. Provides appropriate and effective physical therapy interventions within the plan of care established by a physical therapist.
2. Effectively communicates with others, teaching or instructing when appropriate.
3. Produces legal and ethical documentation to meet professional expectations and the needs of third party payers.
4. Ethically manages fiscal and human resources to provide high-quality, efficient and cost-effective physical therapy services.
5. Consistently demonstrates the value-based behaviors of a physical therapist assistant.

Statistics for East Liverpool Campus PTST Technical Study Students

Updated June 5, 2017

CATALOG YEAR	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Start Date	Aug-10	Aug-11	Aug-12	Aug-13	Aug-14	Aug 15	Aug '16
Two year Graduation Date	May-12	May-13	May-14	May-15	May-16	May 17	May '18
APPLICATION DATA							
Total Applicants	109	111	97	65	45	43	44
Number of Qualified Applicants	92	74	76	48	34	38	41
Number of Students Accepted	29	29	28	30	31	26	28
Acceptance Rate of Qualified	32.0%	39.0%	37.0%	63.0%	91.2%	68%	68%
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA							
Average Age	33.8	30	27	29.6	26	26	23
Average GPA	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.36	3.3
Lowest Points accepted	n/a	n/a	126	95	71	77	84

Percentage Male	50.0%	34.6%	21.4%	25.0%	33.0%	38%	35%
Percentage Minority	0.0%	3.8%	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	.03%
Previous Bachelor's degree	n/a	n/a	2	1	4	4	8
Previous Graduate Degree	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	2	0
OUTCOMES DATA							
Class Size (Day 10)	29	26	28	28	27	26	28
# Graduated in 2 years	25	24	22	18	17	24	n/a
2 year graduation rate	86.2%	92.3%	78.6%	64.2%	62.9%^	92%	n/a
# Graduated in 3 years	2	1	2	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
3 year graduation rate	93.1%	96.2%	88.9%	71.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Adjusted 3 yr grad rate				80.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
NPTE First attempt	82.8%	76.92%	95.65%	93.8%	94.1%	n/a	n/a
NPTE All Attempts	96.6%	96.2%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	n/a
1 Year Employment Rate (Change from 6 month for 2014 grads)	71.00%	73.00%	96%	96%	100%	n/a	n/a

* Withdrawn for non-academic reasons is not calculated

^ = Incomplete Data

n/a = Not Available

Roadmap: AAS-PTST (Reproduced on the following page)

The PTST degree requires 65 credit hours with twenty-seven (27) total courses, including clinical education experiences. The courses listed on the following page includes required Kent Core general studies and related courses that may be transferred from another institution or completed prior to applying to PTST technical study. The sixteen (16) **critical (!) courses** may only be taken after acceptance to PTST technical study, and must be taken in the semester and order listed. The sequencing of critical (!) courses requires four semesters to complete the degree requirements, regardless of how many non-critical classes are completed prior to acceptance to PTST technical study.

It is recommended, but not required, that students complete some of the non-critical courses prior to applying for acceptance to technical study. Completing non-critical courses early increases the chance of being accepted, and decrease the academic load during the four (4) semester of technical study. **Please note: students accepted to PTST technical study that previously complete most of the non-critical courses may not be a full time (12 credit hours or more) student while completing the AAS-PTST degree.**

Curriculum details, including course descriptions, prerequisites and schedules are available in the [Kent State University Catalog 2017](#)



Roadmap: Physical Therapist Assistant Technology – Associate of Applied Science: This roadmap is a recommended plan of study. Courses and milestones designed as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. 6/6/17

Critical	Course Subject and Title	Credit Hrs	Min. Grade
Summer or Fall 1			
	BSCI 11010 FOUNDATIONAL ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I (KBS) (KLAB)	3	C
	PSYC 11762 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (DIVD) (KSS)	3	C
	UC 10097 DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1	C
	KENT CORE REQUIREMENT	3	C
	CREDIT HOURS	10	
SEMESTER ONE (EL=Fall; ASH=Spring)			
	AHS 12010 PROFESSIONALISM IN HEALTHCARE	1	C
	AHS 24010 MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY or HED 14020 MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	1-3	C
	BSCI 11020 FOUNDATIONAL ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II (KBS) (KLAB)	3	C
	PTST 10000 INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT	1	C
!	PTST 10001 PRINCIPLES OF PATIENT CARE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY	4	C
!	PTST 10003 CLINICAL CONDITIONS I	2	C
	CREDIT HOURS	12-14	
SEMESTER TWO (EL=Spring; ASH=Fall)			
	AHS 12005 CONCEPTS IN LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT	3	C
!	AHS 22002 CLINICAL KINESIOLOGY	3	C
!	AHS 22003 CLINICAL KINESIOLOGY LABORATORY	1	C
!	PTST 10004 PHYSICAL THERAPY PROCEDURES I	4	C
!	PTST 11005 PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE I	2	C
	KENT CORE REQUIREMENT	3	C
	CREDIT HOURS	16	
Summer (EL)			
	PTST 11092 CLINICAL EDUCATION I (ELR) (East Liverpool Campus)	0-1	C
	CREDIT HOURS	0-1	
SEMESTER THREE (EL=Fall; ASH=Spring)			
!	PTST 11092 CLINICAL EDUCATION I (ELR) (Ashtabula Campus)	0-1	C
!	PTST 20003 CLINICAL CONDITIONS II	2	C
!	PTST 20004 PHYSICAL THERAPY PROCEDURES II	4	C
!	PTST 22005 PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE II	2	C
!	PTST 22092 CLINICAL EDUCATION PRACTICUM II (ELR) (East Liverpool Campus)	0-2	C
	Kent Core Requirement	3	C
	CREDIT HOURS	14	
SEMESTER FOUR (EL=Spring; ASH=Fall)			
!	PTST 20006 PHYSICAL REHABILITATION PROCEDURES	4	C
!	PTST 20008 CLINICAL CONDITIONS III	2	C
!	PTST 22007 PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE III	2	C
!	PTST 23092 CLINICAL EDUCATION PRACTICUM III (ELR)	2	C

	Kent Core Requirement	3	C
	CREDIT HOURS	13	
SUMMER 3			
	PTST 22092 CLINICAL EDUCATION PRACTICUM II (ELR) (Ashtabula Campus)	0-2	C
	CREDIT HOURS	0-2	
	MINIMUM TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:	65	

APPLICATION TO PTST TECHNICAL STUDY

A. Minimum Qualifications for Consideration

1. Admitted Kent State University student ([Apply Now](#))
2. Declared in the AAS-PTST major (see an Academic Advisor for instructions to change your major)
3. Submit the online [PTST Technical Study Application](#) -- **The deadline is April 1, 2018 at 5:00 pm**
 - a. The online application is available at the [PTST Program website](#) beginning February 15th.
 - b. Late applications are considered on a first come, first served basis until the class is full.
 - c. Admission to PTST technical study is a separate process from admission to the University and requires a separate application.
 - d. There is no fee to apply for PTST Technical Study.
 - e. Information needed to complete the online application to PTST Technical Study:
 - ~ Contact Information: Name, address, phone, email@kent.edu
 - ~ Kent ID Number (9-digit number begins with 810...)
 - ~ High School: School and year graduated, OR GED and date received
 - ~ Previous colleges: Name, dates attended, cumulative GPA, and if applicable degree awarded
 - ~ Observation Information: Total hours, dates attended, facility names and city
4. Minimum 2.7 cumulative GPA from the most recent academic experience of 12 credit hours or more
5. Completion of essential academic preparation with a letter grade of “C” or better. *
 - a. High school or college level physics (PHY) course
 - b. High school or college level biology (BSCI) course
6. Demonstrate readiness for college level coursework with competence in reading, algebra, and writing in one of the following methods: *
 - a. Results of ACT, SAT, or KSU admissions testing
 - b. Earn a C/2.0 or better in the developmental courses prescribed during the KSU admissions process.
 - Algebra = Math 00023
 - Writing = ENG 01001
 - Reading = US 00006
 - c. Complete Kent Core Math and Kent Core Composition degree requirements with a “C” or better.
7. Submit Observation Forms ^
 - a. **UP TO THREE (3), with a MINIMUM of (2) Observation Forms**
 - ~ 20 hours of inpatient observation (a setting where the patient stays overnight)
 - ~ 20 hours of outpatient observation (a setting where the patient travels to the clinic site).
 - ~ Additional 20 hours of observation in ANY setting where Physical Therapy is performed.
 - ~ Completed within two years of the application to technical study.

- ~ Adhere to the guidelines and expectation of the clinic site.
 - ~ Maintain the confidentiality of all observed patients at the clinical site. State and federal law prohibits revealing patient names or other personal information.
- b. Schedule: Contact PT departments near your work or residence.
- ~ Tell them you are applying to a PTA program.
 - ~ Ask if you could spend time observing in their clinic to learn more about the profession.
 - ~ Schedule the times you will be at the clinic site.
 - ~ Applicants are not permitted to complete observation hours (for program application) with relatives.
- c. Upon completion of each observation experience:
- ~ Applicant completes Part I of the Observation & Recommendation Form
 - ~ Ask the licensed PT or PTA that was observed to complete Part II of the form.
 - ~ Ask the PT clinic to fax the form directly to the Kent State University PTA Department. Forms are not accepted from the applicant and cannot be reviewed at any time by the applicant.
 - ~ Watch for email confirmation that the form was received. Forms are kept on file in the PTA office for 2 years.

* Applicants are considered for acceptance when registered in the KSU courses needed to be minimally qualified in #6-Completion of essential academic preparation, and #7-Demonstrate readiness for college level coursework.

^ Applicants are Not Qualified for acceptance to technical study if “Not Recommended” on two Observation Forms, receive zero (0) points from the interview, or are banned from any clinic site.

B. Recommended Preparation

1. Attend an Information Session, scheduled monthly on each campus.
2. Schedule advising appointments each semester. Academic advising is done via email, (user@kent.edu), telephone or in person. Call 330-382-7448 or email driggs@kent.edu to schedule an appointment.
3. Complete all coursework needed to meet the minimum qualifications for acceptance to technical study.
4. Complete non-critical PTST courses to build technical study application points (See Selection Process).
5. Schedule and complete observation time in two (2) Physical Therapy departments.
6. Submit the online Application to PTST Technical Study.

C. Plan for Interview Day

Group interviews of the top 45 most academically qualified applicants are scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2018. Applicants selected for an interview will receive an email (user@kent.edu) invitation by April 13th with instructions to confirm their interview time. **All interviews will be conducted between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on Friday, April 20, 2018.**

The purpose of the interview process is to assess the applicant’s behaviors and generic abilities, which are needed in addition to a strong academic record for success as a student in Physical Therapist Assistant Technology at Kent State University. Interviews are approximately 30 minutes in length and normally include 3-4 interviewees with approximately 4 interviewers. The average rating of all interviewers determines the number of application points awarded. The interviewers assess the following eight categories:

- ~ Communication & Interpersonal Skills
- ~ Decision Making and Critical Thinking

- ~ Understanding of the Profession of Physical Therapy/Motivation
- ~ Stress Management
- ~ Time Management
- ~ Creative Processing
- ~ Professionalism
- ~ Overall Impression & Recommendation

D. Essay: After completion of the interview applicants will complete an essay writing which is graded on the following criteria:

- Follows directions (as detailed during the essay writing)
- Organized thoughts and ideas that convey an articulate message
- Excellent spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Interest in the Physical Therapy Profession

APPLICANT SELECTION PROCESS

All complete applications with documentation of the minimum qualifications are evaluated and ranked in the first three (3) selection criteria(*). Points are assigned based on information acquired in the KSU academic record. The top 45 applicants are invited to interview and submit an essay. Seats in the class are offered to the applicants with the highest total points in all 7 criteria. Acceptance to technical study continues until a maximum of 28 students are accepted, or first semester classes begin. **Selection Criteria: 155 possible points**

1. * Grade Point AverageMaximum of 40 points

4.0 - 40 points	3.6 - 28 points	3.2 - 16 points	2.8 - 4 points
3.9 - 37	3.5 - 25	3.1 - 13	2.7 - 1
3.8 - 34	3.4 - 22	3.0 - 10	
3.7 - 31	3.3 - 19	2.9 - 7	

Note: High School graduates with less than 12 college credit hours receive double GPA points in lieu of College Course Taken or Course Bonus points.

2. * College Courses Taken Maximum of 40 points

Each of the 10 open enrollment courses are awarded points based on the grade received in each course:

A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 1 points

- BSCI 11010 Foundational Anatomy & Physiology I or ATTR 25057 or BSCI 22010 or EXSC 25057
- BSCI 11020 Foundational Anatomy & Physiology II or ATTR 25058 or BSCI 20020 or BSCI 22020 or EXSC 25058
- NURS 20950 Human Growth & Development or AHS 12005
- PSYC 11762 General Psychology
- PTST 10000 Introduction to PTA
- PTST 10009 Medical Terminology or HED 14020
- Kent Core Courses: Humanities and Fine Arts; Mathematics and Critical Reasoning; Composition I; Social Sciences

3. * Course BonusMaximum of 5 points

One additional point is awarded for completion of these courses with a C/2.0 or better:

- | | |
|---|--|
| MATH 10041 Introductory Statistics | BSCI 11010 Anatomy & Physiology I, or equivalent when completed within last 5 years |
| PHY 12111 Physics for Health Technologies | BSCI 11020 Anatomy & Physiology II, or equivalent when completed within last 5 years |
| MATH 11010 Algebra for Calculus | |

4. Essential Behaviors (from observation experiences)Maximum of 12 points

A licensed therapist rates the applicant in 6 criteria based on experiences during observation hours.

Two points possible for each criterion. Points awarded for the lowest of the two ratings in each criteria.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ~ Reliability / Accountability | ~ Inquisitiveness, Motivation, Independence |
| ~ Verbal / Non-verbal communication | ~ Professionalism, Maturity, Ability to work with others |
| ~ Interpersonal Skills | ~ Intellectual Potential, Judgment & Common Sense |

5. Observation Experience Recommendation Maximum of 8 points

Highly recommended	8	Average of all recommendations for total points
Recommended	4	
Recommended with reservation	0	
Not Recommended	-8	

Note: Students "not recommended" by two clinicians are not considered for acceptance into PTST technical study

6. InterviewMaximum of 40 points

Ratings from all interviewers are averaged together. See previous page for criteria.

7. EssayMaximum of 10 points

See previous page for grading criteria.

8. Observation Bonus (if highly recommended or recommend)Maximum of 5 points

D. Selection Notification

The PTST Program uses the Applicant Selection Process (next page) to select up to 28 applicants to begin PTST technical study. **All selection notifications are sent to the students KSU email address according to the following schedule.** Please do not call unless you did not received an email.

- Selected to Interview – by April 13, 2018
- Not Qualified & Not Interviewed – April 13, 2018
- Selection Process Results (Selected, Alternate & Not Selected) – 3rd week of May

Applicants not accepted to technical study in a given year may re-apply in a subsequent year. Observation and Recommendation forms are valid and kept in the PTA office for two (2) years after the last observation date. Students not selected are encouraged to meet with a program advisor to review the strength of their application and establish a plan to meet their academic and career goals.

If a student accepts a seat in the PTA Program and attends program orientation then withdraws from one or all PTST technical study courses, this is considered a Failure to Progress.

If a student is offered a seat in the PTST technical study program but declines the offer they must re-apply to the technical study if they want to be considered for admission after the initial acceptance.

Transfer Student Policies

Transfer course credit

The Kent State University (KSU) Transfer Center evaluates the transcripts provided during the KSU admissions process. All previous coursework is recorded and recognized as “Earned Credit”. Any course listed as equivalent to a KSU course in the [Transfer Credit Guide](#) is guaranteed to transfer to KSU as the course listed. Any student with a previously earned Bachelor’s degree automatically receives credit for all Kent Core general studies requirements.

Students may petition a department to re-evaluate any transfer course that does not have an equivalent KSU course. [Indicated by KSU course numbers with an “X” (Example: PSYC 1X135)]. Petitions may only be submitted after the student is accepted to KSU and the Transfer Center has completed the process of evaluating the transcript. Please consult your advisor regarding the process to petition for transfer credit.

Students must monitor the Graduation Planning System (GPS) Audit to confirm that transfer courses are recognized as meeting the graduation requirements of the AAS-PTST degree. Petitions to recognize transfer course credit should be completed during the first semester at KSU.

Transfer from another PT or PTA Program

Students who transfer from another physical therapist or physical therapist assistant degree program must apply and be accepted to PTST technical study. **Courses previously completed at another institution do not transfer as equivalent to PTST courses at KSU.**

Credit by Exam (CBE) is available by department approval for certain PTST courses in the curriculum. Students requesting department approval for CBE must apply and be accepted to PTST technical study; and provide documentation of the following from their previous academic experience.

- a. Institution – Good academic standing and cumulative GPA of 2.7 or better.
- b. PT or PTA coursework – Minimum grade of C in comparable coursework as demonstrated with official transcripts and a course syllabus; or a credentials evaluation for foreign educated physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

Students approved for CBE have one (1) attempt to pass the written and final exams with 72% or better. Any student who is unsuccessful in CBE must take and pass the course.

Upon faculty approval for CBE,

- a. The faculty provide the student with a course syllabus, including textbook, required reading and course objectives. Upon request the student is also provided with lecture objectives.
- b. The student submits the CBE form and pays the required fees to the KSU Registrar’s Office.
- c. The student independently studies for and completes the proctored exam(s).

Transfer between campuses at Kent State University

Students apply and are accepted to PTST technical study at either the Ashtabula or the East Liverpool campus. Once admitted to technical study, a student is encouraged to complete the degree at that campus. Students who are in good academic standing have one opportunity to request a transfer to the other campus. **Note:** Transferring between campuses is a Failure to Progress, as defined in this Program Handbook, which will result in delayed graduation and may require competency testing to re-enter technical study.

Approval of a campus transfer request is dependent upon the availability of a seat in the class. Students who transfer to the other campus in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd semester of technical study must complete all remaining degree requirements and graduate from that campus.

Transfer between health care programs at Kent State University

Students who have been dismissed for academic reasons from a health care program at Kent State University are eligible to apply for acceptance to technical study in another health care program at KSU as long as they meet the admission requirements of the program to which they are transferring to and there is available space in the program.

Students who have been dismissed from a health care program at any campus of Kent State University for other specified reasons may not enroll in another health care program or transfer to another campus within the same health care program. Specified reasons include, but are not limited to: failure to pass a background check screening, falsification of information or documentation, plagiarism, unprofessional behavior, use of drugs or alcohol, breach of confidentiality, threatening or manipulative behavior, failure to maintain professional boundaries with clients, and other behavioral or ethical issues identified at the discretion of the Dean. This does not include dismissals for academic reasons.

The health care programs referred to herein include nursing, occupational therapy assistant technology, physical therapist assistant technology, radiologic technology and respiratory therapy technology, and any other health-related programs identified by the Dean.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Working While in PTST Technical Study

Many students continue to work while completing the critical courses in PTST technical study, however the ability to do this is dependent upon work schedule flexibility, semester schedule and credit hour load, as well as the student's learning style and other responsibilities. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes, and must be available for the required full-time clinical education experiences during the final year. It is strongly recommended that students not work full-time once accepted to technical study.

Tuition and Fees

[Tuition at Kent State University](#) Regional Campuses, for undergraduate coursework during the 2017-18 academic year is \$258 per credit hour or \$2,832 for 11-17 credit hours per semester for Ohio residents, and \$620 per credit hour or \$6,812 for 11-17 credit hours per semester for non-Ohio residents. Please see the [Bursar's webpage](#) for further information or questions.

There is a \$12 per credit hour fee for most PTST courses to cover the cost of lab supplies and some course and program requirements. Fully online undergraduate courses are also assessed an additional per credit hour fee. Tuition and fees are subject to change, please ask your academic advisor for the current [PTST Cost Sheet](#).

Students in the following counties are eligible for a tuition surcharge reduction up of up to \$6,000 per year (depending on number of registered hours): Brooke, Hancock, and Ohio counties in West Virginia; Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, and Mercer counties in Pennsylvania. Additional information is available at <http://www.kent.edu/bursar/tuition-and-fees> or contacting Chris Winland at 330-382-7557.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Many students in PTST technical study receive some form of financial aid. If you are interested in applying for financial aid, please start by completing the FAFSA form (government financial eligibility form) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Information on general financial aid and scholarships is available from the Office of Financial Aid, 330-382-7557, or by email at cwinlan1@kent.edu.

Complaints

The PTST Program makes every effort to be fair and objective in every decision that affects students. However, occasionally mistakes and/or miscommunication do occur. In those instances when a student wishes to challenge a decision, appropriate behaviors are essential to resolving the concerns in a professional manner.

The following step-wise progression should be used to achieve an appropriate resolution to any concern. It is normally inappropriate to bypass a step to “go right to the top”. When resolution/understanding is achieved the process ends without going to the next person on the list.

- 1) Self-assess and review your facts and perceptions.
- 2) Make an appointment with the Program Director to express your questions or concerns.
- 3) Should you still have a concern, consult the campus Assistant Dean.

[Kent State University Administrative Policy 8-01.4](#) provides information regarding the formal complaint process at Kent State University. Complaint forms and process may be obtained from the Assistant Dean.

Equal Opportunity

In academic and student programs, it is the policy of this University that there shall be no unlawful discrimination against any student or applicant for admission as a student because of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, handicap, or identity as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. Such policy shall apply to, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: recruiting, admission, access to programs, financial aid, and social, recreational, and health programs. This policy shall be applicable to all campuses and units of the University. This policy shall also apply with reference to discrimination on a basis of age insofar as required by law. Inquiries regarding federal regulations and state law may be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action, Wright Hall, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 44242-0001.

Access and Accommodations

Kent State University recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional climate in which students with disabilities can succeed. In accordance with University Policy, if you have a documented disability, you may request accommodations to obtain equal access and to promote your learning in this program. Please contact Danielle Baker-Rose, the Disability Specialist, by e-mail dbaker13@kent.edu to inquire about appropriate accommodations. After your eligibility is determined, you will be given a letter, which when presented to your instructors, will help us know best how to assist you.

Instructions for the Observation & Recommendation Form

Instructions for Students – PART I

- Print applicant name and contact information
- Print clinic site name and contact information
- Provide beginning date, end date and total observation hours
- **BE SURE TO USE THE CORRECT FORM FOR INPATIENT/OUTPATIENT/BONUS**
- Indicate the patients and/or settings observed providing PT services
- Sign and date the declarations.
- Provide this form to a licensed PT or PTA for completion of PART II.

Instructions for Clinicians – PART II

- The Observation and Recommendation form must be completed by a licensed PT or PTA
- The person completing the form should be the person who spent a significant amount of the time with the student.
- Observation and Recommendation forms are not accepted from relatives of the applicant.
- Once the applicant signs the waiver, they are NEVER allowed to see the Observation and Recommendation Form.
- The therapist's honest and forthright responses are essential to the application and selection process.
- Please contact the PTA program office with any questions about either the recommendation process, or the PTA program at KSU.
- **FAX or mail the Observation and Recommendation Form before the April 1st application deadline**

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Kent State University at East Liverpool
400 E. Fourth Street
East Liverpool, OH 43920

FAX: 330-382-7564
Phone: 330-382-7448

Thank You Clinicians:

The time you take to introduce future PTA student to the physical therapy profession is very much appreciated. Your recommendation is used to help determine which applicants are selected for the incoming class in the Physical Therapist Assistant Technology Program at Kent State. We hope this process is enjoyable for you, and rewarding for the applicant. We truly appreciate your honest and candid opinion.

**Kent State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program
2018 **INPATIENT** Observation & Recommendation Form**

PART I: Completed by Applicant

Applicant Name (print) _____

Phone (____) _____ KSU Email _____

Clinic Site Name _____ PT Dept. Phone (____) _____

Address _____

Observation Dates ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

Total Hours at this Clinic _____

Indicate the Setting Type: **INPATIENT**

Applicant Declarations:

- *I am aware that any dishonesty will disqualify my application to PTST technical study.*
- *My signature waives my right to review this completed form.*

Check all observed PT services.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acute care	<input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrics
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub acute care	<input type="checkbox"/> Geriatrics
<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Athletes
<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Wellness Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Health	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Practice
<input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedics	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Setting
<input type="checkbox"/> Neuromuscular	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardiopulmonary

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

PART II: Completed by a LICENSED PT or PTA

Rate the applicant on each of these behavioral characteristics as demonstrated during the observation time. (Please mark one box for each characteristic)

CHARACTERISTIC	Good	Fair	Poor
1. Reliability / Accountability			
2. Verbal / Non-verbal Communication			
3. Interpersonal Skills			
4. Inquisitiveness, Motivation & Independence			
5. Professionalism, Maturity, Ability to work with others			
6. Intellectual Potential, Judgment & Common Sense			

<p>Recommendation of this applicant. (Select One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Highly recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recommended with reservation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not recommended</p>
--

Evaluating Therapist Name (print) _____ Date _____

Signature _____ State & License # _____

**MAIL or FAX directly to KSU PTA Program
FAX: 330-382-7564**

Instructions for the Observation & Recommendation Form

Instructions for Students – PART I

- Print applicant name and contact information
- Print clinic site name and contact information
- Provide beginning date, end date and total observation hours
- Indicate if Inpatient (patient stays overnight at the facility) or Outpatient (patient travels to clinic site)
- Indicate the patients and/or settings observed providing PT services
- Sign and date the declarations.
- Provide this form to a licensed PT or PTA for completion of PART II.

Instructions for Clinicians – PART II

- The Observation and Recommendation form must be completed by a licensed PT or PTA
- The person completing the form should be the person who spent a significant amount of the time with the student.
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- Once the applicant signs the waiver, they are NEVER allowed to see the Observation and Recommendation Form.
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- **FAX or mail the Observation and Recommendation Form before the April 1st application deadline**

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Kent State University at East Liverpool
400 E. Fourth Street
East Liverpool, OH 43920

FAX: 330-382-7564
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**Kent State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program
2018 **OUTPATIENT** Observation & Recommendation Form**

PART I: Completed by Applicant

Applicant Name (print) _____

Phone (____) _____ KSU Email _____

Clinic Site Name _____ PT Dept. Phone (____) _____

Address _____

Observation Dates ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

Total Hours at this Clinic _____

Indicate the Setting Type: **OUTPATIENT**

Applicant Declarations:

- *I am aware that any dishonesty will disqualify my application to PTST technical study.*
- *My signature waives my right to review this completed form.*

Check all observed PT services.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acute care	<input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrics
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub acute care	<input type="checkbox"/> Geriatrics
<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Athletes
<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Wellness Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Health	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Practice
<input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedics	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Setting
<input type="checkbox"/> Neuromuscular	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardiopulmonary

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

PART II: Completed by a LICENSED PT or PTA

Rate the applicant on each of these behavioral characteristics as demonstrated during the observation time. (Please mark one box for each characteristic)

CHARACTERISTIC	Good	Fair	Poor
1. Reliability / Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Verbal / Non-verbal Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Interpersonal Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Inquisitiveness, Motivation & Independence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Professionalism, Maturity, Ability to work with others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Intellectual Potential, Judgment & Common Sense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Recommendation of this applicant. (Select One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Highly recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recommended with reservation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not recommended</p>
--

Evaluating Therapist Name (print) _____ Date _____

Signature _____ State & License # _____

**MAIL or FAX directly to KSU PTA Program
FAX: 330-382-7564**

Instructions for the Observation & Recommendation Form

Instructions for Students – PART I

- Print applicant name and contact information
- Print clinic site name and contact information
- Provide beginning date, end date and total observation hours
- Indicate if Inpatient (patient stays overnight at the facility) or Outpatient (patient travels to clinic site)
- Indicate the patients and/or settings observed providing PT services
- Sign and date the declarations.
- Provide this form to a licensed PT or PTA for completion of PART II.

Instructions for Clinicians – PART II

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- The person completing the form should be the person who spent a significant amount of the time with the student.
- Observation and Recommendation forms are not accepted from relatives of the applicant.
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- Please contact the PTA program office with any questions about either the recommendation process, or the PTA program at KSU.
- **FAX or mail the Observation and Recommendation Form before the April 1st application deadline**

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Kent State University at East Liverpool
400 E. Fourth Street
East Liverpool, OH 43920

FAX: 330-382-7564
Phone: 330-382-7448

Thank You Clinicians:

The time you take to introduce future PTA student to the physical therapy profession is very much appreciated. Your recommendation is used to help determine which applicants are selected for the incoming class in the Physical Therapist Assistant Technology Program at Kent State. We hope this process is enjoyable for you, and rewarding for the applicant. We truly appreciate your honest and candid opinion.

**Kent State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program
2018 **BONUS** Observation & Recommendation Form**

PART I: Completed by Applicant

Applicant Name (print) _____

Phone (____) _____ KSU Email _____

Clinic Site Name _____ PT Dept. Phone (____) _____

Address _____

Observation Dates ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

Total Hours at this Clinic _____

Indicate the Setting Type: **OUTPATIENT** or **INPATIENT**

Applicant Declarations:

- *I am aware that any dishonesty will disqualify my application to PTST technical study.*
- *My signature waives my right to review this completed form.*

Check all observed PT services.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acute care	<input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrics
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub acute care	<input type="checkbox"/> Geriatrics
<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Athletes
<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Wellness Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Health	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Practice
<input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedics	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Setting
<input type="checkbox"/> Neuromuscular	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardiopulmonary

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

PART II: Completed by a LICENSED PT or PTA

Rate the applicant on each of these behavioral characteristics as demonstrated during the observation time. (Please mark one box for each characteristic)

CHARACTERISTIC	Good	Fair	Poor
1. Reliability / Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Verbal / Non-verbal Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Interpersonal Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Inquisitiveness, Motivation & Independence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Professionalism, Maturity, Ability to work with others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Intellectual Potential, Judgment & Common Sense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Recommendation of this applicant. (Select One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Highly recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recommended with reservation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not recommended</p>
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Evaluating Therapist Name (print) _____ Date _____

Signature _____ State & License # _____

**MAIL or FAX directly to KSU PTA Program
FAX: 330-382-7564**