

## MARION TECHNICAL COLLEGE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM POLICY #100 AND PROCEDURE

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SUBJECT:	Physical Therapist Assistant Program Grading Policy
DATE APPROVED:	March 2007;
PURPOSES/OBJECTIVES:	To ensure that the students who successfully complete MTC Physical Therapist Assistant Technical Courses (which receive a "letter" grade) have adequately mastered the hands-on skills and didactic objectives of each course in order to progress through the program and succeed in employment.

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### **POLICY:**

Each student must earn a grade of "C" or better in all required courses of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Curriculum. Any course in which a student fails to earn a "C" must be repeated and passed with a "C" or better to progress and complete the program. Students are required to meet the prerequisite(s) for all courses in which they enroll.

The grading scale for all PTA technical courses are as follows:

100 – 90 = A  
89.99 – 80 = B  
79.99 – 75 = C  
74.99 – 60 = D  
59.99 – 0 = F

Grading procedures in non-PTA technical courses are determined by the respective department.

### **PROCEDURE:**

Students MUST perform at or above the expected standard in all aspects of a PTA course in order to successfully pass the course with a grade of "C" or better:

1. The final course grade must equal a 75% or greater;
2. Each laboratory practical examination must be passed with a 75% (or 80% for comprehensive practicals) or greater;
3. AND the cumulative points on objective examinations must equal a 75% or greater when the weighted average is calculated.

#### A. Laboratory Practical Examinations in PTA courses:

Laboratory Practical Examinations are given throughout the PTA curriculum. Students have two opportunities to pass each "skill-based" practical examination in each course. Every course in the PTA Program with a lab session has a clinical skills check list.

1. It is the STUDENT'S responsibility to take the initiative to have the instructor approve the skills in the lab session and to have all the skills approved by the end of the course. Students shall demonstrate skills and have them approved according to guidelines in the syllabus, and

shall NOT allow unapproved skills to accumulate during the term. During a lab session the student will ask the instructor to check the skill when the student is ready. All laboratory skills must be demonstrated successfully and recorded on the lab skills checklist prior to the final laboratory practical examination in each course.

2. Students must earn a 75% score (or 80% for comprehensive) to successfully pass a practical examination.
3. Students not earning a minimum of 75%/80% on the second attempt will NOT receive a passing grade (i.e. an A, B, or C) for the course and must immediately withdraw from the course, thus having to repeat the course prior to progressing further in the PTA Program (see the PTA Readmission Policy for details).
4. **Exception:** ALH/PTA 1103, **Functional Anatomy**, will not follow the rules described above because it is not a “treatment skills” course and the laboratory practical examinations follow a “lab station” format for material rather than a “patient problem” format. Please note that students must earn a 75% score for the course and a cumulative 75% on the objective examinations in order to successfully pass ALH/ PTA 1103; however, 75% on any given lab practical is not necessary and scoring lower than 75% on a **ALH/PTA 1103** practical does not constitute immediate failure in the course. Please also note that because of these differences in ALH/PTA 1103, the score on the first lab practical attempt is final and no second practical will be scheduled regardless of the student’s score on the first attempt.

#### B. Objective Examinations in PTA courses:

Objective examinations are given throughout the PTA curriculum. These examinations are typically midterm examinations and final examinations. Quizzes are NOT considered objective examinations.

1. Students must earn a cumulative weighted 75% (C grade) on the objective examinations for a PTA course in order to successfully pass the PTA course. (This does NOT mean that a student must earn a 75% on EACH objective examination.) The points from each objective examination will be totaled and the student’s points for all objective examinations MUST be 75% when the weighted average is calculated.

##### Example:

Exam I (150 possible points): student earned 125 points

Exam II (150 possible points): student earned 100 points

Final Exam (300 possible points): student earned 275 points

$$125 + 100 + 275 = 500 \text{ earned points} / 600 \text{ possible points} = \mathbf{83\%} \text{ cumulative weighted average for all objective examinations}$$

2. **Exception:** In ALH/PTA 1103, **PTA Functional Anatomy**, students must earn a cumulative weighted 75% on all objective examinations (including laboratory practical examinations). Because the laboratory practical examinations follow a “lab station” format rather than a “patient problem” format, these examinations are considered “objective.” Therefore, in order to pass ALH/PTA 1103, the points from each objective examination (including the laboratory practical examinations) will be totaled and the student’s points for all objective examinations MUST equal 75% when the weighted average is calculated.

3. *Students who earn a "C" or below on an objective examination (>79.9-75%),* will be required to satisfactorily complete the safety net protocol (PTA program policy 095). Students are not permitted to sit for the subsequent examination if the safety net protocol is not completed to the instructor's satisfaction. Please see policy 095 for more detail.

4. Students not earning a cumulative weighted 75% on the objective examinations for a PTA course will NOT receive a passing grade (i.e. an A, B, or C) for the course, thus requiring the student to repeat the course prior to progressing further in the PTA Program (see the PTA Readmission Policy for details).

5. Re-take examinations will not be provided for failed objective examinations.

6. Make-up examinations will only be offered in the case of extreme extenuating circumstances, such as illness or injury. If a student is absent on the day of an examination, an oral or written make-up examination may be given at the instructor's discretion. In the case of illness or injury, a doctor's note is required.

C. Late work (work is late if it is submitted beyond the due date and time indicated in the course syllabus) is not acceptable in a professional program and will receive the grade of "0 (zero)", unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

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REVISED: June 2020, July 2018, June 2017, May 2015, July 2012, July 2010, March 2007, December 2006,  
May 2006  
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