Dear Prospective Physical Therapist Assistant Program Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Illinois Central College. To assist you in completing the required observation hours, please see the list of suggested locations with facility names that you can contact.

You are required to **complete 10 total hours of observation** experience in a minimum of two different practice settings to be **eligible to apply** to the PTA program. However, these hours can be with the same company.

These observation hours give you an opportunity to connect with physical therapy clinicians and understand the variety of services provided. Physical therapy services are typically offered in hospitals, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, school-based programs, sports medicine programs, orthopedic clinics, and home health settings.

The following are guidelines for you in completing observation hours:

1) To set up your observation, contact the physical therapy department and explain why you are setting up the observation.
2) Be courteous and respectful of the clinician’s time.
3) Facilities may have additional requirements in order for you to complete your observation hours. It is your responsibility to meet these requirements as specified.
4) Dress appropriately: casual dress is acceptable but no sandals or open shoes are allowed.
5) Complete the Documentation Form for observation with the clinician’s signature and include with your application. This form can be found on the PTA program website.
6) A total of 10 hours observation experience in two different practice settings.
6) Your observation hours need to be with a physical therapist and/or a physical therapist assistant. It is not acceptable to observe a physical therapy clinic with the clerical staff or other personnel. You need an opportunity to ask questions of the skilled clinician.

Please contact a Health Careers Advisor at (309) 690-7530 if you have questions, need assistance with the application process or have questions about your observation hours.

Thank you for your interest in pursuing a future career as a physical therapist assistant!

Sincerely,

Julie Feeny, PT MS
Illinois Central College
Program Director
Physical Therapist Assistant Program