Apply Now for Physical Therapy Assistant Program

Rogue Community College and Lane Community College are partnering to provide convenient, local training for physical therapy assistants.

The new Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program starts fall term 2013. The application process begins May 24 and closes June 20. The program can be completed by southern Oregon-based students through a combination of RCC classes and LCC distance education.

The program prepares students to function as entry-level PTAs in a variety of practice settings and to pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE), which is administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

The PTA program follows a hybrid-delivery model in which the classroom instruction is delivered online while the laboratory and clinical sections are delivered locally and at partner sites throughout Oregon. RCC offers program prerequisites, general education, and related coursework. Students completing the program will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree from Lane Community College.

A maximum of 10 students move as a cohort through the program, which is designed to be completed within two years, according to Bruce Scanlon, program advisor.

PTAs work under the direction of physical therapists providing direct care to patients. They help patients who are recovering from injuries, illnesses, and surgeries regain movement and manage pain. Major employers include hospitals, nursing homes, schools, rehabilitation centers, and physical therapists’ offices.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of jobs for PTAs nationwide is expected to increase 46 percent through 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Nationally, the annual median wage for PTAs is $49,690 per year. In Oregon, the average annual median wage is $53,338, according to the Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Labor Market Information System.

For more information about the program, contact Bruce Scanlon, program advisor, at 541-245-7845 or bscanlon@roguecc.edu, or visit www.roguecc.edu/ContinuingEducation/AlliedHealth/PTA.

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Twitter cue: RCC teams up with Lane Community College to provide physical therapy assistant training starting fall 2013.

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