# Objectives and Goals of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program

The goals and objectives of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program reflect the mission and philosophy of both the College in general and the PTA program specifically. They are designed to encompass the educational outcomes, the program objectives and curriculum content, and needs of the health care community. The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is committed to students who, upon completion of the program, will:

- Possess entry-level skills as deemed appropriate for the physical therapist assistant by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.
- Successfully complete the PTA National Licensing Examination as part of the licensure process for the state in which they chose to practice.
- Possess a broad general education background that includes humanities, mathematics, social sciences, biological sciences, and technologies.
- Work under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist in an ethical, legal, safe, and effective manner.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the Alabama Practice Act as it relates to the practice of physical therapy, as well as demonstrate an awareness of the existence of varying practice laws from state to state.
- Develop the skills necessary to pursue lifelong learning needed for personal and professional growth.
- Demonstrate appropriate critical thinking and problem solving skills in the role as a physical therapist assistant.
- Become integral members of the healthcare team.
- Interact with patients, families, and co-workers in a manner that demonstrates an appreciation of cultural and socioeconomic diversity.
- Be aware of their responsibility in the promotion of the profession through membership in the APT A, attendance at local and national meetings and conferences, and participation in community events.