

## **Notification of Request for Authorization under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act**

- Date posted:** September 10, 2013
- Institution:** Pima Medical Institute
- Current status:** Authorized to offer degree programs at its Seattle and Renton campuses as well as advertise and recruit for programs offered via distance learning from the main Tucson, AZ campus
- Nature of request:** Authorization to advertise and recruit in Washington State for a program to be offered exclusively via distance learning
- Proposed program:** Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant (degree completion program)

### **Background:**

Pima Medical Institute is a private, for-profit vocational institution headquartered in Tucson, Arizona with campuses in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and California as well as two campuses in Washington located in Seattle and Renton. It is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). It has been authorized to offer degree programs in Washington State since 2007.

### **Nature of the review:**

Prior to granting authorization to advertise new degree programs in Washington State, the Washington Student Achievement Council/Degree Authorization reviews elements such as program outcomes, course requirements, method of course delivery, faculty credentials, and student services.

The program to be offered by Pima Medical Institute appears to meet the requirements of the Degree-Granting Institutions Act.

Information on the additional program can be found at the end of this notice.

### **Timeline:**

The Council will accept comments on this application until September 24, 2013.

Any individuals with knowledge that may indicate the institution and/or the program does not meet the authorization requirements of WAC 250-61 are requested to submit comments to:

[Degree Authorization](#).

If you would like to know more about the current law and regulations that govern the program, they can be found at the following links: the statute is [RCW 28B.85](#) and the regulation is [WAC 250-61](#).

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### **Program Title:**

**Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy Assistant** (degree completion program)

### **Program Outcomes:**

“The Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant (BSPTA) degree is intended for Physical Therapy Assistants (PTA) seeking a baccalaureate degree completion program. The mission of the BSPTA program is to provide advanced foundational, technical, and evidence-

based knowledge necessary to progress skills, enhance professionalism, and apply critical thinking beyond the associate degree level for PTAs. The BSPTA program follows a philosophy that an upwardly transitioning education for PTAs better meets graduate, employer, and societal needs.”

Please note that the catalog information also states: “The BSPTA is a degree completion program intended for PTAs. The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education does not accredit degree completion programs....”

Number of Credits: 120 semester credits, including 66 transfer credits

Mode of Delivery: 100% distance learning

Admissions Requirements specific to this program:

Students must have graduated from a Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education-accredited PTA program; completed a total of 66 semester credits consisting of 15 general education credits, 39 PTA technical credits and 12 related credits. Transfer credits must meet the following conditions: awarded by a nationally or regionally accredited institution; grade of “C” or better and numbered 100 and above. General education transfer credits are required to be a broad sampling of various educational experiences including the following categories: arts & humanities, business, information systems, social sciences, or natural sciences.

Required Courses:

General Education Courses: (21 credits)

BUS 220	Healthcare Management.....	3
CPT 301	Microcomputer Applications .....	3
ENG 310	Technical Writing.....	3
MTH 310	Research Statistics.....	3
PHI 301	Critical Thinking .....	3
PSY 201	Psychology .....	3
SOC 325	Culture & Human Diversity .....	3

Core courses: (33 credits)

HCA 310	Health Care Law & Compliance .....	3
HLT 410	Pathophysiology .....	3
PTA 315	Exercise Physiology .....	4
PTA 350	Evidence-based Practice for the PTA .....	4
PTA 375	Patient Communications, Motivation and Learning .....	3
PTA 415	Inpatient Care Practice OR	
PTA 420	Outpatient Care Practice .....	4
PTA 435	Clinical Kinesiology.....	4
PTA 460	Practice Specific Rehabilitation .....	4
PTA 490	Professional Capstone .....	4