



ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON
SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
(www.shp.utmb.edu/programs/pt/)**

AND

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
(<http://nah.southtexascollege.edu/pta/>)**

This agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB), an institution of The University of Texas System and an agency of the State of Texas, for and on behalf of its School of Health Professions (SHP) and South Texas College (STC), for and on behalf of the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

Whereas the UTMB’s SHP is part of UTMB, consisting of several professional health programs, at both undergraduate and graduate levels, with its SHP offering a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Degree in its Department of Physical Therapy;

Whereas STC awards the *Associate in Applied Sciences* degree with a major in *Physical Therapist Assistant* which have the potential for preparing students for completing requirements for the UTMB DPT program while at the same time preparing students for careers in athletic training, exercise science and other allied health professions, and

Whereas STC desires to assist its students who seek to continue their education beyond the AAS degree to a BS degree and DPT degree, and

Whereas STC and UTMB will mutually benefit from working together to facilitate matriculation of STC students who meet all other UTMB SHP admission’s requirements into its DPT program to provide an opportunity for qualified students who have identified physical therapy as a career choice to receive early acceptance into UTMB SHP DPT Bridge Program towards completion of their DPT degree,

Therefore, in consideration of the mutual promises herein and to achieve the objective described, the parties agree as follows:

I. ADMISSIONS POLICIES

The present admissions policies are:

- A. Student completes the AAS degree from STC with GPA of 3.5 or better and successfully passes the PTA licensure exam on the first try.
- B. Student satisfies the following requirements for acceptance into the UTMB DPT Program:
 1. Satisfactorily completes a consultation by one representative of the faculty of the STC program and one faculty representative of the UTMB DPT Bridge program when the student is classified as Level 2A. The STC interview will be conducted with the STC advisor. The UTMB consultation will be conducted with a DPT faculty member during a visit to a SHP Open House or a phone consultation.
 2. Achieves a grade of "C" or better in all required prerequisite courses.
 3. Achieves a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above for all courses taken in the bachelor’s degree curriculum (or 3.00 in the last 90 hours).
 4. Achieves a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above for all math and science courses taken in the bachelor’s curriculum.
 5. Completes a Bachelor's Degree and all pre-requisite courses by January prior to the desired Summer Semester start date.
 6. Completes the required UTMB DPT pre-admission physical therapy experience requirements of at least 2 years in a physical therapy setting in which he/she has

been supervised by a licensed PT. These hours must be completed by the time of application and interview.

7. Submits all UTMB DPT application forms by the deadline of the application submission period of the year prior to the desired Summer Semester start date.
8. Submits 3 letters of recommendation (one from the STC representative; one from a licensed Physical Therapist.)
9. Completes and submits scores of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) at the time of application.
10. Satisfactorily completes a UTMB admissions interview during the fall prior to the Summer Semester start date of the DPT program.
11. Applies for admission within five years of graduating from STC.

C. Subject to the number of slots available, UTMB DPT will reserve at least 1 of the class places each year for applicants successfully completing the STC curriculum and all other applicable UTMB DPT pre-requisites.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- A. The student is accepted into and follows the curriculum designed by STC in conjunction with UTMB DPT as outlined below; (see Section III).
- B. At entry to the STC program, the student will be assigned a faculty contact at UTMB DPT to help counsel the student during the course of study at STC. The UTMB DPT faculty contact will as needed be available to answer questions regarding the UTMB DPT admission process, including application deadlines and requirements..
- C. When the student is classified as Level 2A in the STC program, the student will undergo a consultation with one representative of the STC program and one representative of the UTMB DPT program. These consultations are to determine the student's motivation for the physical therapy health profession, to assess personal qualities deemed valuable to these health professions, to familiarize the student with the UTMB Program, and to allow the student to assess whether such a Program is suited to them. The STC interview will be conducted with the STC advisor. The UTMB consultation will be conducted during a visit to a SHP Open House with a DPT faculty member or during a phone consultation.
- D. The student successfully completes the required curriculum of the STC program, whereupon, two students entering the class will be accepted in the UTMB DPT Program on a non-competitive basis, contingent upon the following:
 1. A positive recommendation by the STC representative.
 2. Successful completion of all UTMB DPT admissions requirements as outlined in Section IB.
- E. Repetition of courses may be considered acceptable if, in the opinion of the UTMB DPT Bridge Admissions Committee, the number of these courses is not excessive. All grades of a repeated course are calculated into the student's overall GPA, not replacing the previous grade.

- F. Students who do not fulfill the requirements of this early acceptance program are in no way precluded from applying to the UTMB DPT Program through the general competitive admission process.

III. SPECIFIC PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

A. STC PTA Program

1. Promotion of and recruiting students into the STC program.
2. Ensuring that students are taking the required courses and maintaining GPA standards.
3. Helping UTMB DPT Bridge program ensuring students are completing all the necessary requirements for admission to the UTMB DPT program.

B. UTMB DPT Program

1. Promotion of and recruiting students into the Bridge program.
2. Providing a representative to be a contact for each student in the program in order to answer any questions students might have regarding the UTMB DPT part of the STC program, the UTMB DPT Bridge program and admission to the UTMB DPT Bridge program.

IV. GENERAL TERMS

A. Term of Agreement:

Regardless of the dates of execution, this Agreement shall be effective beginning December 1, 2015 and shall continue until December 31, 2020. Thereafter, the term of this Agreement may be extended for successive 5-year terms by the written agreement of the parties. Either party may terminate this Agreement, without cause, by providing not less than 30 days advance written notice to the other party. This Agreement in no way precludes either Institution from admitting students from other cooperating Institutions or from articulating with other Institutions. There is no financial obligation on the part of either Institution to the other.

B. Notice:

Any notice to be given hereunder by either party to the other shall be in writing and may be effected by depositing same in the US mail, postpaid and registered or certified and addressed to the party to be notified, with return requested; or by personal delivery to the person to be notified and addressed as follows or to such individuals as each party may notify the other in writing from time to time:

STC : South Texas College
Division of Nursing and Allied Health
Division Dean
1101 E. Vermont Drive
McAllen, TX 78502

With copy to: South Texas College
University Relations, Transfer and Articulation Center
3201 W. Pecan Boulevard
McAllen, TX 78501

UTMB: The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
301 University Boulevard
Galveston, Texas 77555-0153
Attn: Vice President and Dean, School of Health Professions

With copy to: Carolyn Utsey, PhD, PT
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
301 University Boulevard
Galveston, Texas 77550-1132
Phone: (409) 772-8205

C. Independent Contractor:

In no event shall this Agreement be construed to create a partnership, agency, joint venture or similar relationship between the parties hereto.

D. Indemnification.

STC agrees to indemnify and hold UTMB harmless against any and all claims, demands, damages, liabilities, and costs incurred by UTMB which directly or indirectly result from or arise in connection with, any act or omission of STC, its agents, or employees, in performing STC obligations hereunder.

E. Governing Law and Venue:

This Agreement will be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas without reference to its conflicts of law provisions.. Subject to the sovereign immunity of the State of Texas, any lawsuit brought against UTMB SHP under this Agreement may only be filed in the State District Court in Galveston County, Texas.

F. Entire Agreement and Amendments:

This Agreement constitutes the sole and only agreement of the parties hereto relating to the subject matter of articulation as stated herein and correctly sets forth the rights, duties and obligations of each to the other as of the effective date and throughout the term of this Agreement. This Agreement may not be modified in any respect by any verbal statement, representation, or agreement made by any employee, officer, or representative of either STC or UTMB and no amendment may be made to this Agreement except by written amendments signed by both parties.

EXECUTED as of the dates set forth below to be effective December 1, 2015.

South Texas College

Anahid Petrosian, PhD Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs South Texas College	Date
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Jayson Valerio Interim Dean, Nursing and Allied Health South Texas College	Date
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Diana Hernandez Department Chair, Physical Therapist Assistant South Texas College	Date
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University of Texas Medical Branch

Elizabeth Protas, Ph.D., PT Dean, School of Allied Health Sciences University of Texas Medical Branch	Date
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Carolyn Utsey, Ph.D., PT Chair, SHP Department of Physical Therapy University of Texas Medical Branch	Date
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APPENDIX

Additional information about UTMB Bridge DPT Pre-Admission Requirements can be reviewed at <http://shp.utmb.edu/programs/pt/>.

Contact persons:

STC PTA

Contact: Diana Hernandez, Chair, Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Office: (956) 872-3152
Fax: (956) 872-3115
E-mail: dianah@southtexascollege.edu

UTMB DPT

Contact: Carolyn Utsey, Ph.D., PT, Chair Department of Physical Therapy
Voice: (409) 772-3068
Fax: (409) 747-1613
E-mail: cutsey@utmb.edu