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| OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP  BULLETIN | **NO.**  2024-42 |
| **DATE**  February 9, 2024 |

**TO:** NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS

OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP STAFF

STATE APPRENTICESHIP AGENCIES

**FROM:** JOHN V. LADD /s/

Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship

**SUBJECT:** New National Occupational Framework (NOF) Apprenticeable Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistant

1. **Purpose.** To inform the staff of OA, State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA), Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors, and other Registered Apprenticeship partners of the following new National Occupational Framework (NOF) to an apprenticeable occupation: Physical Therapist Assistant
2. **Action Requested.** OA staff should familiarize themselves with this bulletin and the attached Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline, as a source for developing apprenticeship standards and/or providing technical assistance.

Physical Therapist Assistant will be added to the List of Occupations Recognized as Apprenticeable by OA located on www.apprenticeship.gov. A suggested Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline are attached.

1. **Summary and Background.**
   1. Summary – The occupation Physical Therapist Assistant was submitted by Mr. Zachary Boren, Senior Policy Program Manager on behalf of Urban Institute, were processed by Joseph P. Taylor and approved by the OA Administrator on February 2, 2024.

The National Office has approved a new National Occupational Framework (NOF), developed in partnership with the Urban Institute. This NOF has met industry standards and approval; it covers job titles and occupational pathways, related functions and performance criteria, as well as academic, workplace and personal competencies for job success. While use of NOFs in developing standards utilizing the competency-based training approach is voluntary, no additional vetting of a Work Process Schedule (WPS) utilizing the NOF should be required where a program aligns to the occupational framework described in a NOF, beyond the basic requirements set forth in 29 CFR Part 29. While on-the-job learning (OJL) is ordinarily outlined in the WPS, sponsors who utilize a NOF must develop the Related Instruction Outline, which should be included in the standards. Within certain limits, the sponsors of NOF apprenticeship programs are permitted to customize the job functions or competencies contained in a NOF for Physical Therapist Assistant occupation.

However, OA encourages the use of all core competencies to be included in the approved WPS.

* 1. Background –

***New/Revised Occupation Background -*** Under 29 CFR section 29.4, an occupation for a RAP must meet the following criteria to be determined apprenticeable:

1. Involve skills that are customarily learned in a practical way through a structured, systematic program of on-the job supervised learning:
2. Be clearly identified and commonly recognized throughout an industry;
3. Involve the progressive attainment of manual, mechanical, or technical skills and knowledge which, in accordance with the industry standard for the occupation, would require the completion of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job learning to attain; and
4. Require related instruction to supplement the on-the job learning.
5. **New NOF Apprenticeable Occupation.** The occupation Physical Therapist Assistant was submitted for an apprenticeability determination.

Physical Therapist Assistant  
O\*NET-SOC CODE: 31-2021.00

RAPIDS Code: 3069CB

Type of Training: Competency-based (1.5 years)

Physical Therapist Assistants perform the following duties:

* Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) generally provide therapy to patients following a care plan specified by and under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.
* PTAs treat patients using thermal, electrical, and other modalities and provide various therapeutic interventions, including balance and gait training, stretching, therapeutic massages, and other physical treatments. and
* PTA’s guide patients in the use of numerous assistive devices and equipment and lead patients through therapeutic exercises.

1. **Inquiries.** If you have any questions, please contact Doug McPherson, Supervisory Apprenticeship and Training Representative, Division of Standards and Quality (202) 693-3783.
2. **Attachments.**

