

## First Year PTA Student Membership

Why is membership as important the first year as it is the second year?

- \* Getting involved and networking with your peers is one great way to understand the profession. Building leadership skills is something that can/should be started as early as possible. The more you network, the more you learn, the better you are in your chosen field.

- \* The Student Assembly is there to begin that networking process. The Student Assembly also allows students the opportunity to participate in the leadership of the physical therapy profession. If a PTA student doesn't join until the second year, they lose out on the opportunity to have a say. They wouldn't be eligible to run for Student Assembly office, PTA student delegate, or other positions.

- \* If the physical therapy profession is your chosen field, then why wouldn't you want to understand what's currently going on in the profession? By joining as a first year student, you receive publications, weekly PT Bulletin Online, the Student Assembly Pulse, and learn about what's current and how it's affecting you and your patients.

- \* Access to the Student Mentoring SMART program. Students mentor students. The earlier you gain access, the better it is for you as you chart your path towards graduation.

- \* Access to an active student message board. Again, this is a tool to help you network, and plot your course for your career upon graduation.

- \* Discounts on products and books at the APTA bookstore

- \* Financially, APTA student members have access to our endorsed member benefits, which include an educational loan program and a student health insurance plan, both of which are pretty good deals. You can find out more about them by clicking [here](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Benefits2&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=96&ContentID=15548)<<http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Benefits2&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=96&ContentID=15548>>. Most universities offer competitive student health insurance plans, but not all community colleges have a similar option so the health insurance may be particularly attractive to some.

- \* Financially, APTA membership opens the door to section memberships, which offer very affordable rates for student members. With just two years of studies, PTA students want start exploring their professional interests as quickly as possible so they're ready to hit the ground running once they graduate. Exploring sections and clarifying your interests during the first year helps you focus your courses and internships in the second year.