



The Casa Loma Pro



Arthur Perez (left) and Ilya Tabarovskiy (right) practice making incisions on zucchinis during the first official day of Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) class June 11 at Casa Loma College in Van Nuys, Calif.

Coming up in July:

- Level 2 LVN Skills Lab
7.11.12 @ Hawthorne
- Level 1 LVN
Orientation 7.17.12 @ Hawthorne
- Be The Match Blood
Marrow Donor Registry
7.19.12 @ Van Nuys

Pioneer students blaze PTA trail at Casa Loma

Sometimes the unknowns of a long, educational journey can be daunting. There are the known factors that deter some students from entering Casa Loma College: the amount of time required to complete the program; the cost of tuition and books; the entrance exams; the amount of juggling that students have to do between school and the rest of their lives. But when all of those hurdles are cleared, there are still the unknown variables that, when the students consider they don't actually know, cause them to balk and recant their educational and professional goals.

knowns and unknowns

Donald Rumsfeld is famous for saying, "There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. These are things we don't know we don't know."

To an extent, the students in Casa Loma College's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Class 1 are bravely tackling more daunting knowns and unknowns than any other class in the school. They are blazing the trail as the

first class ever to attempt Physical Therapist Assistant licensure through Casa Loma College.

They know they've chosen a good school. Casa Loma has built a reputation in Southern California for its high success rates in course completion, successful job placement, and employer and student satisfaction. But they're also taking a leap of faith. One of their knowns is that the PTA program at Casa Loma is not yet accredited, and the ensuing unknown is whether the school will achieve accreditation.

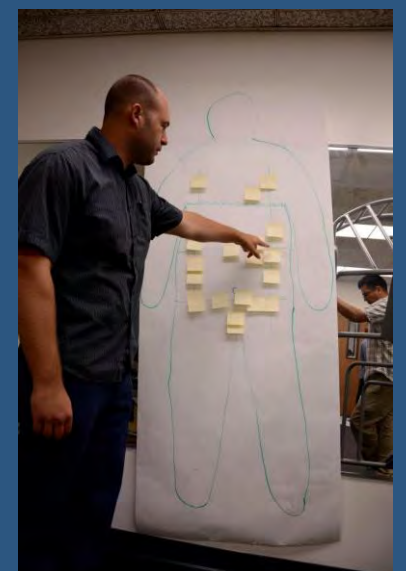
Considering Casa Loma's track record with its other programs, the students have placed a safe bet. But it's a bet nonetheless. Either they're so determined that the gamble doesn't bother them, or they've got inside information, affecting the odds.

"They're in the right spot at the right time," said Dr. Mary Sandstrom, director of Casa Loma's PTA program. Indeed the students are; the demand for PTAs is off the charts. The profession is in such high demand that schools in multiple states (including California) are reporting 90+% employment rates in graduates. Some of schools are even consistently reporting 100%.

A very common denominator in the students, aside from having that quality of being genuinely concerned

"They're in the right spot at the right time."

-Dr. Mary Sandstrom



PTA students make a map of vital organs in the human body.



Students go through a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) refresher course during Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) orientation June 5 at Casa Loma College in Van Nuys, Calif.

for the wellbeing of others, is that they want to be employed. Some students in the program already possess bachelors' degrees, and extensive experience in related fields, but simply aren't able to find work with their education and experience. The promise of employment in the much-sought-after PTA field is one of the most enticing factors for them.

But then there's also the question of pay. In this case, as with most in the healthcare industry, pay is directly correlated to the level of certification or licensure. A Physical Therapist Assistant has an associate's degree and achieves licensure in order to practice.

How much more pay is tied to that licensure?

"About ten to twelve dollars more per hour," said Dr. Sandstrom.

But the students are still taking a leap of faith. They're breaking the Catch-22 of accreditation: Tough for a school to

attract students without accreditation, and impossible for a school to achieve accreditation without graduating a class of students.

The students are well aware that they are the trailblazers of the PTA program at Casa Loma College. But for as many unknowns as these pioneer students are embracing, they're striking out on the trail undaunted.

"They're wonderful," said Dr. Sandstrom. "They're enthusiastic; I think a word that describes them – if I had to use just one – would be, 'fierce.' They sat in those interviews and said, 'I want to do this; I want to do it!'"

Do it, they shall. As of Monday, June 11, 2012, the students began their path to learning the technical and professional skills they'll need to be effective, competent, ethical assistants to physical therapists. They are on track to graduate January 10, 2014.

C4: The 4 Cs of Credit

In our continuing bid to increase our knowledge of credit reports and credit scores, we should understand how lenders use credit reports to determine the four Cs of credit.

CAPACITY

Capacity is the ability to repay a loan. Lenders want to know the borrower's:

- Debt level
- Income sources
- Length of employment

CHARACTER

Will the borrower repay the loan? The lender looks at his or her:

- Types and amounts of credit used
- Timely payments of bills

COLLATERAL

Is there something of value that the borrower agrees to surrender if the loan is not repaid?

CAPITOL

Capitol is another word for the borrower's accumulation of wealth, measured in terms of:

- Net worth
- Other assets that could be used to repay the debt

Questions on this information or other related issues, please call Grant Cuellar, Default Prevention Manager at 818.401.4821.



Working and saving money are still the best ways to improve finances.

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Casa Loma College
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Got a story?

Do you have a story or know someone at school with a story that should be shared. Let us know and we'll work to get the story out to all of our communities.

Casa Loma College is committed to keeping you informed and using communications to enhance your educational and professional experiences.

For more information about using Casa Loma College's communication resources to help your education and career, or to give a tip on a potential story, contact:

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Learn about the latest opportunities and developments at school and in the medical world. Share your journey.

Medical Fast Fact:

There are 2.5 trillion (give or take) red blood cells in your body at any moment. To maintain this number, 2.5 million new ones need to be produced every second by your bone marrow. That's like a new population of the city of Toronto every second.



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