



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

APPLICATION INFORMATION PACKET

Revised May 2025

Website

<http://www.patrickhenry.edu/pta>

P&HCC College Catalog and Student Handbook

<http://catalog.patrickhenry.edu/>

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Accreditation Status of the PTA Program

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Patrick & Henry Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 276-656-0288 or email jmartin@patrickhenry.edu.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Information

The PTA program is a competitive entry program. Due to limited seats available, the admissions process will be selective. An admission point system rubric will be utilized and the top scoring students will be offered acceptance into the program. See page 7 for the Selective Admissions Process and rubric.

During its Fall 2024 meeting the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) placed the program on Warning due to National Physical Therapy Exam pass rates of graduates; the accreditation status of the program remains unchanged. A Compliance Report that includes analysis of potential factors affecting pass rates and a plan of action to be instituted to improve rates. has been submitted to CAPTE for review at the CAPTE Spring Meeting April 25-29, 2025. At that time CAPTE will determine if the program will be placed on Probation.

All PTA technical courses with a PTH pre-fix will be offered during the spring and fall semesters at the main Patrick Henry Community College campus. A new cohort will be accepted to begin each spring semester. The PTA curriculum includes four semesters of the technical portion of the program. Upon satisfactory completion of the curriculum, students are eligible to apply to graduate and receive the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Physical Therapist Assistant from Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC). Graduates are eligible to apply for the national physical therapy exam for PTAs which is required to apply for state licensure to practice as a PTA.

All application materials must be submitted during the posted application period, typically around the first or second week of August each year. PTA applications will only be accepted and processed during the specified and advertised application period. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Mission Statement:

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Patrick & Henry Community College will successfully prepare students through a comprehensive curriculum based on contemporary physical therapy practice to meet the needs of the community and beyond by delivering competent care as entry level physical therapist assistants able to work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Career

“Physical therapy is a dynamic profession with an established theoretical and scientific base and widespread clinical applications in the restoration, maintenance, and promotion of optimal physical function. Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) work as part of a team to provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist. PTAs implement selected components of patient/client interventions (treatment), obtain data related to the interventions provided, and make modifications in selected interventions either to progress the patient/client as directed by the physical therapist or to ensure patient/client safety and comfort. PTAs assist the physical therapist in the treatment of individuals of all ages, from newborns to the very oldest, who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. Care provided by a PTA may include teaching patients/clients exercise for mobility, strength and coordination, training for activities such as walking with crutches, canes, or walkers, massage, and the use of physical agents and electrotherapy such as ultrasound and electrical stimulation. PTAs provide care for people in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and nursing homes. PTAs must graduate from a CAPTE-accredited PTA program and licensure or certification is required in most states in which a PTA works.”

(source <http://www.apta.org/PTACareers/RoleofaPTA/>).

Job Market Outlook

Virginia Bureau of Labor

Overall employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 19 percent from 2023 to 2033, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 27,500 openings for physical therapist assistants and aides are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

Demand for physical therapy is expected to increase in response to the health needs of an aging population, particularly the large baby-boom generation. This group is staying more active later in life than previous generations did. However, many baby boomers also are entering the prime age for heart attacks, strokes, and mobility-related injuries, increasing the demand for physical therapy in rehabilitation.

(<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm#tab-6>)

Program Goals

1. The Physical Therapist Assistant Program will graduate entry-level physical therapist assistants able to competently work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.
2. The Physical Therapist Assistant Program will prepare graduates to effectively communicate in a culturally competent manner with patients and caregivers from diverse backgrounds.
3. The Physical Therapist Assistant Program will produce graduates who can exhibit effective critical thinking and problem solving skills.
4. Program faculty will provide a positive learning environment to enhance student learning and a comprehensive curriculum based on contemporary evidence-based physical therapy practice.
5. The Physical Therapist Assistant Program will promote the importance of personal and professional development through life-long learning and membership in professional organizations.

Expectations of the PTA Student

In addition to academic standards, certain behavioral expectations exist for the successful PTA Program candidate. Applicants should review these expectations thoroughly and discuss any concerns with the PTA faculty advisors.

- The decision to work in a health care profession should be based on an understanding of various health care settings. The candidate must be willing to provide care to patients in all settings who are critically or terminally ill, or severely injured or disabled.
- The candidate must feel comfortable providing treatment to all individuals without discrimination, regardless of gender, age, race, cultural background, religious affiliation, socioeconomic status, or personal lifestyle choices.
- The candidate must have a basic understanding of and agree with the philosophy and practice of physical therapy and the role of the physical therapist assistant.
- Practicing health care professionals must demonstrate personal responsibility for their actions and must be willing to accept constructive criticism both in the classroom and the clinical environment.
- Significant physical demands are placed on the physical therapist assistant student and practicing PTA, including lifting, bending reaching, and manipulating equipment. The requirements and other abilities are outlined in the document "Essential Functions of the Physical Therapist Assistant Student" included on page 12 of this packet. The candidate will be asked to acknowledge understanding of these standards of physical and cognitive performance as part of the application
- The candidate must abide by the policies governing the use of social media relative to his/her experiences in the PTA Program.
- The candidate must comply with the policies of the College and the PTA Program.

- The candidate must abide by dress code, appearance, personal behavior, and hygiene guidelines befitting a member of the health care professions.

Step-by-Step Process for Applying to the PTA Program

To be admitted to the P&HCC PTA program:

Pre-application requirements:

1. Current P&HCC student application
2. Evidence of high school graduation or GED
3. Evidence of high school Biology and Chemistry with a grade of “C” or higher; or college equivalent Biology (BIO 101/102 or NAS 150), Chemistry (CHM 110/101/05/111) with a grade of “C” or higher. Waiver can be applied if the full series of BIO 141 and BIO 142 are completed prior to application with a “C” or higher.
4. Evidence of High School Algebra I with a grade of “C” or higher and HSGPA 3.0 or better; or SAT Math Score Range 470 or above; or ACT Math Score Range 17 or higher (HS Transcript and/or Math Modules must be less than five years old) or previous college level math equivalent with a “C” or higher; otherwise MDE 10 is required prior to applying. Deficiencies must be completed prior to submitting program application.
5. Placement in ENG 111. Deficiencies must be completed prior to submitting program application.
6. Calculated Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher (*GPA calculation will include most recent 24 college credits; or if less than 24 college credits have been completed a combination of all high school work and all college credits completed at time of application*)
7. Evidence of a minimum of 20 documented volunteer hours (10 hours in 2 different clinical settings under supervision of a PT/PTA) **Hours must be completed within two years prior to application submission. Please utilize the PTA Program: Observation Hours Form to document required hours.*
8. Review and sign student acknowledgement of PTA Program: Essential Functions of PTA Students Form

Pre-Requisite Semester

The following prerequisite courses must be in progress or previously completed with a grade of “C” or higher at the time of program application submission.

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| • SDV 100 | College Success Skills | (1 cr.) |
| • ENG 111 | College Composition I | (3 cr.) |
| • PSY 230 | Developmental Psychology | (3 cr.) |
| • HUM/ART EEE | Humanities/Fine Arts Elective | (3 cr.) |
| • BIO 141 | Human Anatomy and Physiology I | (4 cr.) |

(HUM/ART EEE can include ART 101/102/121/122/241/242; MUS 121; PHI 101/220; REL 200/210/231/232; or ENG 241/242/243/244/250)

The following course may be completed prior to or during the first semester of the program:

- BIO 142 Human Anatomy and Physiology II (4cr.)

After application submission

Completed applications will be processed following the posted application period and qualified applicants will be invited to take the timed pre-admission test (TEAS V for allied health or equivalent).

Selective Admissions Process and Rubric

Points will be awarded toward applicants in the following manner:

<u>High School or college cumulative GPA:</u>	3.7 – 4.0+ = 10 points
	3.3 – 3.6 = 8 points
	2.9 – 3.2 = 6 points
	2.5 – 2.8 = 4 points

Volunteer Hours: Two (2) points will be awarded for every 10 hours performed with a minimum requirement of 20 hours resulting in 4 points. Students are allowed the opportunity to earn up to 6 additional points (for a maximum of 10 points) with up to 30 additional hours of volunteer/observation time. Students may complete more than 50 hours of observation; however, they may only earn points for up to 50 hours. Volunteer/observation hours must be completed within two years from the time of application submission.

Pre-admission testing scores: Based on results of pre-admission TEAS for allied health scores. For admission purposes to the PHCC PTA program, the minimum passing (composite) score on the timed admission test is 58.7%. Students who score a 58.7% or higher on the admission test will have their individual raw score added into the admission point system. The student's score is added to the selective admissions score.

An admission point system will be utilized to determine the top qualified applicants including points for GPA, observation hours, admission test score, and PTA Program Information Session post-test score. The top scoring applicants will be offered admission to the PTA program on a space available basis.

<i>POINTS CRITERIA</i>	<i>TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</i>	<i>TOTAL POINTS EARNED</i>
<u><i>Calculated Cumulative GPA</i></u> <i>Range 3.7 to 4.0 or higher</i>	<i>10 points</i>	
<i>3.3 to 3.6</i>	<i>8 points</i>	
<i>2.9 to 3.2</i>	<i>6 points</i>	
<i>2.5 to 2.8</i>	<i>4 points</i>	
<u><i>Volunteer Hours</i></u> <i>Minimum 20 Required</i>	<i>4 points</i>	
<i>Additional Hours</i>	<i>2 points per additional 10 hours;</i>	
<i>Maximum of 50</i>	<i>up to a maximum of 6 points</i>	
<i>PTA Admission Test Score</i>		
<i>TEAS for Allied Health</i>	<i>500</i>	
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>520</i>	

NOTE: If a student is accepted into the PTA program and earns a grade below a “C” in any pre-requisite courses, they will lose their ranking and void any program application and acceptance. Applicants who are not accepted may reapply at the next application period. A new application must be submitted as applications do not carry over from year to year.

Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening/Medical Exam

As a part of program admission, students will be required to undergo a criminal background check and drug screen. Clinical sites have the right to deny students participation in clinical education experiences based on a student’s criminal background check results and/or drug testing results. The inability to participate in the clinical portion of the curriculum will prevent the student from progressing within the program.

Students are also required to provide a medical examination form completed by a health care provider, meet the immunization requirements, and have a TB skin test (two-step). Proof of immunizations must be presented as accurate records of these immunizations are required by all clinical facilities. Required immunizations include TDAP, Varicella, MMR, Hepatitis B Series, COVID, and Influenza. If immunizations are not up to date, the student is required to complete the immunizations prior to beginning clinicals. The Hepatitis B series is a series of 3 injections with the second and third doses administered 1 and 6 months, respectively, after the first dose. This requires beginning the series by April 1 in order to finish it before the first clinical. It is advised to not wait this late to begin the series. Lack of requested health information could void admission to the program.

Program Requirements and Information

A mandatory PTA Program Orientation will be held prior to the start of classes in January. The date and details will be announced to applicants in the letter informing them of their acceptance into the PTA program. The New Student Orientation will cover the following information:

1. Policies and Procedures
2. Attendance and Tardiness Policy
3. Grading policies/Criteria for Program Progress/Retention
4. Liability Insurance
5. Health/Medical Insurance
6. ID/Name Badge
7. Lab uniform
8. Supplies

Once accepted into the PTA program, students must maintain a “C” or higher in all general education and PTA coursework, laboratories, and clinical courses in order to continue in the program. Students must have a current certification in American Heart Association’s Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR. Students are not obligated to get the certification from P&HCC, however, if a student chooses to get their certification from P&HCC, the course will be required during the first semester of the technical portion of the program. The CPR certification must remain valid throughout the program to meet guidelines for clinical experiences.

The curriculum includes three full-time clinical experiences. The ACCE will attempt to place students in their requested clinical affiliation sites, however due to limited availability of placements at each site, there may be a random drawing required. Transportation to and from the clinical affiliation sites is the responsibility of the student. The students are expected to adhere to the dress code requirements of each clinical site.

Upon successful completion of the PTA program, students are eligible to register with the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) to take the National Physical Therapy Exam for PTAs (NPTE-PTA) and apply for licensure in any state. The PTA Exam must be passed and state licensure obtained before working as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

PTA Program Curriculum

Five-semester Curriculum – AAS in Physical Therapist Assistant

Courses in **bold (PTH pre-fix)** are technical courses for the PTA program and must be taken in the sequence provided here. Courses from other PTA or related programs cannot be transferred in place of PTH courses.

Semester	Courses	Class Hrs/wk	Lab Hrs/wk	Clinical Ed.	Credit Hours
Pre-Semester (Semester 1)	BIO 141 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3	3		4
	ENG 111 College Composition I	3			3
	PSY 230 Development Psychology	3			3
	SDV 100 College Success Skills	1			1
	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3			3
	Semester Totals	13	3		14
Semester 2 (Spring)	BIO 142 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3	3		4
	PTH 105 Intro to PTA	1	3		2
	PTH 151 Musculoskeletal Structure & Function	2	4		4
	PTH 121 Therapeutic Procedures I	3	4		5
	HLT 105 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	1			1
	Semester Totals	10	14		16
Semester 3 (Fall)	PTH 110 Medical Reporting	1			1
	PTH 115 Kinesiology for the PTA	2	4		4
	PTH 226 Therapeutic Exercise	2	4		4
	PTH 227 Pathological Conditions	3			3
	Semester Totals	8	8		12
Semester 4 (Spring)	PTH 131 Clinical Education I (first 4 weeks)			160 hrs	3
	PTH 122 Therapeutic Procedures II	3	4		5
	PTH 210 Psychological Aspects	2			2
	PTH 225 Rehabilitation Procedures	2	4		4
	Semester Totals	7	8	160 hrs	14
Semester 5 (Fall)	PTH 245 Professional Issues (hybrid)	3			3
	PTH 255 Seminar in PT (hybrid)	2			2
	PTH 251 Clinical Practicum I			200 hrs	3
	PTH 252 Clinical Practicum II			240 hrs	4
	Semester Totals	5		440 hrs	12
	Total for Degree	43	33	600 hrs	68

Course Grading

All PTA technical coursework must be taken in sequence. A minimum grade of "C" is required in all general education courses as well as PTA technical coursework. The grading scale used in the PTA program is:

- A = 92% - 100%
- B = 85% - 91.99%
- C = 80% - 84.99%
- D = 71% - 79.99%
- F = 70.99% or below

Essential Functions of the Physical Therapist Assistant Student

Students will be expected to meet physical, behavioral, and cognitive functions related to those expected for physical therapy practice. Patrick & Henry Community College has adopted the following standards that students are expected to possess. Qualified individuals with a disability who can perform these functions with reasonable accommodations will not be denied admission to the program, however, they must contact a P&HCC disabilities counselor to determine the accommodations required. Provisions for accommodations will be made in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A form agreeing to meet the Essential Functions of the PTA Student must be signed. (See <http://patrickhenry.edu/images/HCdocs/PTA-Student-Info.pdf>)

PTA Student Expectations

- Attend all classes, 20+ hours per week and be available for 40 hours per week for clinical education assignments
- Tolerate extended sitting and/or standing in classroom and lab environments
- Give and receive treatment interventions including but not limited to modalities, therapeutic exercise, massage, and manual therapies
- Wear lab attire that may involve exposure of areas of the body
- Apply critical thinking processes and exercise sound judgment in the class and in the clinic, following safety procedures
- Demonstrate interpersonal skills to allow for productive classroom discussion and respectful interaction with classmates and faculty
- Maintain professional personal appearance and hygiene for classroom and clinical settings and per program dress code guidelines
- Meet program standards for successful course completion, including regular attendance, timely submission of work, and compliance with academic honesty guidelines
- Adhere to all confidentiality standards regarding patient status and medical records

Physical Strength, Endurance, and Dexterity

- Perform frequent physical activities including standing, walking, bending, squatting, kneeling, crawling, reaching, pushing, and pulling
- Demonstrate ability to lift 25-50 pounds frequently and occasionally up to 200 pounds with assistance with good safety and body mechanics
- Use hands repetitively for grasping, pushing, pulling, and manual dexterity skills
- Coordinate verbal and manual activities with gross motor activities

Visual, Auditory, and Tactile Acuity

- Demonstrate visual acuity sufficient for reading instructions, medical records, and monitors and for visual observation for monitoring patient safety
- Demonstrate ability to hear sufficiently for patient conversation, equipment timers and warning sounds, and to assess patient reaction to treatment

- Demonstrate tactile acuity for physical assessment and discrimination of temperature

Communication

- Demonstrate ability to communicate with patients and interdisciplinary health care team in a professional manner
- Demonstrate ability to understand and interpret medical terminology as it applies to physical therapy and prepare reports, progress notes, and other data that appropriately records patient treatment, reaction, and progress