PHYSICAL THERAPIST
ASSISTANT PROGRAM

APPLICATION INFORMATION PACKET

Revised April 2019

Website
http://www.patrickhenry.edu/physical-therapy-assistant

PHCC College Catalog and Student Handbook

Julie Martin, PT, DPT
Program Director, PTA Program
(276) 656-0288
Philpott Hall, Office 133
jmartin@patrickhenry.edu

Lucy Williams, PT, DPT
ACCE, PTA Program
(276) 656-0241
Philpott Hall, Office 130
lwilliams@patrickhenry.edu
# Table of Contents

Accreditation Status of the Program .................................................. 3  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program Information .......................... 3  
The Physical Therapist Assistant Career ........................................... 4  
Expectations of the PTA Student ...................................................... 5  
Step-by-Step Process for Applying to the PTA Program .................. 6  
Selective Admissions Process and Rubric ........................................ 7  
Program Requirements and Information ......................................... 8  
Cost of the Program ...................................................................... 9  
Financial Aid ................................................................................ 10  
PTA Program Curriculum ............................................................. 11  
Essential Functions of the PTA Student ......................................... 12  

Accreditation Status of the PTA Program

Graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Patrick Henry Community College is seeking accreditation of a new physical therapist assistant education program from CAPTE. On November 30, 2018, the program submitted an Application for Candidacy, which is the formal application required in the pre-accreditation stage. Submission of this document does not assure that the program will be granted Candidate for Accreditation status. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status is required prior to implementation of the technical phase of the program; therefore, no students may be enrolled in technical courses until Candidate for Accreditation status has been achieved. Further, though achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status signifies satisfactory progress toward accreditation, it does not assure that the program will be granted accreditation.

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.

All PTA technical courses with a PTH pre-fix will be offered during the fall and spring semesters at the main Patrick Henry Community College campus. A new cohort will be accepted to begin each fall 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 (PHCC). 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 April 1 of each year. Please note: the first advertised application period will be later due to awaiting CAPTE approval. 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 graduate students who are prepared academically to deliver competent care at entry level in the workforce of the community and beyond.
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.”

Job Market Outlook

The Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics, Long Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2014-2024 Occupational Employment Statistics Survey, 2014 has projected growth occupations for our service area. The occupation of Physical Therapist Assistants for Henry County shows 87 estimated PTA’s in 2014 with projected employment of 112 PTA’s by 2024, demonstrating an increase projected growth of 28.74%. ([http://virginialmi.com/report_center/community_profiles/5104000089.pdf](http://virginialmi.com/report_center/community_profiles/5104000089.pdf)) In Virginia, there were an estimated 2085 PTAs in 2014 with projected employment of 2979 PTAs by 2024 demonstrating an increased projected growth of 42.88%. Further the average annual employment openings for the PTA field in Virginia according to the Occupational Employment Statistics includes 60 replacements per year and 89 new positions per year resulting in 149 total per year. ([http://virginialmi.com/report_center/community_profiles/5157000013.pdf](http://virginialmi.com/report_center/community_profiles/5157000013.pdf))

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 PHCC PTA program:

Pre-application requirements:
1. Current PHCC 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
4. Evidence of developmental math modules 1-5 or appropriate equivalent; or High School Algebra II and HSGPA 3.0 or better; or SAT Math Score Range 510-520; or ACT Math Score Range 19-21 (*VPT scores, Multiple Measures, HS Transcript must be less than five years old)
5. No developmental English requirements needed
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. Students must obtain two completed PTA Program: Applicant Recommendation Forms (Forms must be completed by an employer, professional associate, PT/PTA clinician, or professor.)
9. 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 108 College Survival 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.)

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

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

**High School or college cumulative GPA:**
- 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, there is no “passing” score on the TEAS. The student’s score is added to the selective admissions score. Therefore, the higher the TEAS for allied health score, the more points toward the admissions score.

The PTA program is competitive and selective and is limited to up to 16 students. Based on the rubric, the top scoring 24 students will be offered an admissions interview with program faculty, which will include a pre-interview writing prompt. Following completion of the interview and writing prompt, each finalist will be scored (via rubric) reflecting their knowledge of the field of physical therapy and writing/communication skills. The top scoring applicants will be offered admission to the PTA program on a space available basis. In the event of identical scores, priority will be given to students residing in the PHCC service region of Martinsville, Henry County, and Patrick County. If further delineation is required, individual scores of the TEAS for allied health science category will be utilized, followed by math, reading, and English and language usage respectively, as needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Criteria</th>
<th>Total Possible</th>
<th>Total Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School or College GPA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7 – 4.0+</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 – 3.6</td>
<td>8 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9 – 3.2</td>
<td>6 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 – 2.8</td>
<td>4 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Hours – 20 required</td>
<td>4 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional hours</td>
<td>2 points/10 hours up to 6 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAS for allied health score</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total:</td>
<td>520</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. The volunteer/observation hours must be completed within two years from time of submitting the application, therefore additional hours may need to be completed.

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, 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 January 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 August. 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. Uniforms/Program Patch
8. Supplies
9. CAPTE accreditation status

Note: CAPTE will meet April 26 – May 1, 2019 to make a Candidate for Accreditation decision regarding the PHCC PTA program. At that point, students can be enrolled in the technical
portion of the program. CAPTE will make another site visit in the penultimate term and an initial accreditation decision will be made at CAPTE’s next regularly scheduled meeting following the on-site visit (April/May 2021). This decision would occur prior to the anticipated mid-May 2021 graduation date of the first cohort. The graduates would then be eligible to sit for the licensure examination in July 2021 (exact date TBD).

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 PHCC, however, if a student chooses to get their certification from PHCC, 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.

Cost of the Program

At the academic year 2019-2020 cost-per-credit hour for in-state tuition ($157.33), the cost of the technical portion of the PTA program totals $8,495.82. This does not include prerequisites which may vary but could be an additional $2,202.62. In addition to the usual tuition and fees, the PTA program requires additional expenses. Approximate costs include:

- Textbooks (approx. $TBD)
- Immunizations and physical examinations (approx. $150 -$350)
- Background check/drug screen (approx. $86 minimum)
- Student APTA and VA chapter fees ($90)
- Transportation to clinical agencies (varies)
- Academic PEAT (practice exams) ($79)
- Virginia licensing fees ($100)
- FSBPT PTA national exam ($485)
- Prometric test center fee for exam ($70)

Additional costs related to clinical education will vary considerably by student. These may include parking, dress code requirements, etc. Applicants should refer to www.apta.org for information regarding APTA membership and http://www.fsbpt.org/ExamCandidates.aspx and http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PhysicalTherapy/default.htm for information regarding the licensing and testing fees.

Current information regarding Patrick Henry Community College tuition and fees is available at http://www.patrickhenry.edu/tuition-fees
Financial Aid

- The PTA program qualifies for Federal financial aid, therefore students must complete the FAFSA each year. Refer to http://www.patrickhenry.edu/2012-11-01-13-54-08
- There are currently no specific scholarships for the PTA program, however there are many general scholarships available to students. Please visit http://www.patrickhenry.edu/current/currentfinances-2/scholarships for information.
- Martinsville and Henry County residents who are high school graduates, home school graduates, or receive their GED in the fall or spring semester prior to beginning the PTA program may apply for the Harvest Foundation SEED grant funding. Please see the PHCC website for qualifications and more information.

Please note: Most scholarships and financial awards (i.e., financial aid and Harvest SEED) do not cover the additional costs (i.e., drug screen/background check, immunizations, etc.)
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Class Hrs/wk</th>
<th>Lab Hrs/wk</th>
<th>Clinical Ed.</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Semester</td>
<td>BIO 141 Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Semester 1)</td>
<td>ENG 111 College Composition I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSY 230 Development Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SDV 108 College Survival Skills</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humanities/Fine Arts Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Semester Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>BIO 142 Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Semester 2)</td>
<td>PTH 105 Intro to PTA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PTH 151 Musculoskeletal Structure &amp; Function</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PTH 121 Therapeutic Procedures I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLT 105 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Semester Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td>PTH 110 Medical Reporting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Semester 3)</td>
<td>PTH 115 Kinesiology for the PTA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PTH 122 Therapeutic Procedures II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PTH 226 Therapeutic Exercise</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Semester Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>PTH 131 Clinical Education I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>160 hrs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Semester 4)</td>
<td>PTH 227 Pathological Conditions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PTH 225 Rehabilitation Procedures</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PTH 210 Psychological Aspects</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Semester Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>160 hrs</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td>PTH 245 Professional Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Semester 5)</td>
<td>PTH 255 Seminar in PT</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PTH 251 Clinical Practicum I</td>
<td>200 hrs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PTH 252 Clinical Practicum II</td>
<td>240 hrs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Semester Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>440 hrs</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total for Degree</strong></td>
<td><strong>43</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td><strong>600 hrs</strong></td>
<td><strong>68</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 PHCC 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