



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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Physical Therapist Assistant Admissions Procedures and Information

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program offered exclusively on the Virginia Beach campus at Tidewater Community College. This packet will provide information about the profession, program prerequisites, and application and admissions procedures.

The PTA program is offered on a full-time basis during daytime hours, and it is five semesters in length. The first semester is a **prerequisite**, preadmission semester consisting entirely of general education courses and **must be taken before** admission. The grades received in these courses determine, in part, who earns admission. There are two additional general education classes (BIO 142 and HUM elective) that can be taken in the normal curricular sequence, or they can be taken prior to admission. Completion of these courses early may earn the applicant extra points. Additionally, applicants must complete observation hours and submit recommendations. Those earning the highest number of points with complete applications are accepted into the technical phase of the program.

Applicants are admitted based on a point system. Points are earned via grades received in prerequisite and general education coursework, hours of observation, and recommendations. The program admits a new cohort of 32 students once per year every fall semester. The deadline to apply is **April 15**. Applications are reviewed during the month of April, and notification emails are sent during the third week in May. Applicants enrolled in spring classes will be considered for fall admission. Final point tallies are made after spring grades post.

Upon notification of acceptance and before beginning the technical phase of the program, accepted students must submit a physical form indicating good health. This includes submission of an immunization record and a negative tuberculin test. Additionally, students must complete CPR at the healthcare provider or professional rescuer level.

The PTA Program holds an Information Session on the third Thursday of each month (except December) via Zoom (email mbasinger@tcc.edu for invitation) or in person on the Virginia Beach campus in the Regional Health Professions Center from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Applicants must attend at least one Information Session within 12 months preceding submission of program application.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Tidewater Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085; telephone: 800-999-2782; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>

Note: Neither Tidewater Community College, nor the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Tidewater Community College, discriminate against anyone with a criminal record. However, it should be noted that some facilities may refuse to accept any student with a positive criminal background, and it may affect your ability to become nationally licensed to practice in many states; even after successfully completing the program. Additionally, although the PTA Program does not currently require drug testing, many healthcare facilities do, prior to clinical placement and/or employment.

Graduates of the PTA Program will be eligible to sit for the national licensure examination administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). Visit FSBPT's website: <https://www.fsbpt.org/>. After successful completion of this exam, the graduate will be a Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant (LPTA). In addition, graduates can transfer licenses to other states by contacting the respective State Board of Physical Therapy. Please note a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the FSBPT licensure examination or attain a state license.

For information about grants, loans and scholarships, the Financial Aid Office can be reached by calling (855) 308-5614. To inquire about Veterans educational benefits, the CMVE, Center for Military and Veterans Education, can be reached at (757) 822-7777.

You may email or call me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Basinger', with the letters 'PT, DPT, MS' written in smaller text to the right of the signature.

Melanie Basinger, PT, DPT, MS
Program Director, Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Phone: 757-822-7251 | Email: mbasinger@tcc.edu

Program Information

What pre-requisites will I need when applying to TCC's Physical Therapist Assistant Program?

- BIO 141 Anatomy & Physiology I (has a prerequisite of NAS 2). This course must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher and reflected on the student transcript at the time of application submission.
- Completion of ENG 111, PSY 230, SDV 101, and HLT 130
- VPT Placement into MTH 154 with no co-requisite required or successful completion of equivalent or higher college math class.
- A minimum of 40 hours of observation in at least two different settings (i.e., inpatient and outpatient) or two different company owned outpatient physical therapy settings.
- Documented attendance of at least one PTA Program Information Session within 12 months preceding program application

Information about the Physical Therapy Profession

What is Physical Therapy?

Physical Therapy is the care provided by or under the supervision of a Physical Therapist (PT) to individuals in pain or to those with impaired mobility following disease, illness, injury, or surgery.

What does a Physical Therapist do?

Physical therapists are licensed health care providers. They evaluate, diagnose, and manage health conditions and movement problems in people of all ages and abilities. They empower people to take an active role in their care. Physical therapists also play a unique role in promoting health, wellness, and fitness. They help people overcome barriers to regular physical activity to benefit physical, mental, and social health.

What is the difference between a Physical Therapist (PT) and a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)?

A PT has a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, or a doctorate from an accredited program and has passed the National Licensing Exam. A PTA has a two-year associate degree from an accredited program and has passed the National Licensing Exam.

A PT evaluates, establishes goals, and a treatment plan for a patient. A PTA follows the treatment plan and is responsible for documentation and reporting any changes to the PT.

Can a Physical Therapist Assistant become a Physical Therapist?

There are professional level education programs directed toward specific career advancement for Physical Therapist Assistants. Most program graduates that have gone on to earn a doctorate in PT have enrolled in the entry-level three-year program. (i.e., Old Dominion University DPT program). Further information is available from the American Physical Therapy Association: [PTA to PT Career Transition | APTA](#).

What is the difference between Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy?

Physical therapy and occupational therapy often work together as part of the health care team. Occupational therapy works with individuals during everyday activities and functional tasks to achieve well-being in life. Physical therapy focuses on assisting individuals to regain or improve movement and mobility. The goal of both disciplines is for the patient to regain as much function and independence as possible.

What is the job outlook for Physical Therapist Assistants?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of physical therapist assistants is projected to grow by 32% from 2020 to 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations.

What starting salaries are offered in Physical Therapy?

As of May 2021, Physical Therapist Assistants earned a median annual wage of \$61,180 nationally. Visit: [Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides: Occupational Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(bls.gov\)](#) for more information.

Admission Priorities

Due to the large number of applicants and limited enrollment, the Physical Therapist Assistant Program strictly follows the admission priorities established by the College:

When enrollments must be limited for any curriculum or course, priority shall be given to all qualified applicants who are residents of the political subdivisions supporting the college and to Virginia residents not having access to a given program at their local community college, provided such applicants apply for admission to the program prior to registration or by a deadline established by the college. In addition, residents of localities with which the college has clinical-site or other agreements may receive equal consideration for admission. The priority list is as follows:

- (1) residents of the political subdivisions supporting the College,
- (2) other Virginia residents,
- (3) out-of-state residents, and
- (4) foreign students.

* Political subdivisions include:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Virginia Beach | York County |
| Portsmouth | Emporia City |
| Chesapeake | South Boston City (partial) |
| Norfolk | Brunswick County |
| Franklin City | Buckingham County (partial) |
| Isle of Wight County | Charlotte County |
| Suffolk City | Cumberland County |
| Southampton County | Greensville County |
| Hampton | Halifax County (partial) |
| Newport News | Lunenburg County |
| Poquoson | Mecklenburg County |
| Williamsburg | Nottoway County |
| James City County | Prince Edward County |

NOTE: Applicants to all Health Professions programs must be categorized in priority jurisdictions by the program application deadline date.

PTA Program Technical Standards

To ensure patient safety and treatment effectiveness, the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Tidewater Community College has established qualifications, which must be met by the students admitted or enrolled in the program. These qualifications include:

- Satisfactory **verbal, reading, and written** skills to effectively and promptly communicate in English.
- Sufficient **eyesight** to read paper or computer generated medical records; read instrument panels; apply therapeutic modalities such as ice, heat, and electrical stimulation; monitor patients for adverse reactions to treatment; adjust assistive devices; and make visual observations regarding posture and functional abilities (bed mobility, transfers, and ambulation).
- Sufficient **hearing** to communicate with patients and other members of the healthcare team, monitor patients by hearing instrument signals and alarms.
- Sufficient **smell** to assess patient status and maintain a safe practice environment.
- Sufficient **fine touch discrimination** to palpate pathologic changes in soft tissue.
- Sufficient **fine and gross motor coordination** to manipulate/operate equipment controls and to perform manual treatment/assessment techniques including, but not limited to, massage; ultrasound; electrical stimulation; stretching; neuromuscular re-education; goniometry; and manual muscle testing.
- Satisfactory **physical strength** to transport, move or lift patients requiring all levels of assistance and to perform prolonged periods of standing, walking, sitting, bending, crawling, reaching, pushing, and pulling.
- Satisfactory **intellectual, emotional, and interpersonal skills** to ensure patient safety; exercise independent judgment and discretion in the performance of assigned responsibilities, and interact with patients, families, and other health care workers.

Admissions Process Checkoff List

The following steps must be completed as soon as possible.

1. **Admission to the College** (Notification of admission to the college does not mean that the applicant has been accepted into the PTA Program).

_____ •**New TCC Students** must complete a separate TCC application for admission to the college before applying to a Health Professions Program. TCC applications may be obtained [online](#) or from the Enrollment Services Admissions Center on any of the College's campuses. Health Professions Program Applications may be obtained from the Counseling Center at any campus, by calling 757-822-1122, or by accessing the website: <http://www.tcc.edu/academics/health-professions>.

_____ •**Continuing Students** do not need to complete another application to the college. However, students should update their academic records if there have been any changes in name, address, etc.

_____ •**Students who have previously applied to the college but did not attend within one year of application must reapply. Students who have not attended the college in the past three years must also apply.**

2. **Admission to the PTA Program**

- _____ Visit the PTA webpage: <https://www.tcc.edu/programs/physical-therapy/#physical-therapist-assistant> to learn more about the program, including frequently asked questions.
- _____ Attend a Physical Therapist Assistant Information Session held on the third Thursday of each month (except December) from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. either via Zoom or in person in the Regional Health Professions Center, Virginia Beach Campus, within 12 months preceding submission of program application.
- _____ Take the TCC math placement tests if required. It is recommended you take this as soon as possible to allow adequate time to take any developmental courses required prior to taking any PTA courses. Consult the Counseling Office at 757-822-7212 for information concerning this requirement.
- _____ A **complete** application packet must be submitted electronically by **April 15th** to be considered for acceptance into the PTA program. *This submission must include a completed Health Professions Program Application, indicating Physical Therapist Assistant as your program of choice, an unofficial copy of college/university transcripts uploaded (if applicable), two (2) pre-admission clinical experience forms, and two (2) recommendation forms.

If completing a paper application, <https://help.tcc.edu/s/article/Health-Professions-Program-Application-Form>, all documents should be sent to the Admissions & Enrollment Office, Building B, Room B-105, Tidewater Community College, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453.

- ____ Applicants with any prior college credit must have an official copy of all college/university transcripts mailed directly from the college/university to: Tidewater Community College, Office of the College Registrar, P.O. Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509-9000. In addition, applicants must complete a request to have their transcripts evaluated. This form may be obtained at any campus Enrollment Services office or online [here](#). Missing transcripts are the greatest cause of delay in the application process and are the applicant's responsibility. Any college course work transferred to TCC requires a transcript evaluation. If previous college courses were taken at TCC (any campus), this request is not needed.

PTA Program Pre-Admission Clinical Experience Form

Each student must complete a minimum of 40 hours of observation, or work hours under the supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant before being considered for admission; 20 hours in each of two (2) different practice setting (i.e., inpatient and outpatient) or two (2) different company owned outpatient physical therapy clinics (i.e., Sentara Therapy Center and The Therapy Network). A minimum of 40 hours is required although a maximum of 200 hours may be accrued for extra points.

Please remember the physical therapy clinician's first responsibility is to the patients; therefore, there may be some delay in scheduling your hours. You should begin contacting clinics as soon as possible to avoid problems in completing the required number of hours. Please note: some clinics may require you to complete more than 20 hours.

A copy of this form must be completed for each clinic you visit, including the signature of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who supervised the visit(s). Submit forms with your health professions application by April 15.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Student Name (please print): | |
| Name and Address of Clinic: | |
| Clinic Phone Number: | |
| Name of Supervising PT Clinician: | |
| Total Hours of Student Experience: | |
| PT Clinician Comments: | |
| Student Signature and Date: | PT Clinician Signature and Date: |

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PTA Program Recommendation Form

Student name: _____

Student Address: _____

The above student has applied for admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Tidewater Community College. Please assist us in making our student selections by providing the following information. Thank you in advance for your time.

| Assessment Areas | Excellent | Good | Average | Below Average |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------|---------|---------------|
| Communication Skills | | | | |
| Attention to Detail | | | | |
| Initiative | | | | |
| Flexibility | | | | |
| Ability to work as team member | | | | |
| Timeliness | | | | |
| Attitude | | | | |
| Willingness to learn | | | | |
| Appearance | | | | |

Overall Rating of Applicant: (please circle one)

Excellent

Good

Average

Below Average

How long have you known applicant? _____

In what capacity? _____

Evaluator's name (print and sign): _____

Evaluator's Clinic Name and Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please place in a sealed envelope, sign across the seal, and return to applicant.



Official Curriculum Guide

Name: _____

Date Entered TCC: _____

SIS Empl ID: _____

Counselor: _____

Associate of Applied Science: Physical Therapist Assistant(180)

The Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is designed for those who wish to enter employment as physical therapist assistants working under the supervision of a physical therapist. Graduates may work in acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation hospitals, fitness and wellness centers, public schools, and similar settings.

Admission to the college does not guarantee admission to the PTA program, with 25 to 30 students admitted to the program each fall semester. Selection is highly competitive, and is based on a system of points using several criteria. Entrance requirements include VPT placement into MTH 154 with no co-requisite required or successful completion of an equivalent or higher level college math class; and successful completion of BIO 141, ENG 111, HLT 130, PSY 230, and SDV 101 (or SDV 100), with achievement in BIO 141 as a key admission determinant. Participation in a minimum of 40 documented observation hours in specific health care settings is required and applicants must submit recommendation letters from two separate employers, professional associates, physical therapy clinicians or professors.

Official transcripts from other colleges attended must be sent to Tidewater Community College, Office of the College Registrar, P.O. Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509, and be evaluated prior to the application deadline date. For further information regarding admission, continuance and graduation, go to tcc.edu (search keywords "physical therapist assistant").

Licensure is required in most states. In Virginia, program graduates must pass a national licensure examination.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Tidewater Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 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 757-822-7251 or email mbasinger@tcc.edu

Pre-Admission Semester

| Classification Course No. | Course Title | Credits | Prerequisites | Co-Requisites | When Taken | Grade |
|---------------------------|---|-----------|--|---------------|------------|-------|
| *BIO 141 | Human Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 | NAS 2 or acceptable NAS 2 Challenge Exam score | None | _____ | () |
| *ENG 111 | College Composition I | 3 | EDE 10, ENF 1, ENF 2 or placement | None | _____ | () |
| HLT 130 | Nutrition and Diet Therapy (or DIT 121) | 1 | None | None | _____ | () |
| PSY 230 | Developmental Psychology (or PSY 231) | 3 | None | None | _____ | () |
| SDV 101 | Orientation to Health Care (or SDV 100) | 1 | None | None | _____ | () |
| Semester Total | | 12 | | | | |

Semester 1

| Classification Course No. | Course Title | Credits | Prerequisites | Co-Requisites | When Taken | Grade |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|---|---------------------|------------|-------|
| *BIO 142 | Human Anatomy and Physiology II | 4 | BIO 141 | None | _____ | () |
| *PTH 105 | Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting | 3 | Admission into program or instructor permission | PTH 121 and PTH 151 | _____ | () |
| PTH 121 | Therapeutic Procedures I | 5 | Admission into program or instructor permission | PTH 105 and PTH 151 | _____ | () |
| PTH 151 | Musculoskeletal Structure and Function | 5 | Admission into program or instructor permission | PTH 105 and PTH 121 | _____ | () |
| Semester Total | | 17 | | | | |

Semester 2

| Classification Course No. | Course Title | Credits | Prerequisites | Co-Requisites | When Taken | Grade |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|---|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| PTH 110 | Medical Reporting | 1 | Admission into program and PTH 105, PTH 121, PTH 151 and BIO 142 or instructor permission | PTH 115, PTH 122, and PTH 131 | _____ | () |
| PTH 115 | Kinesiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant | 4 | Admission into program and PTH 105, PTH 121, PTH 151 and BIO 142 or instructor permission | PTH 110, PTH 122, and PTH 131 | _____ | ()- |
| PTH 122 | Therapeutic Procedures II | 5 | Admission into program and PTH 105, PTH 121, PTH 151 and BIO 142 or instructor permission | PTH 110, PTH 115, and PTH 131 | _____ | () |
| *PTH 131 | Clinical Education | 2 | Admission into program and PTH 105, PTH 121, PTH 151 and BIO 142 or instructor permission | PTH 110, PTH 115, and PTH 122 | _____ | () |
| Semester Total | | 12 | | | | |

Semester 3

| Classification Course No. | Course Title | Credits | Prerequisites | Co-Requisites | When Taken | Grade |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| PTH 210 | Psychological Aspects of Therapy | 2 | Admission into program and PTH 110, PTH 115, PTH 122 and PTH 131 or instructor permission | PTH 226, PTH 227, and PTH 251 | _____ | () |
| PTH 226 | Therapeutic Exercise | 4 | Admission into program and PTH 110, PTH 115, PTH 122 and PTH 131 or instructor permission | PTH 210, PTH 227, and PTH 251 | _____ | () |
| PTH 227 | Pathological Conditions | 3 | Admission into program and PTH 110, PTH 115, PTH 122 and PTH 131 or instructor permission | PTH 210, PTH 226, and PTH 251 | _____ | () |
| *PTH 251 | Clinical Practicum I | 3 | Admission into program and PTH 110, PTH 115, PTH 122 and PTH 131 or instructor permission | PTH 210, PTH 226, and PTH 227 | _____ | () |

Semester Total

12

Semester 4

| Classification Course No. | Course Title | Credits | Prerequisites | Co-Requisites | When Taken | Grade |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| PTH 225 | Rehabilitation Procedures | 5 | Admission into program and PTH 210, PTH 226 and PTH 251 or instructor permission | PTH 252 and PTH 255 | _____ | () |
| *PTH 252 | Clinical Practicum II | 4 | Admission into program and PTH 210, PTH 226 and PTH 251 or instructor permission | PTH 225 and PTH 255 | _____ | () |
| ♦PTH 255 | Seminar in Physical Therapy | 2 | Admission into program and PTH 210, PTH 226 and PTH 251 or instructor permission | PTH 225 and PTH 252 | _____ | () |
| _____ | Humanities Elective ¹ | 3 | | | _____ | () |
| | Semester Total | 14 | | | | |

Total Minimum Credits

67

¹ Eligible courses are listed under General Education Core Requirements. Students should consult with an academic advisor or counselor to choose the appropriate course(s).

Course Classification Legend

- ☆ Critical Course - A course faculty have identified as one that students should complete successfully, with a high level of understanding and comprehension, to progress in the program.
- * Experiential Learning - A course where students can expect hands-on experiences and/or practical exposure opportunities which could be in or out of the classroom.
- ♦ Gateway Course - A course that serves as an introduction to the program and is typically offered early in the program.
- ❖ Milestone Course - Key intervals of program completion, if applicable.



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