

Chattanooga State



Physical Therapist
Assistant Program

Your Guide

Physical Therapist Assistant

Important information: Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Chattanooga State

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Location:
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
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Division Office:
HSC Room 2088
Phone: (423) 697-4450
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Application Coordinator:
HSC-2088
(423) 697-2504
Fax: (423) 697-2628

N/AH Advisor:
HSC-2087
(423) 697-4782
(call for appointment to set up
your academic plan)

*All forms and important information can be found on these two websites:
N/AH website: www.chattanoogastate.edu/allied_health
PTA website: www.chattanoogastate.edu/allied_health/pt_assist*

Definition

A Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is a health care worker who works under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. PTAs perform physical therapy interventions such as therapeutic exercise, heat and cold treatments, electrical stimulation, soft tissue mobilization/massage or ambulation training. These techniques are designed to improve the patient's musculoskeletal function by achieving such goals as relieving pain, improving strength and increasing movement and function.

Mission

Chattanooga State's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program curriculum mission is to provide a quality comprehensive course of study (didactic and clinical) for students who wish to provide patient/client care in physical therapy as a PTA. Program standards are in place to assure that students have the potential to safely and competently perform as entry-level practitioners. These standards are reflected in the published "essential functions" that are included in this brochure.

Expected Outcomes

There are published expected outcomes that the student must be able to accomplish by graduation. These outcomes are accomplished via the combination of courses included in the enclosed "summary of required hours." The program "expected outcomes" are included on the program website.

Goals

The program develops goals each year that are linked to the goals of the Division of Nursing and Allied Health and College goals. These goals are published in the Division and Program Strategic Plan each year. Accomplishment of these goals is intended to improve overall program quality and are included on the program website.

Licensure

Upon completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, the student is eligible to take the state licensing exam. Successful completion of the exam is required to be licensed as a PTA in Tennessee. Other states have similar requirements. Chattanooga State's Physical Therapist Assistant program has had 100% pass rates over the last three years (2008, 2009 and 2010). Results are not yet complete for 2011 graduates but applicants may inquire about updated data.

Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Chattanooga State was first accredited in 1979. It has remained accredited since that time. This means the program has continued to be in compliance with the standards established by the accrediting agency, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The last accreditation site visit was in Fall 2006 with the result being reaffirmation of program accreditation. Annual accreditation reports will continue to be filed.

Program Content

SUMMARY OF REQUIRED HOURS

A minimum grade of "C" is required for all courses in the "Summary of Required Hours."

Course No.	Course Title	Semester Hours		
		FALL	SPR	SU
BIOL 2010, 2020	Human Anatomy & Physiology I, II	4	4	
ENGL 1010	Composition I		3	
PHYS 1030	Concepts of Physics	4		
PT 104	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2		
PT 111	Clinical Practice I		2	
PT 112	Pathological Conditions		3	
PT 115, 125	Physical Therapy Procedures I, II	5	4	
PT 123	Functional Anatomy	4		
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		19	16	
Sophomore Year				
PT 201	Physical Therapy Seminar		2	
PT 205	Therapeutic Exercise	5		
PT 210, 221	Clinical Practice II, III	4	10	
	*Humanities Elective		3	
	*Mathematics Elective	3		
	*Social/Behavioral Science Elective	3		
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		15	15	

Total Hours: 65

** Students must choose from the approved electives list for Math, Humanities, and Social/Behavioral Science included in the Chattanooga State Catalog.*

Career Opportunities

Employment opportunities are diversified. Physical Therapist Assistants may be employed to work with Physical Therapists in hospitals, home health agencies, rehabilitation hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, school systems/pediatric center, and out patient clinics.

Patient Problem Areas Often Seen in Physical Therapy Clinics

- fractured bones
- total hips and knees
- loss of motion
- athletic injuries
- back/neck pain
- surgical procedures
- open wounds/burns
- pediatric development disabilities
- stroke/head injury
- muscle weakness
- cardiovascular dysfunction

Salary Range/Job Market

Based on graduates' reports of salaries, the average starting salary range for PTAs is \$19-22 per hour in the surrounding geographic area. 100 percent of May graduates of the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 found jobs within six months of passing the licensing exam. Placement statistics for the May 2011 graduates were not available at the time of printing of this booklet, however, updated information will be available for interested applicants.

Length of Training

This program is designed for the student who does not intend to transfer to a graduate degree program in physical therapy; two-years minimum are required to complete the curriculum for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Since the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum is heavily composed of science courses including anatomy and physiology, functional anatomy, and pathology, students seeking admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program may begin to take general education and support science courses prior to acceptance into the program. This includes any course located in the summary of required hours other than those with a "PT" prefix.

Application Procedures

- Meet with an advisor for the Physical Therapist Assistant program.
- Attend an information session about the program.
- Obtain and submit an application to the Chattanooga State Admission's Office, along with the application fee, if you are a new student at Chattanooga State.
- Obtain an application packet to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program from the Division of Nursing/Allied Health which includes all necessary forms and information for applying to the program or visit the program website www.chattanoogaestate.edu/allied_health.
- Complete and submit an Allied Health Application Form and other required program information.

Note: Review the PTA admission checklist.

- The following information should ALL be submitted by the first Monday in March of the year in which admission is sought:
 - Allied Health application form.
 - Copies of high school and/or college transcripts. (College transcripts are required for students who have college course credits.)
 - Clinical Observation form documenting at least 16 hours of observation at a physical therapy facility.
 - Two Student Recommendation forms in sealed envelopes.
 - Take TEAS entrance test. The test must be taken before priority deadline date, the first Monday in March. (Scores are sent to the Division Office.)
- Check page 7 of this brochure to make sure the admission checklist is complete.
- Students must have completed all transitional studies courses to meet minimal eligibility requirements for program courses. For students who have not had college level courses, ACT test results or the college assessment test results must also be submitted.
- If you would like to compute your application points and estimate how competitive your application may be, use the PTA Program Point Calculation Worksheet available on the Program website or request one from the Allied Health Division Office.

Deadlines

The first Monday in March of each year is the deadline for preferred consideration. Be sure you have completed and submitted all required information—use the Admissions Checklist in this brochure to ensure that your application is complete.

Admission/Acceptance Procedure

- Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is a competitive process. Selection into the program is based on a comparative analysis of test scores, transcripts, interviews and other application materials.
- Students who submit their admission materials postmarked by the first Monday in March of the year in which Fall admission is sought will have their applications reviewed by a screening committee. (Only if there were not enough qualified applicants to fill the 24 available spaces in the class would applications be accepted after the March deadline.) Applicants must include application, TEAS score, transcript, recommendation form and observation forms to have a complete application.
- Tennessee residents and those within our service area are given priority consideration.
- Selection for interview/admission is based on a point system. Application materials are evaluated by a screening committee and the Allied Health Applications Coordinator. Points are awarded to the applicant using the following categories: (also refer to the point calculation worksheet available on the program website or from the division office).
 - a. Science GPA—high school and/or college.
 - b. Program GPA—from college support courses for the Physical Therapist Assistant Degree (if a minimum of six credits has been completed) or high school GPA (if no college credit has been completed).
 - c. TEAS scores—Student's composite score is used in a formula to determine points awarded. A higher composite score leads to more points in this category.
 - d. Current work experience as a PT technician or aide.
 - e. Number of program science courses (BIOL 2010, 2020 or PHYS 1030) which have already been completed. (Science courses taken prior to admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program must be passed with at least a "C" grade and must be taken within a five-year limit to qualify for points in the application process or to satisfy program course requirements.)
- Once the database is established using information supplied by the applicant, a verification form to approve file information regarding the above criteria is available for the student to review. When information is verified and/or corrections made, points are calculated and applicants are numerically ranked. Applicants with the highest points (usually 40-50 applicants) are invited to advance to the interview stage of the admission process.
- An admission/interview committee (consisting of members from Chattanooga State's division of Nursing/Allied Health, academic and clinical faculty and/or Student Services staff) assigns point values during a personal interview regarding the following criteria: knowledge of physical therapy, professional presentation, communication skills, interpersonal skills and organizational/planning skills. Interview points are combined with previously established database points to determine an overall application score. This point system is used to determine which applicants are offered admission. The composition of the class will reflect diversity based on age, gender and race. (Usually a class of 24 is accepted.)
- Acceptance is contingent on results of a physical examination and drug screening.
- Students must have current CPR certification (Health Care Provider course from American Heart Association) prior to beginning the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.
- Additional information is available in the current Chattanooga State catalog.

Note to applicants. It is your responsibility to:

- verify with Admissions Office the receipt of any transcript and/or transfer credit.
- request evaluation of transfer credits by the Admissions Office. Transcripts will be evaluated for transfer credits only after all transcripts are received and admission requirements are complete.
- provide a copy of transfer credits approved by the Admissions Office as part of your official PTA program application prior to the application deadline.
- make sure all appropriate forms have been submitted—see the “Admissions Checklist” in the back of this booklet.

Essential Functions

For students to succeed in the PTA Program, they must have the following qualities:

- Ability to achieve competency-level performance in all physical therapy interventions which include but are not limited to:
 - Demonstrate ability to adequately guard patients safely during ambulation activities on level surfaces and stairs when the patient is using cane, walker or crutches.
 - Demonstrate ability to safely transfer dependent patients from bed to chair or mat table to chair using minimum, moderate and maximum assist techniques.
 - Perform cleaning protocol procedures for sterile technique with whirlpools of all sizes.
 - Perform wound care techniques on open wounds using gauze or compression bandaging.
 - Communicate effectively by explaining procedures to patients, receiving information from patients, introducing self and confirming patient’s identity, and documenting clear, concise and accurate notes in the patient’s chart.
 - Demonstrate ability to manipulate dial switches and/or buttons to accurately set intensity, duration, etc. for therapeutic modality procedures.
 - Demonstrate ability to apply graded manual resistance to patient’s individual muscle groups for the purpose of determining the patient’s strength or applying exercise techniques for strengthening or stretching all muscle groups.
 - Demonstrate good body mechanics in the process of all patient intervention techniques.
 - Demonstrate the ability to set up intervention sessions using laboratory or clinic equipment within the time restraints of the intervention requirement to provide safe and effective treatments to the patient.
- Academic abilities to maintain at least a “C” grade on all required courses.
- Ability to handle the stresses of an intensive training program in preparation for the stresses of clinical situations—dealing with dying patients, fast-paced clinical situations, psycho-social responses of patients with disabilities, heavy academic schedule, etc.
- Current CPR certification (Health Care Provider course from American Heart Association) and ability to perform CPR.
- Ability to apply standard precautions (mask, gown, gloves) when indicated for protection of treater and patient.
- Ability to collaboratively work with all (both male and female) Physical Therapist Assistant students and with program faculty in the class, lab and clinical setting. Among other things participating in lab situations which require the student to “role play” both treater and patient for common physical therapy clinical conditions is required. This will require exposing areas of the body for treatment simulations including the hip, back, neck, ribs, shoulder, knee, foot, elbow, wrist and hand.
- Function independently in routine, stress and/or emergency situations.

Americans With Disabilities

Students who have educational, psychological, and/or physical disabilities may be eligible for accommodations that provide equal access to educational programs and activities at Chattanooga State. These students should notify the instructor immediately, and should contact Disabilities Support Services (S-113, phone (423) 697-4452) within the first two weeks of the semester in order to discuss individual needs. The student must provide documentation of the disability so that reasonable accommodations can be requested in a timely manner. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements in order to receive a passing grade in a class, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Continuation/Retention Policy

The Physical Therapist Assistant faculty will make all fair and reasonable efforts to help the student be successful in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Efforts usually include extensive counseling and remediation with faculty and/or referral to Career Planning and Counseling for additional assistance. However, all courses with PT prefixes, BIOL, and PHYS must be passed with a grade of "C" or better in order to proceed to the next PT course in the sequence. A minimum overall semester grade point average of 2.0 must be maintained. Individual course and laboratory requirements are indicated in each course syllabus. A student who develops significant physical limitations or emotional distress during the course of the program may be asked to undergo additional physical or psychological evaluations to determine their ability to continue in the program. The program courses follow an attendance policy. Excessive unexcused absences, as defined in the Physical Therapist Assistant student handbook and course syllabi, will result in lowering the student's final grade. All courses used to meet degree requirements must be passed with at least a grade of "C."

Criminal Background Checks

Following acceptance and prior to entering the first career course in designated health care programs, each student must undergo a criminal background check in order to comply with policies of affiliating clinical practice agencies. It shall be the student's responsibility to comply with instructions provided upon acceptance and provide the results by a designated date. The check will be at the expense of the student. Students who do not meet this requirement in a timely manner or whose background does not meet agency standards will not be able to successfully complete the program.

Additionally, a criminal background may preclude licensure or employment. Individuals with a question concerning this should schedule an appointment with the program director.

The Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS):

The TEAS test results will be used when applying for any degree program in the Nursing/Allied Health Division. The test includes 85 scored multiple-choice questions divided into two subsections:

Reading: paragraph comprehension, passage comprehension and inferences/conclusions (40 items)

Mathematics: whole numbers, metric conversion, fractions, decimals, algebraic equations, percentages and ratio/proportion (45 items)

The scores of the two tests are averaged into a composite score that is used in the selection process. The minimum total composite score to receive points in the selection process is 50 percent. Please visit the N/AH website at http://www.chattanoogaastate.edu/allied_health to find out more information regarding the test and registration procedures.

Physical Therapist Assistant Admissions Checklists

Utilize these checklists as a guide for successfully completing your application requirements. All application materials must be postmarked by the first Monday in March of each year for priority consideration.

It is the student's responsibility to read the program information booklet and follow these admission checklists in order to successfully complete the program's admission process. The student should also follow-up to make sure their file is complete with all program forms, transcripts, etc. before the program deadline date.

Note: It is the student's responsibility to notify the application coordinator for any changes needed on submitted materials (address, name, phone numbers, etc.) to assure your program file will remain up-to-date.

Chattanooga State Checklist (if not a current student):

- Complete college application
- Provide official transcripts to the Admissions Office and request evaluation for transfer credits.

Note: It is the applicant's responsibility to verify with the Admissions Office the receipt of any transcript and to request evaluation of transfer credits by the Admissions Office.

- Take the ACT, SAT or COMPASS, if applicable

Physical Therapist Assistant Checklist:

The following three (3) materials must be turned in together:

- Allied Health Application
- Complete the Clinical Observation Form which documents 16 hours of observation.
- 2 Student Recommendation Forms Submitted

Important Notes for Students:

- 1) Remember Physical Therapist Assistant application points are calculated based on **courses completed as of the previous fall semester**
 - 2) Transcripts from Chattanooga State are not necessary, but all other college transcripts are required
 - 3) Students who have not completed any college courses must submit a high school transcript.
- Submit transcripts (copies are acceptable).
 - Take the TEAS Test before the priority deadline date the first Monday in March.

Applications and forms must be mailed together to:

Chattanooga State Community College
N/AH Application Coordinator, HSC-2088
4501 Amnicola Hwy.
Chattanooga, TN 37406

Information Sessions

Information regarding application process, entrance examinations, the profession and history of the profession, careers, salaries, future of the profession, curriculum, and licensing and credentialing examinations will be held on the second floor, HSC Building. For dates and times, please see enclosed information or visit our N/AH website (under Printable Forms/Important Information), or call (423) 697-4450.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Costs 2011-2012

These are estimated program costs. Actual costs may vary due to changes in tuition and/or fee increases as determined by the Tennessee Board of Regents. This cost will also be reduced for students since some of the required course work is completed prior to acceptance into the program. These general and support courses taken before the program admission is to lessen course load in a given semester. Estimates below for textbooks are only for program courses.

Note: College fees are included in the maintenance cost.

Link to Chattanooga State Current website fees
<http://www.chattanoogaestate.edu/bursar>

Maintenance Fees	In-State	Out-of-State
Pre-Admission Costs:		
College one time application fee	15.00	15.00
TEAS Admission test	35.00	35.00
First Semester (19 hours) (Fall)		
Maintenance fee	1,887.50	7,259.50
Physical Examination	300.00	300.00
Criminal Background Check	56.00	56.00
Hepatitis B (estimate)	175.00	175.00
CPR	25.00	25.00
Liability Insurance	11.00	11.00
Uniform	100.00	100.00
Textbooks	1,000.00	1,000.00
Lab Kit	240.00	240.00
Second Semester (16 hours) (Spring)		
Maintenance fee	1,809.50	6,941.50
Textbooks	212.15	212.15
Third Semester (15 hours) (Fall)		
Maintenance fee	1,783.50	6,835.50
Physical Examination (TB skin test)	15.00	15.00
Liability Insurance	11.00	11.00
Textbooks	63.37	63.37
Graduation Fee	25.00	25.00
Fourth Semester (15 hours) (Spring)		
Maintenance fee	1,783.50	6,835.50
Textbooks	122.90	122.90
State License Fees	500.00	500.00
Uniform	100.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	22.00	22.00
TOTAL	<u>\$10,292.42</u>	<u>\$30,900.42</u>

Financial Aid Notes

Students wishing to receive financial aid should pay special attention to the satisfactory academic progress regulations regarding maximum time frame. This policy states, "A student may attempt up to 102 credit hours, plus up to 30 transitional studies hours, before he/she becomes ineligible for financial aid. Contact Financial Aid Office at (423) 697-4402 for information.

The time frame for students seeking a SECOND associate degree is also determined by the 102 credit hour limit plus transitional studies credit hours. Credit hours from the FIRST degree WILL be counted toward the second degree program."

A National Leader in Technology



Nursing/Allied Health

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

4501 Amnicola Hwy.

Chattanooga, TN 37406-1097

www.chattanoogaestate.edu

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