

# Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admission Requirements



Dear Prospective PTA Student:

Thank you for expressing an interest in our Physical Therapist Assistant Program. The following information will assist you in making a decision about seeking admission to our Program.

The Physical Therapist Assistant is an individual who, upon graduating from an accredited program and passing a licensure examination, is qualified to provide physical therapy services to patients. The Physical Therapist Assistant works under the supervision of a professional Physical Therapist in a variety of settings including hospitals, extended care facilities, rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, health maintenance organizations, school settings, and outpatient clinics. Our PTA Program has been awarded accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) (703-706-3245, [www.apta.org/CAPTE](http://www.apta.org/CAPTE)). Graduation from our program allows one to sit for the National Physical Therapy Assistant Licensure Examination.

The program has determined that its curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure or certification in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands secondary to its accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, based on the following:

*CAPTE accreditation of a physical therapist assistant program satisfies state educational requirements in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Thus, students graduating from CAPTE-accredited physical therapist assistant programs are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination and apply for licensure in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information regarding state qualifications and licensure requirements, refer to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy website at <https://www.fsbpt.org>*

## **Admissions Requirements**

The number of students admitted to each of the Health Sciences Career Education Programs is limited and the admission process is competitive. There are more applicants than what the program is able to enroll. The number of applicants admitted to each Health Sciences program is limited by several factors including: the number of spaces available for clinical training, the predicted number of positions available in the health care industry for graduates, and enrollment limitations imposed by accreditation agencies. Admission to each of the programs is based on several factors including successful completion of the admission requirements and interviews with an admissions committee of professionals in the appropriate field.

Those who desire admission into any Health Sciences Degree/Certificate program must:

Submit the following to the Office of Admissions and Records

- Application to the College meeting admission requirements for the College based on the admission or readmission status the applicant is seeking.
- ACT or SAT scores if under 21 years of age
- All high school transcripts or high school equivalency scores
- Transcripts from other colleges attended
- Appropriate Placement Test results, if applicable (615-230-3676)

Apply to the specific Health Sciences Career after being admitted into the College

- Application deadlines for the Health Sciences programs vary.
- For information about a specific program's application process and deadline, review the applicable Information Packet on the PTA website or contact the program director by email.

The Health Sciences Degree/Certificate programs are academic programs of study which require

The PTA Program consists of one year of general education and prerequisite courses and one year in the vocational portion of the Program. Since the spaces in the second year of the Program are limited, admission to the College and the completion of prerequisite courses do not guarantee admission to the second year of the Program. Students may be invited to participate in an interview to assist the Selection Committee in choosing the class. A minimum GPA of 3.00 for general education and prerequisite courses is currently required for a student to be eligible for an interview. Go to our website at [www.volstate.edu/academics/health-sciences/pta](http://www.volstate.edu/academics/health-sciences/pta) for further information on admissions criteria. The following information outlines the procedures to follow up to the point of admission into the second year of the Program.

1. The application form should be completed as part of the application packet (updated January 2nd of each year). To review this document, it is listed under the **Application Form** link, also on the PTA webpage.
2. Admission to the PTA program is limited. Applicants must complete all 27 hours of general education and prerequisite courses required for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum. A grade of C or higher is required for transfer of credits into the program (ENGL 1010, AHC 101, PSYC 1030 & Humanities/Fine Arts). A grade of B or higher is required in the Math and Sciences (Math 1130 or Math 1710, BIOL 2010, BIOL 2020, AHC 1100 and AHC 115) to be considered for the PTA program.
3. Prerequisite courses do not have to be completed in the order listed in the Semester-by-Semester Sequence. Some prerequisites may be completed at off campus sites, on weekends, or through online sections. Transfer credit from regionally accredited colleges and universities is accepted at the discretion of the Office of Records. Prospective students are advised that transfer credit for AHC 1100, Physical Science for the PTA, **is granted only upon approval of the Program Director**. Prospective students are advised to complete this course at Volunteer State. Students who have completed two semesters of college level physics (only if grade of B or higher) may, with the **approval of the PTA Program Director**, request substitution for AHC 1100.
4. During the Spring Semester, any individual who has the potential of meeting admissions requirements and who wants to be considered for admission to the second year of the Program must submit a completed application. The application is due in the Health Sciences offices by March 20<sup>th</sup> of the year in which the applicant intends to start the second year of the Program. No late applications are accepted. The application becomes available on January 2nd. Please check the PTA web page for the **Application Form** link for the updated application packet.
5. Once a completed application has been submitted, the student may be scheduled for an interview in May to assist the Selection Committee in determining their suitability for the Program and the profession. A minimum GPA of a 3.00 of general education and prerequisite courses is currently required for a student to be eligible for an interview. You must have a B or higher in the Math and Science classes (Math 1130 or Math 1710, BIOL 2010, BIOL 2020, AHC 1100 and AHC 115) in order to be selected. The interview and academic record will have approximately equal weight. A written statement will be collected from all applicants at the interview. Final approval for admission rests with the faculty of the PTA Program.
6. In order to provide the most comprehensive experience available to our students and protect patients in our clinical sites, our clinical affiliates require all attendees to document immunizations and vaccinations. All students are required to complete and provide documentation of various types of vaccinations, immunizations, and medical tests in order to fully participate in clinical or practicum experiences.
  - o One diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccination that has been obtained within the last ten years.
  - o Influenza vaccination obtained in October of the interview year.

- Documentation of blood test (serology, titers) showing immunity to MMR, varicella, or the Hepatitis B virus ***OR***
  - Two doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine with each given at least 28 days apart.
  - Two doses of the varicella vaccine with each given at least 28 days apart.
  - Three doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine.
- Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST), TB Skin Test

9.

**VOLUNTEER STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
SEMESTER BY SEMESTER SEQUENCE**

**PREREQUISITE AND GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES - FALL SEMESTER**

MATH 1130 or MATH 1710	College Algebra or Pre-calculus Algebra	3 hours
BIOL 2010	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4 hours
AHC 115	Medical Terminology	3 hours
PSYC 1030	Introduction to Psychology	<u>3 hours</u>
		TOTAL 13 hours

Other than BIOL 2010 & 2020, and MATH followed by AHC 1100, courses may be taken in any order.

**PREREQUISITE AND GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES - SPRING SEMESTER**

AHC 101	Career Exploration in Physical Therapy	1 hour
AHC 1100	Physical Science for the PTA	3 hours
BIOL 2020	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4 hours
ENGL 1010	English Composition I	3 hours
Hum/Fine Arts or PHIL 1040	Introduction to Ethics	<u>3 hours</u>
(Humanities/FINE ARTS Options: One of the following: ART 1035, ART 2000, ART 2020 ENGL 2045, ENGL 2055, ENGL 2110, ENGL 2120, ENGL 2310, ENGL 2320, ENGL 2860 M		TOTAL 14 hours