



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). Graduation from our program allows one to sit for the licensure examination.

Our 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. Each student must go through an interview to assist the Selection Committee in choosing the class. Priority will be given in the Admissions Process to Volunteer State Community College students. Go to our website at www.volstate.edu/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 first step in entering our Physical Therapist Assistant Program is filling out an application to Volunteer State Community College. You should submit an application to the Office of Admissions with the required \$20.00 non-refundable application fee. If you have previously attended any colleges, please have an official transcript for each college attended submitted to the Office of Records. In addition, if you have additional copies of your transcripts, bring them the first time you see a PTA advisor.
2. A second application form should be completed and submitted to the Division of Allied Health indicating your intent to enter the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. This application helps us keep you notified of information about the Program. You may access this application online by going to: <http://www.volstate.edu/AlliedHealth/> and then clicking on "Forms and Resources." This application **IS NOT** the application to enter the second year of the PTA Program.
3. If you have not previously attended college, the Office of Counseling and Testing will schedule you for testing in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and algebra. You may be required to take some course work in these areas. An advisor will help you identify

- which courses are required. Those who have completed some college work may also be required to complete some of the testing depending on course work already completed.
4. Students who are required to test and who have not attended school for several years or who feel insecure in one or more of the areas of reading, writing, or mathematics are encouraged to contact a counselor in our New Skills program (ext. 3675) prior to testing. Several PTA students have reported that the New Skills program contributed to their success.
 5. Students must have completed (with a “C” or better), or be currently enrolled in, all of the pre-requisite classes in order to be eligible to apply to the second year of the Program. A list of the pre-requisite classes can be found under “Freshman Year – Fall Semester” and “Freshman Year – Spring Semester” on page 4 of this document. Students who are enrolled in prerequisite course work in the spring semester may make application to begin in May of that year. **(If you have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university or an associate’s degree from a TN Board of Regents College, You may already have some of the requirements needed to apply to the program.)**
 6. Prerequisite courses do not have to be completed in the order listed in the Semester-by-Semester Sequence with the exception of Biol 2010 which must precede Biol 2020 and Math 1130 or Math 1710 which must precede PTA 110. Some prerequisites may be completed at off campus sites, on weekends, or through College-at-Home. 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 PTA 110, Physical Science of 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 may, with the approval of the PTA Program Director, request substitution for PTA 110
 7. During the Spring Semester, any individual who has the potential of meeting admission’s requirements and who wants to be considered for admission to the second year of the Program must submit a completed screening application. That application is due in the Allied Health offices by March 15 of the year in which the applicant intends to start the second year of the Program. The application becomes available on the first working day on or after January 2nd.
 8. Once a completed application has been submitted, the student will be scheduled for an interview in early May to assist the Selection Committee in determining their suitability for the Program and the profession. Interviews may be limited to the top applicants if there is a large amount of applicants that year. The interview team will assess the applicant’s knowledge of the professions, ability to function in an interview situation, communication skills, and rationale for wanting to enter the PTA Program. The interview and academic record will have approximately equal weight in the admission’s decision.
 9. It is required that students complete a minimum of 16 hours of observation in a variety of settings including outpatient, skilled nursing facilities, and hospitals. Experiences may also be sought in the school system, home health, or inpatient rehab. Observation hours must be documented on the Confirmation of Volunteer Hours form which can be found at: <http://www.volstate.edu/PTA/Checklist.php>.
 9. If accepted into the second year of the Program the student must submit the following items, which are required for clinical participation, on the first day of class (which is the day after Memorial Day):
 - Proof of freedom from tuberculosis
 - Proof of immunity to rubella
 - Proof of Hepatitis B immunization (at least the first shot in the series)

Students are required to take a drug test, at their own expense, prior to the Fall and Spring clinical affiliations.

Additional medical requirements may be required at some clinical sites.

10. Students who are admitted to the PTA Program are required to complete a minimum of 15 weeks of full time clinical education. Students must commute at their expense up to 100 miles (each way) from their home or the college, whichever is further. Students seeking enrollment in this program **must** provide evidence of a passing score on a background check and a urine drug screen prior to official acceptance/enrollment into the program. Either the failure to provide the required results by the due date or the receipt of anything other than a passing score will make a student ineligible for enrollment in this program. The background check and urine drug screens are performed at the student's expense. *Specific details regarding the background check and urine drug screen are given to students after conditional acceptance into the program is granted.* The cost for background check verification will be approximately \$75.00. and the urine drug screen will be approximately \$45.00. Please contact program faculty for further information.

The PTA Program is located in Building 100 of the VSCC East Campus on GAP Rd.

If you are interested in more information about the PTA Program, please see the PTA website at www.volstate.edu/pta .

Sincerely,

Carolyn Moore, PT, MHS, Program Director

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

FRESHMAN YEAR - FALL SEMESTER

MATHEMATICS	MATH 1130 or MATH 1710	3 hours
BIOL 2010	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4 hours
ENGL 1010	English Composition I	3 hours
AHC 115	Medical Terminology	3 hours
INFS*	Computer Applications	3 hours
AHC 101	Introduction to Physical Therapy	1 hour

TOTAL 17 hours

* Students may also demonstrate computer competency by taking and passing the Computer Competency Exam (CCE).

FRESHMAN YEAR - SPRING SEMESTER

PTA 110*	Physical Science for the PTA	2 hours
BIOL 2020	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4 hours
PSYC 1030	General Psychology	3 hours
Fine Arts		<u>3 hours</u>

TOTAL 12 hours

Other than BIOL 2010 & 2020, and MATH followed by PTA 110, courses may be taken in any order.

***Math 1130 or Math 1710 is a prerequisite for PTA 110.**

SCREENING INTERVIEWS ONCE A YEAR IN MAY. ALL FALL SEMESTER AND SPRING SEMESTER COURSES AND ALL REMEDIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL COURSES MUST BE COMPLETED WITH A 'C' OR BETTER PRIOR TO SELECTION SCREENING INTERVIEW.

FRESHMAN YEAR - SUMMER SEMESTER

PTA 250	Medical Conditions for the PTA	3 hours
PTA 210	Fundamentals of PTA	1 hour
PTA 253	Therapeutic Applications I	4 hours
PTA 221	Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology	<u>2 hours</u>

TOTAL 10 hours

***Completion prior to entering the program is recommended.

SOPHOMORE YEAR - FALL SEMESTER

PTA 222	Functional Neuroanatomy	2 hours
PTA 263	Therapeutic Applications II	5 hours
PTA 264	Therapeutic Applications III	5 hours
PTA 265	Therapeutic Applications IV	2 hours
PTA 242C	Clinical Practice I	<u>3 hours</u>

TOTAL 17 hours

SOPHOMORE YEAR - SPRING SEMESTER

PTA 251	PTA Seminar	2 hours
PTA 270	Therapeutic Applications V	4 hours
PTA 243C	Clinical Practice II	<u>8 hours</u>

TOTAL 14 hours