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 National Physical Therapy Assistant Licensure Examination.

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 usually more applicants than spaces available. 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 or contact the program director.
The Health Sciences Degree/Certificate programs are academic programs of study which require completion of certain clinical or practicum experiences in order to successfully complete the academic program. The College’s clinical or practicum site partners require students to undergo criminal background checks, drug screens, or to provide proof regarding vaccination history and/or provide other information to participate in clinical or practicum experiences at their sites. Failure to meet the requirements of the College’s clinical or practicum site partners may inhibit successful completion of the clinical or practicum component and prevent completion of the program. Prospective students must also follow program specific directions for the desired Health Sciences Degree/Certificate, which may include (but are not limited to):

- Complete a VSCC medical history report
- Document proof of medical insurance
- Complete student background check(s)
- Complete drug screen(s)
- Obtain specific vaccinations/immunizations or medical tests

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. Students may be invited to participate in an interview to assist the Selection Committee in choosing the class. A minimum GPA of a 3.35 is currently required for a student to be eligible for an interview. Go to our website at 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.

The program has determined that its curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure or certification in all states, the District of Colombia, 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

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 the first working day on or after March 20th 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. 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 3.35 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 in the admission’s decision. 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. These may include, but are not limited to, tuberculin (TB) skin tests, Hepatitis B, MMR, Tdap, varicella, influenza, and COVID-19 vaccinations. If you have any questions about this process, please notify the program director.

7. All students will be required to complete a criminal background check upon formal acceptance in the PTA program. The results of the background check will be forwarded to the Clinical Affiliations Specialist at Vol State. Please review our Background Check Requirements and steps on how to get your results submitted. More than one background check may be required.

8. Students seeking enrollment in the Health Sciences Programs requiring participation in clinical training in area hospitals and related clinics must provide evidence of having passed a 10-panel urine drug screen prior to participating in clinical or practicum experiences. Find out more information about the screening procedures and locations. More than one drug screen may be required.

9. Health Sciences Career programs include coursework in the clinical setting which requires that students be available during clinical hours often totaling up to 40 hours per week. It is usually not possible to participate in the professional portion of most of the Health Sciences Career programs on a part-time basis. Clinical assignments are during periods appropriate to the professions and may include day, evening, and weekend hours. Expenses related to assigned clinical courses such as medical exams, liability insurance, medical insurance, uniforms, meals, travel and other items specific to each career area should be expected. All of these expenses are the student’s responsibility.

10. The PTA Program consist of three full-time semesters, beginning with the summer semester. The summer semester typically begins in late May. Students who are selected for admissions into the PTA program should be prepared to start during the summer semester. The summer semester is a 10-week semester and the fall and spring semesters are 15-week semesters.

11. Students are required to complete a minimum of 15 weeks of full-time clinical education. Students must commute at their expense up to 80 miles (each way) from their home or the college, whichever is further.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS NEEDED FOR SAFE PRACTICE:
Lifting 50 pounds with frequent lifting and carrying of objects weighing up to 25 pounds is a minimum requirement for working in the PT department. Walking, standing, bending, stooping and sitting for prolonged periods are also required. Full use of gross and fine motor skills of the upper and lower extremities is a requirement for safety performing the job duties of a PTA. The above skills are considered to be the minimum physical requirements needed in order to safeguard a patient while under the care of a PT or PTA.

The PTA Program is located on the East Campus, Building 100

If you are interested in more information about the PTA Program, please see the PTA website at [www.volstate.edu/academics/health-sciences/pta](http://www.volstate.edu/academics/health-sciences/pta)

Sincerely,

**Regina Brown, PTA, MS**  
*Program Director/Associate Professor*

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# FRESHMAN YEAR - 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 General Psychology**: 3 hours

**TOTAL 13 hours**

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

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# FRESHMAN YEAR - 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**: 3 hours

(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**

**MUS 1030, PHIL 1030, PHIL 2430 or THEA 1030**)

**TOTAL 14 hours**

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### ALL FALL SEMESTER AND SPRING SEMESTER COURSES AND ALL LEARNING SUPPORT COURSES MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO SELECTION SCREENING WHICH OCCURS AFTER SPRING SEMESTER. REFER TO THE APPLICATION PACKET FOR MORE DETAILS.

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# FRESHMAN YEAR - SUMMER SEMESTER

- **PTAT 2530 Medical Surgical Conditions & Treatment for the PTA**: 5 hours
- **PTAT 2100 Introduction to Physical Therapy**: 1 hour
- **PTAT 2460 Patient Care Skills for the PTA**: 4 hours
- **PTAT 2210 Kinesiology for the PTA I**: 2 hours

**TOTAL 12 hours**

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# SOPHOMORE YEAR - FALL SEMESTER

- **PTAT 2220 Kinesiology for the PTA II**: 2 hours
- **PTAT 2440 Biophysical Agents for the PTA II**: 4 hours
- **PTAT 2510 Musculoskeletal Conditions & Treatment for the PTA**: 5 hours
- **PTAT 2492 Integrated Clinical Education**: 4 hours

**TOTAL 15 hours**

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# SOPHOMORE YEAR - SPRING SEMESTER

- **PTAT 2280 Seminar for the PTA**: 2 hours
- **PTAT 2520 Neuromuscular Conditions & Treatment for the PTA**: 5 hours
- **PTAT 2493 Terminal Clinical Education I**: 4 hours
- **PTAT 2494 Terminal Clinical Education II**: 4 hours

**TOTAL 15 hours**

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