



Program Planning Guide

Physical Therapist Assistant in Applied Science Degree (A45620)

Program Length: 5 Semesters

Program Sites: Chatham Health Science Center, seated only

The Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum prepares graduates to work in direct patient care settings under the supervision of physical therapists. Assistants work to improve or restore function by alleviation or prevention of physical impairment and perform other essential activities in a physical therapy department.

Coursework includes normal human anatomy and physiology, the consequences of disease or injury, and physical therapy treatment of a variety of patient conditions affecting humans throughout the life span.

Graduates are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE). Employment is available in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, extended care facilities, specialty hospitals, home health agencies, private clinics, and public school systems.

Limited Enrollment Application Overview:

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program is a limited-enrollment program, which means that there are a limited number of seats in this program each year. Students must meet all requirements listed below to enter the PTA program. While they are completing these requirements, pre-PTA Students will be enrolled in the **Pre-PTA program (A55280PT)**. The PTA program accreditation requires students to be ranked by GPA, and seats will be offered starting with the highest GPA. Students will be ranked and notified of acceptance by **June 15**. Students who are seeking provisional acceptance will also be ranked by GPA and notified of acceptance by **July 15**.

PTA Admission Requirements:

- ☐ Complete 25 credit hours of Pre-PTA general education courses (see page 2).
- ☐ Complete BIO 168 & 169 and ENG 111 with a B or better.
- ☐ Complete all other general education courses with a C or better.
- ☐ Have a 3.0 GPA based on 25 credit hours of PTA general education courses.
- ☐ Submit documentation of completing 10 hours shadowing a PTA in a clinical setting.
- ☐ Attend a mandatory, in-person program orientation before beginning the program. The date will be provided in the admission acceptance letter.

Provisional Acceptance:

Provisional acceptance will be offered to a student if there are seats available after all fully accepted students have confirmed their acceptance by **June 15** each year, **and**:

- ☐ The student has a 2.5 - 2.99 GPA based on 25 credit hours of PTA general education courses.
- ☐ The student has a grade of C in BIO 168, BIO 169, and/or ENG 111.
- ☐ All remaining general education coursework will be completed by the end of the summer term.
 - ☐ Can have up to two missing general education classes, excluding BIO/ENG.
- ☐ Documentation of all shadowing hours is provided to the department chair by the first day of class.



Pre-PTA General Education Requirements & Suggested Course Schedule:

Course Schedule		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credits	Notes:
1st Semester (fall)						
ACA 122	Transfer & Career Success	0	2	0	1	Seated or online
BIO 168	Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	0	4	Seated
ENG 111	Writing and Inquiry	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
Elective	Communications Elective	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
Elective	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
Total Semester Hours		12	5	0	14	
2nd Semester (spring)						
BIO 169	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	0	4	Seated
PHY 110	Conceptual Physics	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
PHY 110A	Conceptual Physics Lab	0	2	0	1	Seated or online
PSY 150	General Psychology	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
Total Semester Hours		9	5	0	11	

Communication Elective Options: COM 110*, COM 120, COM 231, ENG 112, ENG 114

Humanities/Fine Arts Elective Options: ART 111, ART 114, ART 115, DRA 111, ENG 125, ENG 231, ENG 232, ENG 241, ENG 242, HUM 110, HUM 115, HUM 120, HUM 122, HUM 150, MUS 110, MUS 112, PHI 240*, REL 110, REL 211, REL 212

*Recommended for PTA students



Upon acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant program, students will take the following courses:

Course Schedule		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credits	Notes:
1st Semester (fall)						
PTA 110	Intro to Physical Therapy	2	3	0	3	Seated
PTA 130	Physical Therapy Proc I	1	6	0	3	Seated
PTA 170	Pathophysiology	3	0	0	3	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	6	9	0	9	
2nd Semester (spring)						
PTA 120	Functional Anatomy	1	6	0	3	Seated
PTA 140	Therapeutic Exercise	2	6	0	4	Seated
PTA 150	Physical Therapy Proc II	1	6	0	3	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	4	18	0	10	
3rd Semester (summer)						
PTA 160	Physical Therapy Proc III	2	3	0	3	Seated
PTA 212	Health Care/Resources	2	0	0	2	Seated
PTA 222	Professional Interactions	2	0	0	2	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	6	3	0	7	
4th Semester (fall)						
PTA 240	Physical Therapy Proc IV	3	6	0	5	Seated
PTA 252	Geriatrics for the PTA	2	0	0	2	Seated
PTA 254	Pediatrics for the PTA	0	3	0	1	Seated
PTA 180	PTA Clinical Ed Intro	0	0	9	3	In-person clinical rotation
PTA 270	PTA Topics	1	0	0	1	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	6	9	9	12	
5th Semester (spring)						
PTA 260AB	Adv PTA Clinical Ed	0	0	15	5	In-person clinical rotation
PTA 260BB	Adv PTA Clinical Ed	0	0	15	5	In-person clinical rotation
	Total Semester Hours	0	0	30	10	



Total General Education Semester Hours Credit: 25
Total Program Semester Hours Credit: 48
Total Semester Hours Credit Required for Graduation 73

Course Descriptions

ACA 122 Transfer & Career Success

This course introduces students to career and transfer opportunities while building skills for academic success, career exploration, and transfer preparation, ensuring readiness for success in community college and beyond. Topics include transfer agreements with public and independent institutions, programs and processes that facilitate transfer, and transfer tools and resources; career topics include career exploration and information and skills such as resume writing, portfolio development, and professional communication. Upon completion, students will be able to identify the community college program that matches their transfer and career goals, navigate transfer policies and processes, use Transfer Guides, develop an academic plan for future success, and identify professional application materials. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.

BIO 168 Anatomy and Physiology I

Requisites: Take ENG-045 - Must be taken either prior to or at the same time as this course.

This course provides a comprehensive study of the anatomy and physiology of the human body. Topics include body organization, homeostasis, cytology, histology, and the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, special senses, and endocrine systems. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of principles of anatomy and physiology and their interrelationships. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.

BIO 169 Anatomy and Physiology II

Requisites: Take BIO-168 - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

This course provides a continuation of the comprehensive study of the anatomy and physiology of the human body. Topics include the endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems as well as metabolism, nutrition, acid-base balance, and fluid and electrolyte balance. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of principles of anatomy and physiology and their interrelationships. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.

COM 110 Introduction to Communication

This course provides an overview of the basic concepts of communication and the skills necessary to communicate in various contexts. Emphasis is placed on communication theories and techniques used in interpersonal group, public, intercultural, and mass communication situations. Upon completion, students should be able to explain and illustrate the forms and purposes of human communication in a variety of contexts. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA as a general education course in Communication.

ENG 111 Writing and Inquiry

Requisites: Take ENG-045 - Must be taken either prior to or at the same time as this course.

This course is designed to develop the ability to produce clear writing in a variety of genres and formats using a recursive process. Emphasis includes inquiry, analysis, effective use of rhetorical strategies, thesis development, audience awareness, and revision. Upon completion, students should be able to produce unified, coherent, well-developed essays



using standard written English. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a general education course in English Composition.

PHI 240 Introduction to Ethics

Requisites: Take ENG-111 - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

This course introduces theories about the nature and foundations of moral judgments and applications to contemporary moral issues. Emphasis is placed on moral theories such as consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics. Upon completion, students should be able to apply various ethical theories to moral issues such as abortion, capital punishment, poverty, war, terrorism, the treatment of animals, and issues arising from new technologies. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a general education course in Humanities/Fine Arts.

PHY 110 Conceptual Physics

Requisites: Take PHY-110A - Must be taken either prior to or at the same time as this course.

This course provides a conceptually-based exposure to the fundamental principles and processes of the physical world. Topics include basic concepts of motion, forces, energy, heat, electricity, magnetism, and the structure of matter and the universe. Upon completion, students should be able to describe examples and applications of the principles studied. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a general education course in Natural Science.

PHY 110A Conceptual Physics Lab

Requisites:

Take PHY-110 - Must be taken either prior to or at the same time as this course.

This course is a laboratory for PHY 110. Emphasis is placed on laboratory experiences that enhance materials presented in PHY 110. Upon completion, students should be able to apply the laboratory experiences to the concepts presented in PHY 110. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a general education course in Natural Science.

PSY 150 General Psychology

This course provides an overview of the scientific study of human behavior. Topics include history, methodology, biopsychology, sensation, perception, learning, motivation, cognition, abnormal behavior, personality theory, social psychology, and other relevant topics. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the science of psychology. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a general education course in Social/Behavioral Sciences.

PTA 110 Intro to Physical Therapy

This course introduces the field of physical therapy including the history and standards of practice for the physical therapist assistant and basic treatment techniques. Emphasis is placed on ethical and legal considerations, universal precautions, vital signs, documentation, basic patient preparation and treatment skills, and architectural barrier screening. Upon completion, students should be able to explain the role of the physical therapist assistant and demonstrate competence in basic techniques of patient care.

PTA 120 Functional Anatomy

Corequisite: Take PTA 140

This course provides an organized study of anatomy and kinesiology. Emphasis is placed on the integration of structure and function of the skeletal, articular, muscular, nervous, and circulatory systems to include gait analysis. Upon completion, students should be able to describe the components and demonstrate function of these systems as applied to physical therapy.

**PTA 130 Physical Therapy Procedures I***Corequisite: Take PTA 110*

This course includes concepts of injury and repair and documentation methods. Emphasis is placed on physiological effects, indications, contraindications, and skilled applications of selected therapeutic modalities. Upon completion, students should be able to safely, correctly, and effectively apply the emphasized techniques and procedures with understanding of correct documentation.

PTA 140 Therapeutic Exercise*Corequisite: Take PTA 120*

This course covers muscle physiology, exercise concepts, testing, and applications to the spine and extremities. Topics include strength, endurance, flexibility, and exercise protocols and progressions. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate skill in applying therapeutic exercise principles for non-neurological conditions in a safe and appropriate manner.

PTA 150 Physical Therapy Procedures II*Prerequisite: Take PTA 130*

This course is designed to include the theory and practice of additional therapeutic interventions. Topics include but are not limited to electrotherapy, burn and wound care, biofeedback, and selected data collection methods. Upon completion, students should be able to apply these modalities and treatment techniques effectively and safely and demonstrate knowledge of physiological principles involved.

PTA 160 Physical Therapy Procedures III*Prerequisite: Take PTA 150*

This course introduces treatment and measurement techniques and discusses treatment programs for selected neuromusculoskeletal dysfunction and injuries. Topics include soft tissue and joint dysfunction, selected assessment techniques, and various exercise programs. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate the application of selected data collection methods and functional interventions.

PTA 170 Pathophysiology

This course is a survey of basic pathology with emphasis on conditions most frequently observed and treated in physical therapy. Topics include etiology, pathology, manifestation, treatment, and prognosis. Upon completion, students should be able to explain repair processes, categorize diseases, define pathology, identify organ/body systems involved, and discuss treatment and prognosis.

PTA 180 PTA Clinical Education Introduction

This course introduces the physical therapy clinic in planned learning experiences and practice under supervision. Emphasis is placed on reinforcement of learned skills in direct patient care and communication. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate satisfactory performance in learned patient care skills, communication activities, and professional behaviors.

PTA 212 Health Care/Resources

This course provides an overview of various aspects of health care delivery systems and the interrelationships of health care team members. Topics include health agencies and their functions, health care team member roles, management, and other health care issues. Upon completion, students should be able to discuss the functions of health organizations and team members and aspects of health care affecting physical therapy delivery.

**PTA 222 Professional Interactions**

This course is designed to assist in the development of effective interpersonal skills in the physical therapist assistant setting. Topics include reactions to disability, the grieving process, methods of communication, motivation, health promotion, disease prevention, and aging. Upon completion, students should be able to discuss and demonstrate methods for achieving effective interaction with patients, families, the public, and other health care providers.

PTA 240 Physical Therapy Procedures IV

This course covers normal development, adult and pediatric/CNS dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, amputee rehabilitation techniques, and cardiopulmonary rehabilitation. Topics include neurology review, selected rehabilitation techniques, ADL and functional training, prosthetic and orthotic training, and environmental access. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate safe and correct application of selected rehabilitation techniques for neurological dysfunction, cardiopulmonary conditions, and amputations.

PTA 252 Geriatrics for the PTA

This course is designed to provide more in-depth knowledge of physical therapy care for the geriatric individual. Topics include health promotion, wellness programs, and medical problems specific to the elderly. Upon completion, students should be able to discuss and describe special problems and programs for the elderly.

PTA 254 Pediatrics for the PTA

This course provides an in-depth study of pediatric dysfunction and rehabilitation techniques. Topics include severe and profound attention deficit disorder, sensory integration, and rehabilitation in the school setting. Upon completion, students should be able to discuss selected pediatric dysfunctions and demonstrate specialized rehabilitation techniques.

PTA 260 Advanced PTA Clinical Education

Prerequisite: Take PTA 180

This course provides full-time clinical affiliations for planned learning experiences and practice under supervision. Emphasis is placed on reinforcement of learned skills in direct patient care, communications, and professional behaviors. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate satisfactory performance as an entry-level physical therapist assistant and as a member of the physical therapy team.

PTA 270 PTA Topics

This course covers the physical therapist assistant profession in preparation for the state licensure exam. Topics include developing time management skills and practicing for the competence examinations. Upon completion, students should be able to identify individual academic strengths and weaknesses and utilize this information to continue self-study for the licensure exam.