



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM



<http://aacc.edu/cache/pta>

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Revised 11/5/2024

Students interested in the program should contact:

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Office Hours by Appointment – HPAC 203D Wye Mills Campus

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

AWARD: Associate of Applied Science Degree

PURPOSE: The physical therapist assistant program prepares students to provide physical therapy services according to the plan of care developed by the physical therapist. The physical therapist assistant administers direct patient care; teaches patients, families, and other health care providers how to perform selected procedures; and provides desired psychosocial support to patients and their families. Physical therapist assistants are employed primarily in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, private practice, extended care facilities and home health care settings. Physical therapist assistants work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.

OCCUPATIONAL GOAL: Physical Therapist Assistant

PROGRAM MISSION and PHILOSOPHY, GOALS, TERMINAL OBJECTIVES/

EXPECTED PROGRAM OUTCOMES: The CACHE PTA Program Mission and Philosophy, Goals, and Terminal Objectives and Expected Program Outcomes are described on the CACHE PTA Program website: www.aacc.edu/cache/pta

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: The PTA program is sponsored by the Chesapeake Area Consortium for Higher Education (CACHE) program, which is comprised of the College of Southern Maryland and Chesapeake and Anne Arundel Community College. Students complete their general education requirements at Chesapeake College, their professional training at Anne Arundel Community College, and their clinical internships in their local service area when possible. Distance learning technology is used as appropriate. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the national licensing examination.

This is a 5 semester, two year program with courses that build on the knowledge from previous courses. Students have to be selected for admission into the program. After the first semester the program is a full time experience with a minimum of 12 credits per semester. Students should anticipate study and attendance needs and adjust work schedules accordingly.

Students must meet specific academic standards prior to admission to the program. A grade of “C” or better in physical therapist assistant courses and general education course work is required to progress in the program.

CPR: Students must complete the **American Heart Association Basic Life Support course for Health Care Providers**. The certification must be valid through graduation.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Students enter the program in the fall semester and admission to the program is required prior to registering for any PTA course. Applications must be submitted by **April 30** of each year. Students must meet the following requirements prior to admission to the program:

1. High school graduation or equivalency (official transcripts required).
2. [Apply](#) for admission to Chesapeake College.
3. Determine your college readiness: <http://www.chesapeake.edu/admissions/accuplacer>

4. A college grade point average of 2.0.
5. Submission of a Health Examination Record which is supplied by the program and completed by a physician, validating that a student is in good health and able to perform the Technical Standards Requirements. (To be completed only after admission to the program.)
6. Documentation of current immunizations and health insurance. (To be completed only after admission to the program.)
7. Students who are offered admission into the program will be required to submit to a complete criminal background check. See details on page 7 (seven) of this document

+ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

General Education courses completed at **Chesapeake College**.

BIO 211*	Anatomy and Physiology I (lecture and lab)	4
BIO 212**	Anatomy and Physiology II (lecture and lab)	4
ENG 101**	Composition	3
MAT 113**	College Algebra	3
PSC 150	General Psychology	3
PSC 250**	Human Growth and Development	3
Elective	Arts and Humanities	3
		23 Total

Jointly completed at **Anne Arundel Community College and/or Chesapeake College**:

PTA 101**	Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting	3
PTA 102**	Physical Therapist Assistant I	6
PTA 106**	Kinesiology	6
PTA 104**	Physical Therapist Assistant II	6
PTA 105**	Clinical Practice I	2
PTA 201**	Physical Therapist Assistant III	4
PTA 202**	Physical Therapist Assistant IV	4
PTA 203**	Clinical Practice II	4
PTA 204**	Physical Therapist Assistant V	3
PTA 205**	Current Issues and Trends	1
PTA 206**	Clinical Practice III	4
PTA 207**	Clinical Practice IV	4
		47 Total

TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS **70**

***Pre-requisite/Co-requisite:** Complete BIO 111 as a prerequisite or passage of readiness exam or co-requisite OR take BIO 103 as pre-requisite or co-requisite.

**** Prerequisite/eligibility required**

Note: BIO 211, MAT 113, ENG 101 and PSC 150 must be completed before entering PTA 102. BIO 212 must be completed before entering PTA 104. PSY 250 must be completed before entering PTA 201.

CHESAPEAKE AREA CONSORTIUM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Anne Arundel Community College • College of Southern Maryland • Chesapeake College

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE: Revised Fall 2024

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT COURSE SEQUENCE/CONTACT HOURS

		CREDIT HOURS	CONTACT HOURS		
FIRST YEAR			Lecture	College Lab	Weekly
Fall Semester BIO 211	** Anatomy and Physiology I	4	30	60	3 lec / 3 lab
MAT 113	# College Algebra	3	45		3 lec
PTA 101	Intro. to Physical Therapist Assisting	3	30	30	2 lec online 4 hours x 7 sessions lab
ENG 101	# Composition	3	45		3 lec
PSC 150	# General Psychology	3	45		3 lec
Spring Semester BIO 212	Anatomy and Physiology II	4	30	60	3 lec / 3 lab
PTA 102	Physical Therapist Assistant 1	6	45	90	3 lec / 6 lab
PTA 106	Kinesiology	6	70	45	~ 4.5 lec / 3 lab
Summer Semester PTA 104	Physical Therapist Assistant 2	6	45	90	5 lec / 10 lab
PTA 105	Clinical Practice 1	2	45	30	~2/wk 3 lec
PSC 250	* Human Growth and Development	3			
SECOND YEAR					
Fall Semester PTA 201	Physical Therapist Assistant 3	4	45	30	Front loaded weeks 1-6
PTA 202	Physical Therapist Assistant 4	4	45	30	
PTA 203	Clinical Practice 2	4		192	24/wk x 8 wks
-----	Arts and Humanities requirement	3	45		3 lec
Spring Semester PTA 204	Physical Therapist Assistant 5	3	30	30	~ 4 lec / 4 lab
PTA 205	Current Issues and Trends Affecting Physical Therapist Assisting	1	15		~2 lec
PTA 206	Clinical Practice 3	4		160	4x/wk 5 wks
PTA 207	Clinical Practice 4	4		280	40/wk x 7 wks

Total Credit Hours 70

Co-requisite for PTA 101 (Fall semester of First Year)

**Pre-requisite for PTA 106

* Co-requisite for PTA 104/105. Must be completed before entering PTA 201

“Front loaded” courses have concentrated lecture and lab content in the beginning of the semester to allow preparation for the clinic setting.

PTA Information Sessions and the PTA Pre-Selection Meeting:

Attendance at a PTA Program Information Session is strongly recommended. Visit [Chesapeake's Physical Therapist Assistant webpage](#) or you may view the schedule by visiting the [CACHE PTA](#) program website. **All applicants must attend the mandatory PTA Pre-selection Meeting in April.**

ADMISSION PROCEDURES:

1. Apply for admission to Chesapeake College, if not a current student.
2. *Submit the electronic program application no later than April 30. It can be found online at <http://www.chesapeake.edu/allied-health/pta> .
3. Attend the Pre-selection meeting in May – details will be provided once the application is submitted.

*Applicants from our five county service region will be given first priority.

Technical Standard Requirements:

1. Students conditionally accepted to the physical therapist assistant program will be required to complete the *Health Examination Record*. Once a physician certifies that the candidate meets the technical standard requirement (defined in # 2 below) as established by the program, and the department receives and concurs with the physician's certification, the candidate will be considered to have met the technical standard requirement.
2. **Qualification:** Good physical and mental health.

Admission Criterion (Technical Standards): Student must be free of contagion and possess sufficient physical stamina with or without reasonable accommodations and mental stability to fulfill the requirements of the program and the customary requirements of the profession.

- Work for 8 –12 hours performing physical tasks requiring sufficient strength and motor coordination without jeopardy to patient and student safety as, for example, bending, lifting, turning and ambulating patients.
- Perform fine movements and to be able to manipulate instruments and a wide variety of equipment according to established procedure and standards of speed and accuracy.
- Establish and work toward goals in a consistently responsible and realistic manner.
- Have auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs (for example: communicate verbally, in an effective manner, with patients and other personnel).
- Have visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for patient care (for example: read and process patient-related information like patient charts and requisitions).

Selection Criteria: Chesapeake College PTA Applications

The criteria used to select **Conditional Acceptance** and **Wait List** candidates will be applied in the following order:

1. Applicants who meet the April 30 application deadline.
2. Residents of the following counties will have first priority: ***Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties on Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore.***
3. Satisfactory completion of the academic/admission requirements.
4. Highest number of points attained in the **General Education Course Point System**.
The total score will be calculated as follows:
 - Each General Education course required for the program completed with a grade of "C" or better will be counted towards the final score.
 - The score for each course is the product of the # of credits for the course, times a numerical score for the final letter grade achieved in the course.
 1. "A" is worth 4 points
 2. "B" is worth 3 points
 3. "C" is worth 2 points

Required Gen Ed Course CSM	Credits	Final Grade A = 4 B = 3 C = 2	Score
ENG 101	3		
MAT 113	3		
BIO 211	4		
BIO 212	4		
PSC 150	3		
PSC 250	3		
Arts/Humanities Elective	3		
Maximum Total	23		/ 92

For Example: This student has taken English, Math, A/P 1, Intro to Psychology and an Arts and Humanities course

Required Gen Ed Course	Credits	Final Grade	Score
ENG 101	3	A (4)	12
MAT 113	3	C (2)	6
BIO 211	4	B (3)	12
BIO 212	4	Not taken	0
PSC 150	3	B (3)	9
PSC 250	3	Not taken	0
Arts/Humanities Elective	3	A (4)	12
Maximum Total	23		51 / 92

The **General Education Course Point System** score for this student is a 51.

5. Courses passed by CLEP Exam will be awarded the maximum number of points.
6. The highest overall adjusted GPA for General Education courses required in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program (including AP scores and transfer grades).
7. The highest GPA in math and science courses required in the program or high school math and science courses.
8. The longest continuous enrollment at the College (spring and fall semesters continuously).
9. The date and time the application is submitted.

Final acceptance into the program shall be contingent upon satisfactory completion of a criminal background check and satisfactory completion of a health examination record.

In the event that applicants are not accepted by the end of the summer and wish to be considered for the next selection, they must submit a **new application by the following April deadline**. A new application will void **all prior applications and ranking**.

General Education Course Point System: Applicant worksheet:
(Note, official transcripts of transferred credits are required at admission)

Instructions: To calculate **your** total score, multiply column 2 (# of credits) by the numerical grade and enter your score. Add all the scores in column 4 for your total score.

Required Gen Ed Course	Credits	X	Final Grade A = 4 B = 3 C = 2	=	Score
ENG 101	3				
MAT 113	3				
BIO 211	4				
BIO 212	4				
PSC 150	3				
PSC 250	3				
Arts and Humanities	3				
Maximum Total	23				/ 92

Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screening

All health sciences students who are offered admission and/or clinical placement will be required to submit to a complete criminal background check and urine drug screen. All student applicants' final acceptance in the program shall be contingent upon satisfactory completion of a criminal background check and of a urine drug screen.*

All communication regarding acceptance shall state that the acceptance is conditional and contingent on submission to a criminal background check and urine drug screen—as may be required by the program—that results in satisfactory reports. If an accepted student tests positive for an illegal or un-prescribed drug, the student shall be denied admission or terminated from any health sciences program.

Separate, additional criminal background checks and urine drug screens may be required by clinical sites prior to placements. Students with an unsuccessful background check or urine screening who are denied by a clinical site that is required to meet program competencies shall be dismissed from the program and their registrations shall be withdrawn from courses related to the program of study. If the student tests positive for an illegal or un-prescribed drug, the student shall be denied admission or terminated from any health sciences program even if a denied placement was not required to meet program competencies. Successful reports of criminal background checks and urine drug screens do not assure eligibility for specific clinical site placement, program completion, and/or eligibility to sit for professional licensure/board examinations.

Students are reminded that licensing boards for certain health care occupations and professions may deny, suspend, or revoke a license or may deny the individual the opportunity to sit for an examination even if the individual has completed all program course work if it is determined that an applicant has a criminal history or has been convicted of, or pleads guilty, or pleads nolo contendere or the like to a felony or other serious crime.

Successful completion of a health sciences program of study at your home college does not guarantee licensure, the opportunity to sit for a licensure examination, certification or employment in the relevant health care occupation.

Students may be automatically denied admission or, if enrolled, dismissed from the program if they have not been truthful or have provided inaccurate information on the application or on any other form or submission. Students who have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Health Sciences Admissions Office at healthsciencesadmissions@aacc.edu.

* Notwithstanding the statements herein regarding urine drug screens, as of September 2010, only certain programs will be requiring drug screening. AACC shall inform students which programs presently require them. However, AACC, at any time, has the right, upon notice, to require any and all students in any and all programs to comply with drug screening. *At this time, the CACHE PTA Program does not require drug screening for admission.

NOTE: Licensing boards for certain health care occupations, including PTA, may deny, suspend, or revoke a license or may deny the individual the opportunity to sit for an examination even if the individual has completed all program course work, if it is determined that an applicant has a criminal history or is convicted or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or other serious crime. If applicable, it is recommended to contact the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy for clarification at (410) 764-4718.

PLEASE NOTE: AACC will only accept criminal background checks performed by a college approved vendor. Criminal background checks are completed online and must be paid for by the student. Information and instructions are given to applicants once accepted into the program.

CLINICAL SITE PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Students complete the clinical courses at sites affiliated with the PTA Program. Sites are assigned by the Academic Coordinator for Clinical Education. Students should be prepared to provide their own transportation to travel to and from clinical sites since public transportation is not available for many areas.

Students may be required to provide proof of health care insurance coverage, complete a physical exam and/or other health related requirements, complete a drug screen and/or finger printing, or undergo a criminal background check at the request of the clinical site prior to placement. This will be at the student's expense.

LICENSURE

Students who have been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor may not be eligible for the *National Licensing Examination for Physical Therapist Assistants*. These students are recommended to see the program director regarding their eligibility requirements before making application to the program.

Students who successfully complete the program must take the *National Licensing Examination for Physical Therapist Assistants* in order to practice PTA in the state of Maryland and most states in the USA. State licensure eligibility will be dependent on the results of the examination.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS

Chesapeake College is one of three Maryland Community Colleges which have formed a special consortium. The Chesapeake Area Consortium for Higher Education (CACHE) includes Anne Arundel Community College, Chesapeake College, and College of Southern Maryland. The Physical Therapist Assistant Program has received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association. (APTA).

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT:

The CACHE Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100 | Alexandria, VA | 22305-3085; telephone: 800-999-2782; email: accreditation@apta.org, website: www.capteonline.org.

The next scheduled accreditation visit will be in fall 2024.

The CACHE Physical Therapist Assistant Program reserves the right to revise the admission requirements, the selection criteria and procedures, and the curriculum as deemed necessary without prior notification.

Equal Opportunity Policy

Chesapeake College is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons so that no person, on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, marital status, genetic information, disability, pregnancy, military status, sexual orientation, or any other class protected by law, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of this College. Under this policy, this College will not discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, gender identity, marital status

and genetic information, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy, military status or any other class protected by law, in its admission policies and practices of the College relating to the treatment of students or other people in employment, the providing of services, financial aid, and other benefits and including the use of any building, structure, room, materials, equipment, facilities, or any other property.

Chesapeake College, as a recipient of federal financial assistance, is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, not to discriminate on the basis of sex in the educational programs or activities which it operates. Chesapeake College is also covered by and complies with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin or sex, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1975 both of which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. The College is also covered by federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment. The Director of Human Resources serves as the College's Equal Opportunity Officer, and is the designated compliance officer under Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504 and ADA Title II.

Complaint procedure

Any person who believes he or she has been subjected to any form of prohibited discrimination, including violations of any of these laws, may file a complaint of discrimination with the Director of Human Resources (Office location: D-249 of the Dorchester Administration Building on the Wye Mills Campus; Phone: 410.827.5811). Copies of the complaint procedure will be provided on request. All complaints will be investigated by the College, and if a violation is found, prompt corrective action will be taken. Persons dissatisfied with the results may appeal to the College President.