



COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM



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

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Revised Nov 2024

Students interested in the program should contact:

Advising and Career Services

Locations and Hours:

<https://www.csmd.edu/student-services/advising/index.html>

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 (PTA)

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 the College of Southern Maryland (CSM), their laboratory and professional training at Anne Arundel Community College and CSM, and their clinical internship 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 is required prior to registering for any PTA course. Applications must be submitted by **March 30** of each year. Students must meet the following requirements prior to admission to the program.

1. Official high school transcript or official GED equivalency certificate to verify high school graduation OR official transcript verifying an associate’s degree or higher from a nationally recognized institution.
2. College grade point average of 2.0 or better.
3. College placement test scores at ENG 1010 and MTH 1120 levels, or completion of the appropriate development and prerequisite courses to achieve these levels.

In addition, prior to entering the program, students must submit:

5. The **Health Examination Record** which is supplied by the program, and completed by a physician validating that the student is in good health and is able to perform the Technical Standards Requirements (to be completed only after admission to the PTA program).
6. Documentation of current immunizations and health insurance (to be completed only after admission to the program)
7. Students who are offered admissions will be required to submit to a complete criminal background check. See details on page 7 of this document.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

General Education courses completed at **College of Southern Maryland.**

BIO 2170/L*	Integrated Human Anatomy and Physiology I (lecture and lab)	4
BIO 2180/L*	Integrated Human Anatomy and Physiology II (lecture and lab)	4
ENG 1010*	Composition and Rhetoric	3
MTH 1120*	College Algebra	3
OR MTH 1150*	Applied College Algebra	3
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
PSY 2050*	Human Development through the Life Span	3
Elective	Arts and Humanities	3
		23 Total

Jointly completed at **Anne Arundel Community College and/or College of Southern Maryland:**

PTA 1010*	Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting	3
PTA 1020*	Physical Therapist Assistant I	6
PTA 1060*	Kinesiology	6
PTA 1040*	Physical Therapist Assistant II	6
PTA 1050*	Clinical Practice I	2
PTA 2010*	Physical Therapist Assistant III	4
PTA 2020*	Physical Therapist Assistant IV	4
PTA 2030*	Clinical Practice II	4
PTA 2040*	Physical Therapist Assistant V	3
PTA 2050*	Current Issues and Trends	1
PTA 2060*	Clinical Practice III	4
PTA 2070*	Clinical Practice IV	4
		47 Total

TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS **70**

*** Prerequisite required**

Note: Bio 2170, MTH 1120, ENG 1010 and PSY 1010 must be completed before entering PTA 1020. PSY 2050 must be completed before entering PTA 2010.

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

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND: Revised Fall 2024

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT COURSE SEQUENCE/CONTACT HOURS

		CREDIT HOURS	CONTACT HOURS		
			Lecture	College Lab	Weekly
FIRST YEAR					
Fall Semester BIO 2170/L	**Integrated Anatomy and Physiology I	4	30	60	3 lec / 3 lab
MTH 1120 or MTH 1150	# College Algebra	3	45		3 lec
PTA 1010	Intro. To Physical therapist Assisting	3	30	30	2 lec online 4 hours x 7 sessions lab
ENG 1010	# Composition and Rhetoric	3	45		3 lec
PSY 1010	# General Psychology	3	45		3 lec
Spring Semester					
BIO 2180/L	Integrated Anatomy and Physiology 2	4	30	60	3 lec /3 lab
PTA 1020	Physical Therapist Assistant 1	6	45	90	3 lec / 6 lab
PTA 1060	Kinesiology	6	70	45	~ 4.5 lec / 3 lab
Summer Semester					
PTA 1040	Physical Therapist Assistant 2	6	45	90	5 lec / 10 lab
PTA 1050	Clinical Practice 1	2		30	~2/wk
PSY 2050	* Human Development through Life Span	3	45		3 lec
SECOND YEAR					
Fall Semester					
PTA 2010	Physical Therapist Assistant 3	4	45	30	Front loaded weeks 1-6
PTA 2020	Physical Therapist Assistant 4	4	45	30	
PTA 2030	Clinical Practice 2	4		192	24/week x 8 wks
-----	Arts and Humanities requirement	3	45		3 lec
Spring Semester					
PTA 2040	Physical Therapist Assistant 5	3	30	30	~ 4 lec /4 lab
PTA 2050	Current Issues and Trends Affecting Physical Therapist Assisting	1	15		~2 lec
PTA 2060	Clinical Practice 3	4		160	4x/wk 5 wks
PTA 2070	Clinical Practice 4	4		280	40/wk x 7 wks

Total Credit Hours 70

Corequisite for PTA 1010 (Fall semester of First Year)

**Prerequisite for PTA 1060

* Corequisite for PTA 1040/1050. Must be completed before entering PTA 2010

“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. Please go to www.csmd.edu/hea and click on the Physical Therapist Assistant link to check dates, times and reserve your space in a session. The schedule can also be viewed by visiting the CACHE PTA program website at www.aacc.edu/cache/pta. All applicants must attend the mandatory PTA Pre-selection Meeting in April.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES:

1. Request program information and selection criteria from the allied health advisor:
Mona Weber
Pre-Admission for Health Sciences Coordinator
301-870-3008
rvweber@csmd.edu
2. Apply for admission to College of Southern Maryland and take placement tests as needed.
3. Complete program prerequisites (courses from other institutions must be officially transferred to the College of Southern Maryland).
4. Complete PTA program petition form online at [Physical Therapy Assistant Program Petition \(csmd.edu\)](http://www.csmd.edu/PhysicalTherapyAssistantProgramPetition). Online petitions must be submitted no later than **March 30** for admission to the clinical program the following fall.

Online petition link: csmd.edu/programs-courses/credit/school-of-science-and-health/physical-therapy-petition.html

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: 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 –1 2 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: College of Southern Maryland 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 March 30th application deadline.
2. Residents of the following counties will have first priority: Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties.
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 1010	3		
MAT 1120	3		
BIO 2170/L	4		
BIO 2180/L	4		
PSY 1010	3		
PSY 2050	3		
Arts and Humanities	3		
Maximum Total	23		/ 92

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

Required Gen Ed Course	Credits	Final Grade	Score
ENG 1010	3	A (4)	12
MAT 1120	3	C (2)	6
BIO 2170/L	4	B (3)	12
BIO 2180/L	4	Not taken	0
PSY 1010	3	B (3)	9
PSY 2050	3	Not taken	0
Arts and Humanities	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 March 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 1010	3				
MAT 1120	3				
BIO 2070/L	4				
BIO 2080/L	4				
PSY 1010	3				
PSY 2050	3				
Arts and Humanities	3				
Maximum Total	23				/ 92

Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screening

All health sciences students who are admitted 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 letters of 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 Anne Arundel Community 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 *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 is dependent on the results of the examination.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS

The College of Southern Maryland 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.

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.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The College of Southern Maryland does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, or marital status in its programs or activities. The academic support /ADA coordinator for Disability Support Services (LR Building, Room 123 at the La Plata Campus, 301-934-7614), has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination on the basis of disabilities. The executive director of Diversity and Equal Opportunities Office (CC Building, Room 208A, at the La Plata Campus, 301-934-7658) has been designated to handle all other nondiscrimination inquiries.

Current College of Southern Maryland Catalog