



Physical Therapist Assistant Application Planning Guide

Confirm Your Interest in a Physical Therapy Career

- ✓ Learn more about PTA Careers and differences between becoming a Physical Therapist vs. a Physical Therapist Assistant from the American Physical Therapy Association: <https://www.apta.org/your-career/careers-in-physical-therapy>
- ✓ Review the US Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm

Know the Important Differences Between:

	Role	Education
Physical Therapist Assistant	Performs interventions and collects data as directed by the physical therapist	Associate Degree in PTA*
Physical Therapist	Examines, evaluates, determines a PT diagnosis and develops the plan of care	Doctorate Degree in Physical Therapy

*** IMPORTANT NOTE:** *PT programs typically accept the General Education courses required in the PTA program, but rarely accept PTA course work. **PTA programs are NOT a transitional step to applying to PT school.***

Attend an Informational Meeting:

Please see website for dates, time and location

<https://www.heartland.edu/academicDepartments/hhs/pta.html>

Review Accreditation Information

Graduation from a physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org, is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Physical Therapist Assistant program at Heartland Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 309-268-8673 or email daryl.menke@heartland.edu.

CAPTE has a mechanism to consider formal complaints about physical therapy education programs (PT or PTA). Please refer to the CAPTE website: <http://www.capteonline.org/Complaints/>.

To file a complaint with Heartland Community College about the PTA Program please refer to the HCC website: <http://www.heartland.edu/academicDepartments/hhs/pta.html>

Review the PTA Curriculum

The PTA program at Heartland Community College leads to an **Associate in Applied Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant**.

This degree contains pre-admission (general education) courses, PTA technical courses and practical clinical experiences.

The pre-admission courses must be completed with a “C” or greater AND a GPA of 2.5 in these courses must be obtained by the end of the fall semester to be eligible for admission to the PTA program in the subsequent spring.

All PTA courses must be taken in sequence.

Associate in Applied Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Requirements		Credit Hours	Prerequisites
Pre Admission Requirements	ENGL 101 Critical Reading & Writing	3	- Placement at college level English OR - Concurrent enrollment in ENGL 099
	BIOL 181 Anatomy & Physiology I	4	- Completion of high school or college level BIOL course within last 5 years OR - Completion of BIOL 099 with a grade of C or better AND - Completion of MATH 094 or 095 or higher OR - Completion of MATH 089/131 (141) OR - Placement at college level math AND - Placement at college level English OR - Concurrent enrollment in ENGL 099/101
	BIOL 182 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	- Completion of BIOL 181 with a grade of C or better
	COMM 101 Intro to Oral Communication	3	- Placement at college level English OR - Concurrent enrollment in ENGL 99/101
	HLTH 225 Clinical Kinesiology	3	- Completion of BIOL 181 with a grade of C or higher.
	PSY 101 Intro to Psychology	3	- Placement at college level English OR - Concurrent enrollment in ENGL 099/101
	PSY 209 Human Growth & Development	3	- Placement at college level English OR - Concurrent enrollment in ENGL 099/101
Total Credit Hours for Pre-admission Requirements		23	
PTA Courses			
Term	Course	Credit Hours	Admission to the PTA program
1st Year Spring Semester	PTA 103 Principles of Patient Care Skills	3	
	PTA 104 Application of Basic Care Skills	3	
	PTA 113 Basic Assessment & Physical Agents I	3	
	PTA 120 Orthopedic & Foundations of Therapeutic Exercise	3	
	PTA 121 Therapeutic Exercise for Orthopedic Conditions	3	
		15	
Summer Term	PTA 140 Clinical Experience I	4	Completion of all 1 st year Spring Semester PTA courses with a "C" or greater
		4	
Fall Semester	PTA 213 Physical Agents II	3	Completion of all previous PTA courses with a "C" or better
	PTA 215 PT Considerations for Specific Populations	4	
	PTA 220 Neuro Rehabilitation	4	
	PTA 221 Neuro Rehabilitation Techniques	3	
	PTA 230 PTA Pathophysiology	4	
		18	
2nd Year			Completion of all previous PTA courses with a "C" or better
Spring Semester	PTA 240 Clinical Experience II & III	10	
	PTA 250 Clinical Seminar	2	
		12	
Total Credit Hours for Technical Courses		49	
Total Credit Hours for Associate of Applied Science in PTA		72	

Review Admission Criteria & Recommendations for Course Selection

Admission Criteria

- Pre-admission courses must be completed with a "C" or higher or in progress during the fall semester of the application deadline.
- A GPA of 2.5 is required in these pre-admission courses.
- If the student has completed Advanced Placement exams it will be scored as follows: 5 = letter grade A / 4 = letter grade B / 3 = letter grade C. Scores below 3 will not be considered.
- If a transcript utilized in the application process has a Credit or Pass in lieu of a letter grade for a required program prerequisite course taken during or after January 2020, HCC will verify that the Credit or Pass equated to a letter grade C. If the Credit or Pass does not meet this standard, that course will not be accepted as passed. This provision shall only be allowed when there is documented evidence this grading policy related to Credit or Pass is in effect. HCC reserves all rights in determination of utilization of letter grades versus other grading mechanisms.
- **HLTH 225, BIOL 181 & 182** or equivalent completed within the last five years or obtain a waiver. This will be counted from the Spring semester of the application cycle (i.e. Apply in Spring 2016 - the five years would be Spring semester of 2011).
- If a candidate is completing one or more general education courses during the fall semester of the application cycle, the grade utilized for that course will be the mid-term grade.
- In the event a candidate elects to re-take a course in an attempt to improve the grade that is on their transcript, the following will be utilized in the selection process:
 - If the candidate completes the re-take prior to August 1 of the application cycle, the highest grade will be utilized.
 - If the candidate is retaking the course during the fall semester of the application cycle, the grade utilized for that course will be the mid-term grade and not any previous grade.
- All general education courses must be passed with a minimum grade of 'C' and the candidate must have a minimum GPA of 2.5. If the candidate was provisionally selected for the program but does not meet these requirements, they will not be allowed to enter into the program. The candidate would need to submit a new application for the PTA program during a subsequent application cycle.

Review the Evaluation Process of Qualified Applicants

This is how your application will be evaluated:

Weighting	Criteria
95%	Normalized GPA on pre-admission courses $\left[\left(\frac{\text{Pre-admission GPA}}{4.0} \right) \times 100 \right]$
5%	Prior Academic Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Degree (100) • Bachelor Degree (75) • Associate Degree (50) • College Certificate in CNA, EMT, Massage Therapy (25)

$$[\text{Normalized GPA}] \times 95\% + [\text{Prior Achievement}] \times 5\% = \text{SCORE}$$

In accordance with current policy: In case of a tie, the applicant with the highest GPA in the programs prerequisite courses will be given priority.

Example Calculations:

	GPA	Normalized GPA	Prior Achieve	SCORE
Student A	3.2	$80 \times .95 = 76$	$75 \times 0.05 = 4.07$	$76 + 4.07 = 80.07$
Student B	2.8	$70 \times .95 = 66.5$	$50 \times 0.05 = 2.5$	$66.5 + 2.5 = 69$
Student C	2.9	$72.5 \times .95 = 68.9$	$25 \times 0.05 = 1.25$	$68.9 + 1.25 = 70.15$
Student D	3.4	$85 \times .95 = 80.8$	$0 \times 0.05 = 0$	$80.8 + 0 = 80.8$

In accordance with current policy: In case of a tie, the applicant with the highest GPA in the programs prerequisite courses will be given priority.

Review HCC Application Procedures for PTA Program

1. Apply to Heartland Community College

Complete the new student admission process at www.heartland.edu/application.

2. Apply to the PTA Program

*No early or late applications will be accepted. Applications may be reopened at a later date if seats remain open.

Application Window	Application Due	Documentation Due	Decision Date
April 1- August 1	August 1	September 1 **	Mid November

****If enrolled in pre-admission courses in the fall semester, midterm grades due by last college business day of October**

- Complete and submit the Application for Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) utilizing this website: [PTA Application](#) Open the link "How To Apply", scroll to Step 2 and follow directions.
- Submit required documents for evaluation by **September 1**. These include:
 - Official copies of all college transcripts received by Student Records
 - Photocopy of driver's license or State ID
- Submit midterm grades if enrolled in pre-admission courses in the fall semester of application deadline by **last college business day of October**

Review Other Program Requirements

Please review the following PTA Program Policies, Procedures, and documents to ensure the program is right for you. Found at: <http://www.heartland.edu/pta/admission.html>

- ✓ Student Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening
- ✓ PTA Essential Functions
- ✓ Clinical Education Requirements and Health Clearances Prior to Clinical Placement
- ✓ Licensure Requirements for the State of Illinois

ESTIMATED PTA PROGRAM COSTS (as of June 2024)

**** The tuition rate for PTA courses is the same as for all other Heartland courses. ****

**** All tuition, fees, and cost estimates are subject to change without notice ****

	Cost
<u>Tuition & Fees: full PTA program (including prerequisites)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$168.00 / credit hour (In-District tuition) \$336.00 / credit hour (Out of District) \$420.00 / credit hour (Out-of-state / Out-of-country) \$ 17.00 (tech / life) / credit hour (college fees) \$825.00 course fees (for PTA course only) 	<p align="center"><u>In - District</u> \$14,162.00 (168x72+17x72+825)</p> <p align="center"><u>Out of District</u> \$26,258.00 (336x72+17x72+825)</p> <p align="center"><u>Out-of-state</u> <u>Out-of-country</u> \$32,306.00 (420x72+17x72+825)</p>
Pre-entrance Criminal Background Check & Pre-entrance Drug Screening (Students pay ViewPoint Screening) (Performed prior to acceptance)	\$110.00
Pre-entrance Physical / Immunizations / Lab work (Performed prior to acceptance) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a variety of immunizations required by our clinical partners. A list of immunizations will be distributed after acceptance into the program. 	\$500 – 1500.00
Books / Electronic Case Platforms (includes estimate for program prerequisites & program)	\$1,500- 2,500.00
Name Tag / Uniform / Shoes	\$300.00 / yr.
CPR Certification	\$60-70.00 / yr.
Personal Health Insurance (student's responsibility) (average annual cost for individual)	\$7,800.00/ yr.
Travel to Clinical Sites (based on current fuel prices) (average per week) (travel is within 90-mile radius of Normal, Illinois) (16 total weeks)	\$60 – 100.00/wk.
Graduation Pin	\$50.00

- TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS:** **IN-DISTRICT** =\$26,592 **OUT-DISTRICT** = \$38,688 **OUT STATE/COUNTRY** =\$44,736
- Student debt varies. Current statistics reveal less than 12% of students accepted to the PTA program had prior debt. Debt incurred after acceptance varies and is based on information in table and other student specific financial needs.
- Total number of weeks (excluding breaks) of student instruction/interaction (including classroom, laboratory, exams and clinical education.) = **80 weeks**

FEES FOR EMPLOYMENT:

National Physical Therapy Examination (required to become licensed in any state) (based on State of Illinois estimated costs)	
Online application fee for Continental Testing Services	\$ 107.00
FSBPT registration	\$ 485.00
Prometric Testing Site Fee	\$ 92.00
State of Illinois PTA License Fee (this will vary in other states)	\$125.00