



Tulsa Community College

School of Allied Health

Physical Therapist Assistant

SMART START
ALLIED HEALTH ORIENTATION

Program Director:

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Application deadline

December 1

Program Basics

5 semesters

67 total credit hours program

Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant (AAS in PTA)

Competitive admission selection

28 accepted each April

Program begins in August

At conclusion of Program, graduates are eligible to sit for national licensing exam of which passing is required to work as a PTA

Prerequisites

No course prerequisites

Application Scoring Criteria

Application rubric https://www.tulsacc.edu/sites/default/files/file_attachments/pta_appl_selection_scoring.pdf

ACT: Composite and Science are used to rank applicants

GPA: if under 12 hours of college- high school GPA is used; 12 hours or more of college - college GPA is used;

-all college work from all institutions will be used to calculate GPA

Interview: offered to the highest ranking applicants following ACT and GPA reviews

Interviews are scheduled in January and early February

Writing Sample: performed at interview to those qualifying for an interview

Observation: instructions and forms issued to those qualifying for an interview

Job Description and Basic Essential Function

A physical therapist assistant helps patients who are recovering from injuries and illnesses, regain movement and manage pain. PTAs assist in the treatment of individuals of all ages who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. PTAs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes.

The physical therapist assistant is a technically educated health care provider who assists the physical therapist in the provision of physical therapy. The physical therapist assistant may perform procedures and related tasks that have been selected and delegated by the supervising physical therapist. To further investigate the role of the physical therapist assistant, contact the American Physical Therapy Association at www.apta.org.

Physical therapist assistants are in high demand across the health care industry, with growth projected at a much faster rate than other occupations. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for physical therapist assistants is expected to grow by 41 percent from 2014 to 2024.

Due to the complex nature of healthcare, essential functions are expected for successful admission, continuance, and graduation for candidates of the AAS for PTA. These include but are not limited to motor, sensory, communication, cognitive, behavioral, and professional conduct skills that are outlined here:

https://www.tulsacc.edu/sites/default/files/file_attachments/pta_essential_functions_april_2016_1.pdf

Risk Management Requirements

Because education in the PTA Program includes a clinical component, the following requirements must be met and maintained by the student:

Immunizations: proof of MMR, varicella, Tdap, Hepatitis B or TCC waiver, seasonal influenza or TCC waiver, Covid or waiver.

Proof of negative TB testing is also required.

CPR: AHA Basic Life Support for Healthcare Workers

Background check: full federal lifespan

Drug screen: 11 panel drug screen

All the above requirements may change based on the clinical setting. The Program will guide accepted students on timing, acquiring, and expectations of risk management.

Clinical or Field Work Expectations

TCC PTA students perform 520 clock hours of clinical education while in the PTA Program. All clinical education is coordinated by the Program with the goal of graduating a PTA with broad knowledge of physical therapy practice. Therefore, varying practice settings are scheduled for each student's clinical experiences. There are three out of house clinical education experiences that require 40 hours a week during their scheduled time. One of the clinical experiences occurs in the 3rd semester after Thanksgiving break and lasts for three weeks. The last two clinical experiences occur in the 5th and final semester and are five weeks each. The Program requires that each student be prepared to travel outside a 50-mile radius for one of the three clinicals. Therefore, students must be prepared to incur any travel costs associated with this travel as well as costs of scrubs and or clinic attire. During these out of house clinicals, work outside of the actual clinical is highly discouraged and likely impossible unless it is scheduled on the weekends and very part time.

In the TCC PTA Program, students will also participate in clinical experiences under the supervision of faculty in the pro bono Nate Waters PT Clinic beginning the very first semester and continuing throughout the length of the Program.



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Program Recommended Study Habits

The TCC PTA Program is academically rigorous. The Program maintains academic requirements independent of TCC. The Program requires a minimum of 2.8 GPA each semester in the PTA specific courses. D or F grades are not permitted. Academic and or conduct dismissal may be used in the event a student is unable to demonstrate competence, safety, and professionalism. Assessment types include but are not limited to lab practicals, skill demonstrations, written exams, written assignments, and group discussions.

Ways to Maximize Competitiveness of Application

Application rubric https://www.tulsacc.edu/sites/default/files/file_attachments/pta_appl_selection_scoring.pdf

Please refer to the application rubric. It is advisable to retake an ACT if your ACT composite or ACT science is below a 21.

For additional strategies to maximize competitiveness of application to the PTA Program, please visit with a TCC Health Science Advisor or the TCC PTA Program Director.

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