Introduction to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Mountwest Community & Technical College
PTA Program

(Information applicable for 2014-15 only.....
as may be revised annually)
Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Mountwest Community & Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE),
111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: 703-706-3245
email: accreditation@apta.org
website: http://www.capteonline.org
Selective Admissions Process

The program utilizes a selective admissions policy. This means it is a competitive process that revolves around each year’s applicant pool.

You should strive to build as competitive application as possible.

FYI....

By nature, the level of competitiveness may change each year, either up or down depending on that year’s overall pool of applicants.
Application Cycle

The program accepts 24 students once a year. Applications are available from November 15 and must be submitted no later than March 15 for consideration. Applications are to be picked up and returned to Room #427.

FYI ....

The program typically receives approximately 45 applications per year....
Selection Criteria

The following slide presents the criteria used to determine the successful applicants.

The respective weight of each has been included as well.
Admission / Selection Criteria

- **Initial Screening:**
  - Cumulative GPA (min 2.0)
  - Observation Experiences (min 40 hrs)
  - Recommendations (2)
  - “C” min. in all completed prerequisite coursework
  - IF all verified in application: Eligible to advance in admissions process

- **Secondary Screening:**
  - Cumulative GPA 20%
  - Basic Science Prerequisite GPA (min 2.75) 25%
  - Gen. Ed. Prerequisite GPA (min 2.5) 15%
  - Academic Aptitude Score 20%
  - Personal Recommendations Score 5%
  - Professional Interview 15%
  - Total: 100%
FYI …..Admissions

The admission process helps ensure that all students are treated fairly and are admitted on the basis of the information they submit in their application. Since the quality of the applicant pool varies from year to year…. A student may be competitive during one year but not another.
How long is the program once I am admitted?

Once admitted into the second or technical year of the program…. You will be here full-time for 14 months.

Classes begin the first summer of admission in June and conclude in July of the following year.
ARE THERE MINIMUM GPA EXPECTATIONS WHEN APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM?

- Yes. Students must demonstrate a minimum cumulative GPA (all previous college coursework) of 2.0.
- Students must demonstrate a minimum prerequisite basic science GPA of 2.75 and a minimum prerequisite general education GPA of 2.5 (both of which reflect overall performance level on the degree specific requirements).
WHAT IS A TYPICAL “SUCCESSFUL” APPLICANT PROFILE?

The following represents the performance level averages, which were necessary for the successful applicant in 2013. It should be noted that each year’s applicant pool varies. This information is presented to provide you the opportunity to self-evaluate your position and potential for success.

- Cum. GPA: 3.39 (all college coursework completed)
- Basic Sci. GPA: 3.62 (Kinesiology, Ex. Phys., Physics, Anatomy, Physiology)
- Gen Ed. GPA: 3.64 (Written Communication, Speech, Algebra, Social Science Elective)
- Prereq. GPA: 3.63 (Overall, prerequisite specific)
DO I NEED TO COMPLETE ANY PREREQUISITE CLASSES BEFORE BEING ADMITTED?

Yes. The general education courses consist of 31 credit hours that must be completed prior to admission into the PTA Program. Students should note that they can apply to the program while completing their remaining pre-requisite courses in the spring semester that they are applying.

FYI….This does not include taking a course in the second 8 weeks of the spring….we cannot assess your performance in a class you have not started as of Mar. 15 (the deadline to apply).
Is there a timeline for completion of any prerequisite courses?

Yes, the basic science prerequisite courses **must** be completed within 5 years of the semester you are applying…. this includes Human Anatomy, Physiology, Exercise Physiology, Kinesiology and Physics.

FYI…. the cutoff for completion (if applying for admission in 2015) would be Spring 2010
FYI... Prerequisites

Program prerequisite courses are designed to ensure that students admitted to the program have the knowledge and skills to succeed in the program. Grades and test scores are often good indicators of the student’s ability to be successful.

FYI... all prerequisite courses must be completed with a minimum grade of “C”.
Statement on transfer / substitution courses you want considered as meeting prerequisite requirements:

If you are seeking to meet general education prerequisite requirements through transfer or substitution you **must** submit full documentation of course(s) that you wish to have considered for credit. You are advised to begin this process early as often acquiring the necessary documents can be time consuming.

Students should address all transfer credit matters directly to the registrars/advising office at Mountwest Community & Technical College, to receive transfer/substitution approval for each course requested and submit supportive documentation a part of your completed program application. This approval process must be completed and results submitted as part of the programs application packet !!

**FYI…. Completion of this process ensures that a substitution course will be accepted as equivalent.**
Statement on MU / Mountwest Transcripts!!

If you have only attended either MU or Mountwest Community & Technical College….
You may submit copies of the original transcripts you provided the college upon your initial admission… however since Mountwest only transfers hours completed but not the grades….
The program requires transcripts from all colleges attended in order to verify transfer credit grades.

FYI…. We cannot verify your eligibility without them and your application will be unsuccessful.
How many clinical rotations will I be required to complete once I am admitted to the program?

Students are required to complete the following clinical rotations:

- a four week rotation in the first fall semester
- two seven week clinical rotations late in the spring semester and into the summer

FYI….Travel of 45 miles or greater is required for one of the clinical rotations
Clinical Education Expenses

- Applicants should be aware that clinical education requirements of the program can necessitate some early planning.

- All costs associated with clinical education are the responsibility of the student. These can include but may not be limited to travel (gas), lodging, and meals.
Background Check / Drug Screens

Students with an arrest and/or criminal conviction may be unable to fulfill the clinical education requirements in order to graduate. Individuals are advised that the State Licensing Boards will consider their application for licensure on an individual basis. Upon graduation, you may be required to make a personal appearance before the board prior to being granted licensure. It is the prerogative of the licensing board to grant or deny the application for licensure.
CAN STUDENTS WORK WHILE ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM?

Students are encouraged not to work more than fifteen (15) hours per week. During clinical affiliations, student work schedules MAY NOT interfere with the hours required while affiliating at a clinical site.

FYI…. #1 threat to successful completion of the program. Work as much now to be able to take off as much as needed once your in the program.
Do I need to pass an exit exam to be able to work after graduation?

YES….. All graduates must successfully pass the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) in order to work in the field.

FYI…. The initial expense associated with testing may exceed $600… start planning now.
What are the Licensure, Registration, or Certification Requirements?

Almost All of the States Require Physical Therapist Assistants to Be Licensed, Registered, or Certified. State Specific Educational and Examination Criteria, Information on Practice Acts / Regulations are available from your local Licensure Board.
What Do Physical Therapist Assistants Earn?

According to APTA member surveys, the median income for a physical therapist assistant is $45,000. Salary was based upon position, years of experience, degree of education, geographic location, and practice setting.
Where Do Physical Therapist Assistants Work?

- Hospitals
- Private physical therapy offices
- Community health centers
- Corporate or industrial health centers
- Sports facilities
- Research institutions
- Rehabilitation centers
- Nursing homes
- Home health agencies
- Colleges and universities
Some of the conditions treated by PTs / PTAs....

Arthritis, Back Pain, Balance, Burns, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Developmental Delays, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Dislocations, Fractures, Hand Injuries, Headaches, Incontinence, Lymphedema, Osteoporosis, Pelvic Pain, Sports Injuries, Stroke and even Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)
Do we have a professional organization?

Yes…. It is the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

As a student in the program you will be required to join this organization.

FYI….. This is currently $90
FYI…..Is There a Ranking of Physical Therapist Assistants Programs?

- APTA does not rank programs.
- Physical therapy educational programs are accredited by CAPTE which requires quality in physical therapy education.
Is the Mountwest PTA Program right for you?

What Factors Can You Use in Deciding??
Your Decision Can Be Based Upon

- Geographic location
- Accreditation Status (School & Program)
- Size of the school
- Cost
- Class size
- Faculty composition and cohesiveness
- Degree awarded
- Design and length of curriculum
Is the Physical Therapist Assistant Program a Stepping Stone into a Physical Therapist Program?
No…. And Yes
The Physical Therapist Assistant Curriculum is not considered to be pre-PT equivalent. So while you will need to complete additional coursework after you have graduated here… many PT schools encourage PTAs to apply to their programs.

FYI… you should consult with any PT Schools you are interested in….directly
For more information who can I contact?

Mountwest Community & Technical College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program

carltont@mctc.edu or odell8@mctc.edu

or.....
Please see our Web site for even more information....

Good Luck!