HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM & WHEN CAN I APPLY?
It takes approximately 14 months to complete the program after admission, which is offered only in a full-time format. Applications are available in the Main Building, Room #427 beginning Nov. 15th with a submission deadline of Mar. 15th.

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 should 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).

ARE THE PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS HIGHER IN THE PROGRAM?
Students should be aware that the academic performance expectations of this program are notably higher than what you may be accustomed to. This includes a 70% performance requirement on each didactic measure (tests) as well as an 85% performance requirement on each laboratory measure (practical’s). Students who are unable to successfully demonstrate this minimum level of competency will not receive a passing grade and will be dismissed from the program. Applicants are encouraged to request a meeting with the program faculty as they complete their application if they have any questions regarding the program’s academic policies.

WHAT IS THE “CRITERIA” THAT IS CONSIDERED TOWARD ADMISSION INTO THE PROGRAM?
Each item that follows is determined and weighted according to policies in place for each application cycle: Cumulative, Basic Science, and Gen Ed GPA’s, observation hours, personal recommendations, Academic Aptitude Score (derived from the Health Science Aptitude Exam), and an interview score (if applicable).

WHAT IS A TYPICAL “SUCCESSFUL” APPLICANT PROFILE?
The following represents the performance level averages, which were necessary for the successful applicant in 2012. 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, Computer, Algebra, Social Science Elective)

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.

WHERE SHOULD I COMPLETE MY 40 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE?
The 40 hours of observation may be completed in any Physical Therapy setting, however it is recommended that the majority of the hours, be spent in an acute care or rehabilitation hospital setting. Note that this time must be completed at two separate settings under the supervision of a physical therapy professional. You should contact the Physical Therapy Department of the facility where you would like to volunteer and request 20 hours of observation toward your application to the PTA Program.

WHO CAN COMPLETE THE TWO RECOMMENDATION FORMS?
Employers, college/high school instructors, etc. may complete the recommendation forms. One may be from a Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapist Assistant.

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE ADMITTED INTO THE PROGRAM?
A total of twenty four (24) students are considered for admission. However, based upon the overall quality of the applicant pool, 24 students may not be admitted each year.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES?

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<tr>
<th>Written Communication</th>
<th>Applications in Algebra</th>
<th>*Introductory to Physics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Science Elective</td>
<td>*Physiology of Exercise</td>
<td>*Structural Kinesiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Human Physiology</td>
<td>*Human Anatomy</td>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
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If you have already taken the basic science courses (denoted by a “*” above) they must have been successfully completed within the last 5 (five) years in order to receive credit toward. For the application cycle 2013-14, this date would be no earlier than spring of 2009 to meet this expectation. Regardless of the grade achieved, students must re-take any course not meeting this timeline in order for it to be counted toward satisfactorily meeting this admission criterion.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPLETION OF THE PREREQUISITE COURSES?
Yes. It is recommended (not required) that the prerequisite courses be taken at MCTC, which are offered on days, evenings and weekends. Students who choose to take courses elsewhere must submit course descriptions to the Admissions Office, prior to taking a class, for evaluation of its eligibility for transfer credit. If you have already completed the course, you must submit a course description for evaluation of it’s eligibility for transfer credit. Courses completed prior to admission into the PTA Program must have been completed with a minimum grade of “C” in order to be considered “satisfactorily” completed.

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM?
Students are scheduled for 18 weeks of full-time clinical experience at three (3) different clinical sites as part of the program curriculum. Each student will complete a four (4) week clinical rotation, and dual seven (7) week affiliations in a variety of clinical settings to allow for maximal exposure. These affiliations will follow the course work necessary to provide the student with the appropriate framework knowledge to optimize the clinical education experience. The clinical assignments are arranged through the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education and are generally scheduled during the week. NOTE: Some clinical assignments may be a distance from a student’s home, thus requiring significant travel and or the need for housing accommodations. The program will offer suggestions on low cost accommodations but students are responsible for all costs associated with the required clinical education component of the program.

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.

DOES EVERY APPLICANT PARTICIPATE IN THE HEALTH CAREERS APTITUDE EXAM AND INTERVIEW PARTS OF THE ADMISSION PROCESS?
NO. Only students who demonstrate having submitted a “complete” application by the deadline, meet the minimum cumulative gpa, completed observation hours, submitted personal recommendation forms and attained a “C” or better in all completed prerequisite coursework (within the required timeframe), will advance to participate in these activities. Students who have not met these initial requirements will be withdrawn from consideration at that point. It must be noted that participation in these activities does not guarantee program admission.

UPON PROGRAM ADMISSION, ARE THERE ANY OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM?
Yes, you will be required to verify purchase of the following: (prices subject to change without notice).

- APTA Membership $85
- Health insurance Cost varies
- Any needed immunizations or titters Cost varies
- Stethoscope $40 (varies)
- CPR Certification varies
- Malpractice Insurance $40 (optional)
- WV Chapter Membership $15
- Lab Uniform $44 (min)

WHEN WILL ADMISSION NOTIFICATIONS BE SENT OUT?
Admission decisions will only be announced after final spring grades have been posted to the transcripts. This is anticipated to occur in mid-May.

WHEN WILL PTA 100 BE SCHEDULED?
Introduction to Physical Therapy – PTA 100, will be scheduled to begin in mid-June annually.

IS THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM ACCREDITED?
The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Mountwest Community & Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: www.capteonline.org.

Nondiscrimination Clause
The MCTC PTA Program prohibits preferential or adverse discrimination on the basis of race, age, color, religion, marital status, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status or the presence of a medical condition or disability status in all areas including but not limited to its qualifications for program admission, activities and policies.

Fact Sheet 2013-14
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