

Mountwest Community & Technical College

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

2021 – 2022 FACT SHEET

Provides answers to frequently asked questions regarding the PTA Program

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), 3030 Potomac Avenue., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 800-999-2782; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: www.capteonline.org.

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED IN HOW THE PROGRAM CONDUCTS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Recent revision to the admission criteria includes an increase in the minimum cumulative GPA requirement from 2.0 to 2.50.

Note: For application cycle 21-22, all applicants must meet this cum. GPA level (2.50) upon the time of submitting your application. This means the spring semester is no longer applicable toward meeting this admission requirement. This number reflects all college level academic work that you have completed up to the time you are applying to the program. In addition, all applicants advancing beyond the initial screening (those selected to participate in the aptitude exam and interview process) will be **conditionally** enrolled in the PTA 100 - Introduction to PT course at that time. Maintaining this enrollment is **contingent** upon your eventual full admission to the program. Being enrolled early **does not guarantee** your admission to the program. If you are not fully admitted at the conclusion of the application cycle, you will be administratively withdrawn from the course at that time. If you have additional questions contact the program offices for more information.

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.

Please be advised that all prerequisite coursework completed prior to admission needs to have received a grade that is on a transcript, this includes AP, CLEP and Challenge exams.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES?

Written Communication

Applications in Algebra

*Introduction to Physics

Social Science Elective

*Physiology of Exercise

*Structural Kinesiology

*Human Physiology

*Human Anatomy

Oral Communication

If you have already taken the basic science courses (denoted by a "*" above) they must have been successfully completed within the last 7 (seven) years in order to receive credit toward. **For the application cycle 2021-22, this date would be no earlier than spring of 2016 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 THE 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 online. Students who choose to take courses elsewhere must submit course descriptions to the Advising 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 its eligibility for transfer credit. Any courses completed prior to admission into the PTA Program must have been completed and on a transcript with a minimum grade of "C" in order to be considered "satisfactorily" completed.

DOES COMPLETION OF PREREQUISITES GUARANTEE ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM?

NO...The PTA Program at Mountwest is a highly competitive, selective admission program with limited enrollment. Students are required to have all the prerequisite courses completed prior to admission, but doing so does not guarantee program admission.

ARE THERE MINIMUM GPA EXPECTATIONS WHEN APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM?

Yes. Students must demonstrate a minimum cumulative GPA (all previous college coursework) of 2.50 (Refer to "recent changes section" noted above). 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).

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.

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE ADMITTED INTO THE PROGRAM?

A total of twenty four (24) students are considered for admission each year. However actual number admitted is at the discretion of the program and may vary. This may result in less than 24 new admissions each year.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL “SUCCESSFUL” APPLICANT PROFILE?

The following represents the performance level averages, which were necessary for the successful applicant in 2021. 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:** 3.51 (all college coursework completed)
- **Basic Sci. GPA:** 3.63 (Kinesiology, Ex. Phys., Physics, Anatomy, Physiology)
- **Gen Ed. GPA:** 3.74 (Written Communication, Speech, Algebra, Social Science Elective)

DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE A DRUG SCREEN and BACKGROUND CHECK AS PART OF THE ADMISSION PROCESS? WHEN CAN I EXPECT THEM TO OCCUR THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM?

NO, however students are required to pass a background check or drug screen as a criteria for participation in the clinical education component of the program. Students admitted to the program will be subject to random, unannounced screenings throughout their enrollment in the program. Students may be subject to additional screenings upon the request of specific clinical education facilities assigned by the program or as deemed necessary. The first screening is billed to the college however subsequent screenings will be the responsibility of the student.

STATEMENT ON BACKFROUND CHECKS, DRUG SCREENS & THE STATE LICENSING BOARD:

Students with an arrest and or/criminal conviction may be unable to fulfill the degree clinical requirements in order to graduate. Individuals with an arrest and or criminal conviction are advised that the State Licensing Boards will consider their application for licensure as a physical therapist assistant on an individual basis. Upon graduation, you may be required to make a personal appearance before the board prior to be granted a license. It is the prerogative of the licensing board to grant or deny the application for licensure regardless of standing in the program.

WHERE CAN I COMPLETE MY 40 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER (Observation) 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 to observe for hours toward your application to the PTA Program. This activity must occur within 12 months of submitting your application to the program in order to be counted.

Please be aware that these hours are only good for the year you are applying.

NOTE: *The observation hour requirement has been reinstated for the 21-22 application cycle.*

WHO CAN COMPLETE THE TWO RECOMMENDATION FORMS?

Employers, PT/PTA’s, college instructors, etc. may complete the recommendation forms.

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 (2.5 at time of application submission for 21-22 cycle as noted above), 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. **NOTE:** *The aptitude exam has been reinstated for the 21-22 application cycle.*

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 in summer term “B”. However these dates are subject to change. Any revision will be announced in a timely manner.

UPON PROGRAM ADMISSION, ARE THERE ANY OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM?

Yes, see cost sheet on program website for more information.

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.

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).

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 programs academic policies.

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.

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 policy.