

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admission Requirements



Dear Prospective PTA Student:

Thank you for expressing an interest in our Physical Therapist Assistant Program. The following information will assist you in making a decision about seeking admission to our Program.

The Physical Therapist Assistant is an individual who, upon graduating from an accredited program and passing a licensure examination, is qualified to provide physical therapy services to patients. The Physical Therapist Assistant works under the supervision of a professional Physical Therapist in a variety of settings including hospitals, extended care facilities, rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, health maintenance organizations, school settings, and outpatient clinics. Our PTA Program has been awarded accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) (703-706-3245, www.apta.org/CAPTE). Graduation from our program allows one to sit for the National Physical Therapy Assistant Licensure Examination.

The program has determined that its curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure or certification in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands secondary to its accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, based on the following:

CAPTE accreditation of a physical therapist assistant program satisfies state educational requirements in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Thus, students graduating from CAPTE-accredited physical therapist assistant programs are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination and apply for licensure in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information regarding state qualifications and licensure requirements, refer to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy website at <https://www.fsbpt.org>

Admissions Requirements

The number of students admitted to each of the Health Sciences Career Education Programs is limited and the admission process is competitive. There are more applicants than what the program is able to enroll. The number of applicants admitted to each Health Sciences program is limited by several factors including: the number of spaces available for clinical training, the predicted number of positions available in the health care industry for graduates, and enrollment limitations imposed by accreditation agencies. Admission to each of the programs is based on several factors including successful completion of the admission requirements and interviews with an admissions committee of professionals in the appropriate field.

Those who desire admission into any Health Sciences Degree/Certificate program must:

- Submit the following to the Office of Admissions and Records
 - Application to the College meeting admission requirements for the College based on the admission or readmission status the applicant is seeking.
 - ACT or SAT scores if under 21 years of age
 - All high school transcripts or high school equivalency scores
 - Transcripts from other colleges attended
 - Appropriate Placement Test results, if applicable (615-230-3676)
- Apply to the specific Health Sciences Career after being admitted into the College
 - Application deadlines for the Health Sciences programs vary.
 - For information about a specific program's application process and deadline, review the applicable Information Packet on the PTA website or contact the program director by email.

The Health Sciences Degree/Certificate programs are academic programs of study which require completion of certain clinical or practicum experiences in order to successfully complete the academic program. The College's clinical or practicum site partners require students to undergo criminal background checks, drug screens, or to provide proof regarding vaccination history and/or provide other information to participate in clinical or practicum experiences at their sites. Failure to meet the requirements of the College's clinical or practicum site partners may inhibit successful completion of the clinical or practicum component and prevent completion of the program. Prospective students must also follow program specific directions for the desired Health Sciences Degree/Certificate, which may include (but are not limited to):

- Complete a VSCC medical history report
- Document proof of medical insurance
- Complete student background check(s)
- Complete 13-panel drug screen(s) multiple screens may be requested throughout the program
- Proof of Pre-Acceptance Immunizations and Vaccinations – Students selected into the program must provide documentation of the following:
 - One diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccination that has been obtained within the last ten years.
 - Influenza vaccination obtained in October of the interview year.
 - Documentation of blood test (serology, titers) showing immunity to MMR, varicella, or the Hepatitis B virus **OR**
 - Two doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine with each given at least 28 days apart.
 - Two doses of the varicella vaccine with each given at least 28 days apart.
 - Three doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine.
 - Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST), TB Skin Test
 - Additional vaccinations or immunizations may be required by clinical affiliates throughout the program to include COVID-19 vaccines.

Vol State does not require anyone to be vaccinated or to show proof of vaccination.

All students working, interning or gaining clinical experience off campus must comply with immunization requirements mandated by the facilities they are serving. Vol State does not set or control health or immunization requirements.

The PTA Program consists of one year of general education and prerequisite courses and one year in the vocational portion of the Program. Since the spaces in the second year of the Program are limited, admission to the College and the completion of prerequisite courses do not guarantee admission to the second year of the Program. Students may be invited to participate in an interview to assist the Selection Committee in choosing the class. A minimum GPA of 3.00 for general education and prerequisite courses is currently required for a student to be eligible for an interview. Go to our website at www.volstate.edu/academics/health-sciences/pta for further information on admissions criteria. The following information outlines the procedures to follow up to the point of admission into the second year of the Program.

1. The application form should be completed as part of the application packet (updated January 2nd of each year). To review this document, it is listed under the **Application Form** link, also on the PTA webpage.
2. Admission to the PTA program is limited. Applicants must complete all 27 hours of general education and prerequisite courses required for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum. A grade of C or higher is required for transfer of credits into the program (ENGL 1010, AHC 101, PSYC 1030 & Humanities/Fine Arts). A grade of B or higher is required in the Math and Sciences (Math 1130 or Math 1710, BIOL 2010, BIOL 2020, AHC 1100 and AHC 115) to be considered for the PTA program.
3. Prerequisite courses do not have to be completed in the order listed in the Semester-by-Semester Sequence. Some prerequisites may be completed at off campus sites, on weekends, or through online sections. Transfer credit from regionally accredited colleges and universities is accepted at the discretion of the Office of Records. Prospective students are advised that transfer credit for AHC 1100, Physical Science for the PTA, **is granted only upon approval of the Program Director**. Prospective students are advised to complete this course at Volunteer State. Students who have completed two semesters of college level physics (only if grade of B or higher) may, with the **approval of the PTA Program Director**, request substitution for AHC 1100.
4. During the Spring Semester, any individual who has the potential of meeting admissions requirements and who wants to be considered for admission to the second year of the Program must submit a completed application. The application is due in the Health Sciences offices by March 20th of the year in which the applicant intends to start the second year of the Program. No late applications are accepted. The application becomes available on January 2nd. Please check the PTA web page for the **Application Form** link for the updated application packet.
5. Once a completed application has been submitted, the student may be scheduled for an interview in May to assist the Selection Committee in determining their suitability for the Program and the profession. A minimum GPA of a 3.00 of general education and prerequisite courses is currently required for a student to be eligible for an interview. You must have a B or higher in the Math and Science classes (Math 1130 or Math 1710, BIOL 2010, BIOL 2020, AHC 1100 and AHC 115) in order to be selected. The interview and academic record will have approximately equal weight in the admission's decision. A written statement will be collected from all applicants at the interview. Final approval for admission rests with the faculty of the PTA Program.
6. In order to provide the most comprehensive experience available to our students and protect patients in our clinical sites, our clinical affiliates require all attendees to document immunizations and vaccinations. All students are required to complete and provide documentation of various types of vaccinations, immunizations, and medical tests in order to fully participate in clinical or practicum experiences.
 - o One diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccination that has been obtained within the last ten years.
 - o Influenza vaccination obtained in October of the interview year.

- Documentation of blood test (serology, titers) showing immunity to MMR, varicella, or the Hepatitis B virus **OR**
 - Two doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine with each given at least 28 days apart.
 - Two doses of the varicella vaccine with each given at least 28 days apart.
 - Three doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine.
- Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST), TB Skin Test
- Additional vaccinations or immunizations may be required by clinical affiliates throughout the program to include COVID-19 vaccines.

7. All students will be required to complete a criminal background check upon formal acceptance in the PTA program. The results of the background check will be forwarded to the Health Sciences Administrative Staff at Vol State. Please review our Background Check Requirements and steps on how to get your results submitted. More than one background check may be required.

II:05:01 Student Background Check Policy - Volunteer State Community College offers academic programs of study which may include a requirement to complete certain clinical or practicum experiences in order to successfully complete that academic program. Frequently, the College's clinical or practicum site partners require a student background check for participation in clinical or practicum experiences. The specific requirements and processes related to student background checks may vary between partner sites. Each Academic Division should maintain and communicate updated information relating to these clinical/practicum site requirements for their programs in their offices as well as on program websites and in program handbooks. Students should contact the program director and/or Division Dean for additional information.

Required background check standards for student participation in a clinical or practicum at a partner site are determined by the clinical/practicum site partner. Students will be notified when a student background check result does not meet partner site standards. If a background check issue cannot be resolved to the partner site's satisfaction, the student will be notified of the impact that the inability to participate at a particular clinical/practicum site may have on their ability to successfully complete the academic program.

8. Students seeking enrollment in the Health Sciences Programs requiring participation in clinical training in area hospitals and related clinics must provide evidence of having passed a 13-panel urine drug screen prior to the first day of class and while participating in clinical or practicum experiences. Find out more information about the screening procedures and locations. More than one drug screen may be required.

In order to comply with the clinical education affiliates, all students participating in clinical rotations must undergo a drug screen. The cost of this drug screen shall be absorbed by the student. Any student wishing to participate in clinical rotations may be required to undergo a urine drug screen as required by the clinical affiliate within the thirty (30) days preceding commencement of the clinical rotation. The drug screen due date will be provided to the students by the director of clinical education during the latter part of the fall semester. The site has the right to express an additional drug screen anytime during the externship.

The drug screen report must be sent by the agency to the College. Agencies conducting the check should be directed to forward the report electronically to AHD.StudentChecks@volstate.edu. If the results are negative, the student will be able to proceed in the program. If the results are positive, the requirements of the College's clinical or practicum site partners will not be met. Positive results may inhibit successful completion of the clinical or practicum component and prevent completion of the program.

9. Health Sciences Career programs include coursework in the clinical setting which requires that students be available during clinical hours often totaling up to 40 hours per week. It is not possible to participate in the professional portion of most of the PTA program on a part-time basis. Clinical assignments are during periods appropriate to the professions and may include day, evening, and weekend hours. Expenses related to assigned clinical courses such as medical exams, liability insurance, medical insurance, uniforms, meals, travel and other items specific to each career area should be expected. All of these expenses are the student's responsibility.
10. Students are required to complete a minimum of 15 weeks of full-time clinical education. Students must commute at their expense up to 80 miles (each way) from their home or the college, whichever is further.
11. The PTA Program consist of three full-time semesters, beginning with the summer semester. The summer semester typically begins in late May. Students who are selected for admissions into the PTA program should be prepared to start during the summer semester. The summer semester is a 10-week semester and the fall and spring semesters are 15-week semesters.
12. **PHYSICAL DEMANDS NEEDED FOR SAFE PRACTICE:**
Lifting 50 pounds with frequent lifting and carrying of objects weighing up to 25 pounds is a minimum requirement for working in the profession. Moving, lifting or transferring of patients may involve lifting more than 50 pounds. Walking, standing, bending, stooping and sitting for prolonged periods are also required. Visual, auditory and other sensory acuities and full use of gross and fine motor skills of the upper and lower extremities is a requirement for safely performing the job duties of a PTA. The above skills are considered to be the minimum physical requirements needed in order to safeguard a patient while under the care of a PT or PTA.

If you are interested in more information about the PTA Program, please see the PTA website at www.volstate.edu/academics/health-sciences/pta

Sincerely,

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**VOLUNTEER STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
SEMESTER BY SEMESTER SEQUENCE**

PREREQUISITE AND GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES - FALL SEMESTER

MATH 1130 or MATH 1710	College Algebra or Pre-calculus Algebra	3 hours
BIOL 2010	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4 hours
AHC 115	Medical Terminology	3 hours
PSYC 1030	Introduction to Psychology	<u>3 hours</u>
		TOTAL 13 hours

Other than BIOL 2010 & 2020, and MATH followed by AHC 1100, courses may be taken in any order.

PREREQUISITE AND GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES - SPRING SEMESTER

AHC 101	Career Exploration in Physical Therapy	1 hour
AHC 1100	Physical Science for the PTA	3 hours
BIOL 2020	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4 hours
ENGL 1010	English Composition I	3 hours
Hum/Fine Arts or PHIL 1040	Introduction to Ethics	<u>3 hours</u>
(Humanities/FINE ARTS Options: One of the following: ART 1035, ART 2000, ART 2020 ENGL 2045, ENGL 2055, ENGL 2110, ENGL 2120, ENGL 2310, ENGL 2320, ENGL 2860 MUS 1030, PHIL 1030, PHIL 2430 or THEA 1030)		TOTAL 14 hours

ALL ABOVE COURSES, FALL SEMESTER AND SPRING SEMESTER COURSES AND ALL LEARNING SUPPORT COURSES MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO SELECTION SCREENING WHICH OCCURS IN MAY. REFER TO THE APPLICATION PACKET FOR MORE DETAILS.

PTA PROGRAM COURSES

FRESHMAN YEAR - SUMMER SEMESTER

PTAT 2530	Medical Surgical Conditions & Treatment for the PTA	5 hours
PTAT 2100	Introduction to Physical Therapy	1 hour
PTAT 2460	Patient Care Skills for the PTA	4 hours
PTAT 2210	Kinesiology for the PTA I	<u>2 hours</u>
		TOTAL 12 hours

SOPHOMORE YEAR - FALL SEMESTER

PTAT 2220	Kinesiology for the PTA II	2 hours
PTAT 2440	Biophysical Agents for the PTA II	4 hours
PTAT 2510	Musculoskeletal Conditions & Treatment for the PTA	5 hours
PTAT 2492	Integrated Clinical Education	<u>4 hours</u>
		TOTAL 15 hours

SOPHOMORE YEAR - SPRING SEMESTER

PTAT 2280	Seminar for the PTA	2 hours
PTAT 2520	Neuromuscular Conditions & Treatment for the PTA	5 hours
PTAT 2493	Terminal Clinical Education I	4 hours
PTAT 2494	Terminal Clinical Education II	<u>4 hours</u>
		TOTAL 15 hours