

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING

GATEWAYCC.EDU/**PHYSICAL-THERAPIST-ASSISTING**

[INFORMATION PACKET]



HEALTH SCIENCES



**GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
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The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, <http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>.

For the latest information on programs, graduation rates and other important consumer information, please visit our website at gatewaycc.edu



Physical Therapist Assisting

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assisting Program at GateWay Community College.

Please review the enclosed Information and Application Packet. If you decide to apply for admission into the program, complete all the required steps.

Please note the application periods for the hybrid weekend program is July 1 - November 1 and the day program is December 1 - April 1. Applications to the programs will be accepted during the designated application periods, late applications will only be accepted if additional spaces remain after the initial acceptance process.

Please access one of the following resources or the program website if you have additional questions about the program:

College Website: <http://www.gatewaycc.edu>

PTA Program Website: <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/physical-therapist-assisting>

GateWay Healthcare Advising: 602-286-8600; healthcareadvising@gatewaycc.edu

Please note that the curriculum and prerequisites for the program will be revised periodically. It is the applicant's responsibility to remain aware of any changes in admission requirements.

I wish you success in your educational and career pursuits.

Sincerely,
Laura Safa, PTA, MS
Program Director - Physical Therapist Assistant Program
602.286.8514 / E-mail: laura.safa@gatewaycc.edu

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APPLICATION PROCESS

- STEP 1** – Read this entire packet carefully
- STEP 2**- Attend a virtual information session link found on the program website (<https://www.gatewaycc.edu/degrees-certificates/physical-therapist-assisting>) Contact a college healthcare advisor to discuss questions after attending the info session
- STEP 3** – Complete the steps to get admitted at GateWay <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/enroll/enrollment-steps>
- STEP 4** – Transcripts – Request official transcripts from colleges/universities to be sent to transcripts@gatewaycc.edu
- STEP 5** – Complete pre-requisites (see page 10). Review points system for admission to the program on page 7. See page 13 regarding the required work/observation experience. Pages 14-16 should be submitted to the Admissions and Records by the clinical site where the work/observation experience occurred upon completion of the experience.
- STEP 6** – Submit the **COMPLETED** application (page 17-18) to the Admissions and Records Department July 1 – November 1 for the hybrid weekend program and December 1 – April 1 for the day program.

A completed application packet consists of:

1. Official college/university transcripts received by GWCC Admissions and Records.
2. Documentation of completion of ENG101 or ENG102 and BIO160 or BIO201 with a minimum grade of B in each course.
3. Documentation of HESI PTA Program scores with 70% or higher on each section within the last 2 years. (TEAS will also be accepted)
4. Completed verification of work experience/observation of 40 hrs. (**SEE PAGES 14-16**)
5. Completed application to program (**SEE PAGES 17-18**)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CAREERS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

What is Physical Therapy?

Physical therapy (PT) is the art and science of providing care to patients suffering from injury or disease which has resulted in a loss of motion in the joints of the body, a loss of strength in muscles, increased pain, an inability to walk normally, as well any of several other examples of losses of physical function. Through physical therapy, patients work to regain the ability to function at their highest possible level. Patients may include infants, children, adults, and the elderly.

Who provides Physical Therapy?

Physical therapists (PTs) evaluate patients, determine what treatment is necessary, and perform skilled treatments. Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) help the physical therapist by performing selected treatment interventions with patients. PTAs are always supervised by PTs.

I really want to become a physical therapist – do I need to become a physical therapist assistant first?

No, it is not necessary to complete education as a PTA to become a PT.

What Education is Necessary?

Individuals interested in becoming physical therapists complete a bachelor's degree prior to making an application to enter a doctoral educational program. Physical therapist assistants attend community or technical colleges that offer an associate's degree. Programs can be completed in 4-5 semesters.

Where do PTs and PTAs work?

PTs and PTAs are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, schools, home health and outpatient practice settings.

How much money do PTs and PTAs make?

Information about wages and salaries for physical therapists can be found at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm>

Information about wages and salaries for physical therapist assistants can be found at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm>

What is the current job market for PTAs?

The United States Department of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statistics states, "Overall employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 26 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy is expected to increase in response to the healthcare needs of an older population and individuals with chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity." Graduates of the PTA Program at GateWay Community College are currently in high demand.

Why should I consider a career in physical therapy?

A career in physical therapy is very rewarding. Each day physical therapists and physical therapist assistants work closely with their patients to help them recover from injuries or illnesses that have temporarily or permanently changed their lives. PTs and PTAs are important members of the rehabilitation team. Helping people to progress back towards optimal health is a wonderful experience.

Do I need to pass an examination to be a PT or PTA?

To hold the title of physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in Arizona an individual must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for the respective level of education and training. The examination is administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). Costs associated with applying for licensure/certification and taking the examination are approximately \$650.

If I have a criminal record, will that prohibit me from being successful in this career?

Clinical agreements with healthcare facilities require that students possess a Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety and Background check through American DataBank. Additionally, a student must not be listed on the Federal Government's Office of the Inspector General's Exclusion List. Students that are unable to obtain either of these clearances will be prohibited from attending all healthcare education programs at GateWay Community College, see the health and safety requirements website for more details <https://www.maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates/healthcare-education/health-safety-requirements>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

How many students are admitted to the program?

A new class of 24 students is admitted each August to the traditional day program. The weekend/hybrid education program admits a new class of 20 students in May of each year. The number of students admitted may change depending on employment market conditions and the availability of clinical training sites.

What do I need to do to apply to the program?

It is recommended that interested students contact a college advisor to discuss the program, attend a virtual information session to make an appointment. PTA faculty are also frequently available for consultation. Following these initial meetings, students should then work to complete the following:

- a) BIO160 (or BIO201) – minimum grade of B required
- b) ENG101 or ENG102 – minimum grade of B required
- c) TEAS or HESI Exam PTA Program within last 2 years- minimum 70% on all sections
- d) 40 hours of work/observation experience in physical therapy with a minimum of 10 hours in an inpatient (hospital, skilled nursing care, etc.) facility. Interested applicants are encouraged to allow adequate time to complete this requirement. It may take some time to locate a site, establish a schedule, and complete the required hours.

The above requirements **MUST** be completed prior to applying to the program.

What happens to my application if I am not accepted into the program?

The prospective applicant will need to reapply for admission into the program during the next application cycle.

How long does it take to complete the program?

The program can be completed in five semesters. Many students take a year prior to beginning the program to complete prerequisites and general education courses that are required for the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree.

Are the PTA Program courses transferable to colleges or universities if I decide to pursue a bachelor's degree? Certain bachelor's degree programs will accept up to 90 credits from the program. Contact college advising for further information.

When are the classes scheduled?

For the day program, lecture and lab classes may be scheduled Monday through Friday. Classes may begin as early as 7:00 a.m. and end as late as 5:30 p.m. Depending on the semester, students may be in class for 3-6 hours per day, 3-4 days per week. For the weekend/hybrid education program lecture courses will be online with periodic on campus testing. Lab classes will be scheduled Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. All the lab classes are held on site at GateWay Community College. There are approximately 20 weekends of required on campus attendance for lab classes in the hybrid program.

Clinical practicum classes (PTA 206, PTA 280, and PTA 290) are generally Monday through Friday 40 hours per week for six consecutive weeks with some clinical sites requiring weekends. These classes require attendance at clinical facilities that include hospitals, extended care facilities, and outpatient practices.

What facilities do I contact to complete my volunteer/work experience?

Applicants are encouraged to contact local hospitals, nursing homes, and private physical therapy offices to arrange for observation experience. The program requires that 40 hours of observation or work experience must be completed prior to entering the program. A minimum of 10 hours must be completed at an inpatient (hospital, skilled nursing care, etc.) facility. For volunteer experiences, this requirement will often involve observing physical therapy practice without any direct patient interaction. Receiving physical therapy for a personal injury or medical condition will not be considered as part of the observation experience requirement.

Can I work and go to school?

For the day and hybrid/weekend education programs, applicants are cautioned that the PTA Program is a rigorous course of study. The program faculty recommends that work hours be kept to a minimum. Each student must make an individual decision about the number of work hours that they can handle while continuing to make acceptable academic progress in the program.

Is financial aid available?

Financial assistance is available to eligible students in the form of grants, scholarships, employment, or loans. Students may receive aid from one funding source or aid may be offered in a package from multiple sources. Contact the Financial Aid office at 602.286.8300/finaid@gatewaycc.edu for additional information or visit their web site at <http://www.gatewaycc.edu/financial-aid>

Does the weekend/hybrid education program have special requirements?

Students in the weekend/hybrid education program will need regular access to a computer with internet capabilities (high speed service is preferred). Students will be traveling to GateWay on various weekends and thus reliable motor vehicle transportation is essential. Students in this education program who travel from a distance will need to make their own lodging arrangements for the weekend lab classes. Every effort will be made to place students in their local communities for clinical education rotations. If this is not possible students may be required to drive many miles to the nearest available clinical site. Please note that only students who are considered residents of Arizona are eligible to take online classes in the weekend/hybrid program. Contact the Admissions and Records office regarding residency requirements.

Once I start the program, can I transfer from the hybrid program to the day program or from the day program to the hybrid program?

Requests to transfer from one program to the other will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Transfer may not be possible due to a variety of reasons.

SELECTIVE ANNUAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applicants for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College will be ranked on a point- based system. The criteria listed below will be used in the ranking process. Applicants for the program will be selected based on the points earned.

Applications for the hybrid weekend program will be accepted from July 1 through November 1. Applicants will be notified of their status by November 15. Late applications may be considered for admission if additional spaces remain in the program after the initial acceptance process has been completed. The hybrid weekend program starts in mid-May.

Applications for the day program will be accepted from December 1 through April 1. Applicants will be notified of their status by April 15. Late applications may be considered for admission if additional spaces remain in the program after the initial acceptance process is completed. The traditional day program starts in mid-August.

Any applicant that is not accepted but remains interested in the program will be required to reapply for admission during the next application period.

1. Grade in BIO160 or BIO201 – must earn 2 points in this category and taken within the past
 - a. A = 4 points
 - b. B = 2 points
 - c. C, D or F = application will not be considered
2. Grade in ENG101 or ENG102 – must earn 1 point in this category
 - a. A = 2 points
 - b. B = 1 points
 - c. C, D or F = application will not be considered
3. Score on HESI for PTA Program or TEAS within the last 2 years- must earn 21 points in this category
 - a. 10% of the score in each category is added as points
 - i. i.e. score 89.5% on math = 8.95 points, 70.1% on English composition= 7.01points, and 75.3%on anatomy and physiology= 7.53 points.
 - b. HESI scores below 70% = application may be considered if only one category is below 70% and there is additional space in the program one month prior to classes starting.
4. Work or observation experience in physical therapy – submit required verification form(s) – must earn 1 point from this category. (10 hours of work/observation experience must be from an inpatient facility)
 - a. Work experience as a physical therapy aide/technician - 2080+ hours = 3 points
 - b. Work experience as a physical therapy aide/technician – 1040 to 2079 hours = 2 points
 - c. 40 or more hours of observation experience in a physical therapy practice OR 40-1039 hours of work experience as a physical therapy aide/technician = 1 point
5. Completion of general education requirements (ENG102, MAT, COM, HCC146 or HCC 145, PSY101, Humanities, CRE) with a minimum grade of C in each course.
 - a. 7 courses completed = 3 points
 - b. 3-6 courses completed = 2 points
 - c. 1-2 courses completed = 1 point
6. Work/volunteer recommendation rating
 - a. Cumulative average of 9.5 to 10 = 3 points
 - b. Cumulative average of 8.5 to 9.49 = 2 points
 - c. Cumulative average of 7.5 to 8.49 = 1 point
 - d. Cumulative average of 0 to 7.49 = 0 points
7. AA degree or higher – 1 point

IMMUNIZATIONS, TESTING, AND BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS

Immunization and TB Testing Requirements

Once a student has been accepted into a program for the start of an upcoming semester, clinical requirements will be sent out. All health and safety documentation are submitted digitally. The health and safety requirements are subject to change based on the requirements of our clinical partners.

MCCCD Background Check Policy Requirements

Students will receive Information regarding the MCCCD Background Check after admission, but prior to the beginning of the program. Students admitted to an MCCCD Allied Health or Nursing Program (Program) will be required to obtain a valid Level-One Arizona Department of Public Safety Fingerprint Clearance Card (FCC Card) AND a passing score on an MCCCD background check. This policy precludes MCCCD faculty or staff from assigning students to a clinical experience who cannot meet the new requirements.

Students bear the financial costs for both the MCCCD Background Check and the AZ Fingerprint Clearance Card. The card is valid for six years from the date of issue.

Drug Screening

Each student must go through a preclinical drug screen prior to beginning the first clinical rotation. Drug screening for all Physical Therapist Assisting students is mandatory. The cost for tests will be the responsibility of the student. The urine drug screen will test for alcoholic beverages; illegal drugs, or drugs that may impair judgment while in the clinical agency. If the drug test is positive for the illegal drugs or undocumented prescription drugs, the student will not be able to continue in the program. Medical marijuana or its metabolite is not an acceptable substance in drug screens. Readmission is at the discretion of the college and the program. Some clinical sites also require additional drug screening.

ESTIMATED PROGRAM COSTS

The estimated cost for the program is outlined in the chart below. The student is responsible for providing transportation, housing, and uniforms.

AAS Degree Program	
Tuition* (53 credit hrs. @ \$97 a credit hr.) ¹	\$ 5141
Program Prerequisite Tuition (9-17 credit hrs. @ \$97 a credit hr.) ¹	873 – 1,649
General Education Tuition (11-17 credit hrs. @ \$97 a credit hr.) ¹	1068 – 1,649
Registration fees (\$15 per semester)	75
Course / Lab Fees	710 – 780
Equipment / Supplies	83
Books ³	1,900 – 2,757
Other Program Costs: Health/Safety Requirements, etc. ²	817 – 1,482
Total Estimated Costs	\$ 10,584 – 13,616

* Residents of Apache and Greenlee counties without an Out-of-County Residence Affidavit.
\$531/credit hour

* Out-of-state residents residing in Arizona who do not qualify for in-state residency. \$372/credit hour

Students must also plan on the expense of driving to clinical locations across the metropolitan Phoenix and outlying areas. Several clinical affiliates are not on bus routes so one's own private transportation vehicle is necessary.

¹ Tuition and course fees are set by the Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board and are subject to change without notice. All other fees are also subject to change. All tuition and fees are the responsibility of the student. The calculated tuition is based on the maximum number of credits required for the AA degree.

² Other program costs may be less or more than listed based on a student's individual health record in respect to being in compliance with the immunization and safety requirements for the clinical experience.

³ Book costs may change without notice

IMPORTANT – Tuition/registration fees are all due 35 days prior to the start date of each course. If 34 days or less, all fees are due at the time of registration, or the student will be dropped from courses and lose their seat in the program for non-payment.

ACCREDITATION

GateWay Community College is a Maricopa Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. For the latest information on programs, graduation rates and consumer information, visit gatewaycc.edu.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 602-286-8514 or email laura.safa@gatewaycc.edu.

PREREQUISITES FOR PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING

Please read all pertinent information about the Physical Therapist Assisting Program contained in this information and application packet. If you have any questions, please contact a College Advisor or the Program Director.

1. 40 or more hours of work/observation experience in a physical therapy practice setting with minimum of 10 hours from an inpatient facility.
2. Submission of HESI A2 or TEAS scores with 70% or higher on each section.
3. Successful completion of the following college courses:

	CREDITS
ENG101 First Year Composition OR	3.0
ENG102 First Year Composition	
BIO160 Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology OR	
BIO201 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	<u>4.0</u>
TOTAL	7.0

NOTE: A minimum 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. in prerequisite courses is required to enter the program and a grade of “B” or higher is required in each course.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

A student must fulfill the requirements for an AAS degree (refer to the college catalog) to become a Physical Therapist Assistant. It is strongly recommended that as many General Education courses as possible be completed prior to beginning the program and during the first semester.

ENG 101 and 102	3.0	credits
Psychology101	3.0	credits
Mathematics Elective	3.0 – 6.0	credits
Communication Elective	3.0	credits
Humanities Elective	3.0	credits
CRE101/111 Critical Reading	0 – 3.0	credits
Total credits	15.0 – 21.0	credits

The above classes may be taken at any regionally accredited community college or university. For classes taken outside the Maricopa County Community College District, please contact a college advisor prior to taking the course to ensure transferability. Please see the GateWay Community College Catalog for a list of courses that satisfy requirements for the AAS degree.

Total Credits for an AAS in Physical Therapist Assisting

Program prerequisites	7.0	
Required program credits	51.5-52.5	
General Studies	<u>15.0 – 21.0</u>	
Total credits	73.5 – 80.5	

Additional Requirements

Prior to the first pre-clinical practicum (PTA204), a student must show proof of:

- Current American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR Certification card
- Completed Immunization and Health Declaration Form
- Current negative drug testing
- Fingerprint clearance card/criminal background check

American Heart Association HealthCare Provider CPR Certification may be completed at GateWay (RES109) or through the American Heart Association. **All costs** for CPR certification, TB testing, immunizations, fingerprint clearance and drug testing are the responsibility of the student.

PTA PROGRAM COURSE SEQUENCE

HYBRID SEQUENCE:

Term 1:

BIO160 or BIO201

ENG101 or ENG107

Term 2 - (May-August):

HCC145 or HCC146

COM

MA

PTA101

PTA103

PTA104

PTA203

Term 3 - (August-December):

ENG102 or ENG108

PSY101

PTA200

PTA204

PTA205

PTA209

PTA217

Term 4 - (January-May):

CRE101

PTA206

PTA207

PTA208

PTA215

PTA216

PTA279

Term 5 - (May-August):

HU

PTA230

PTA280

PTA281

PTA290

PTA292

PTA295

DAY SEQUENCE:

Term 1:

BIO160 or BIO201

ENG101 or ENG107

Term 2 - (August-December):

ENG102 or ENG108

HCC145 or HCC146

COM

MA

PTA101

PTA103

PTA104

PTA203

PTA205

Term 3 - (January-May):

CRE101

PTA200

PTA204

PTA209

PTA217

Term 4 - (May-August):

HU

PSY101

PTA206

PTA207

Term 5 - (August-December):

PTA208

PTA215

PTA216

PTA279

Term 6 - (January-May):

PTA230

PTA280

PTA281

PTA290

PTA292

PTA295

POLICIES, RULES, REQUIREMENTS, AND REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE

- ❖ Policies, courses, programs, fees, and requirements may be suspended, deleted, restricted, supplemented, or changed through action of the Governing Board of the Maricopa Community Colleges.
- ❖ The Maricopa Community Colleges reserves the right to change, without notice, any materials, information, curriculum, requirements, and regulations.
- ❖ Admission or graduation from any Allied Health program at GateWay Community College does not guarantee the student's professional certification, licensure, or employability. The student must comply with legal requirements of the profession. This may include provisions from Arizona Revised Statutes 41-1758.03 (sections B and C) regarding the denial of a fingerprint clearance card or being listed on the US government's Office of Inspector General's Exclusion List.
- ❖ Students with related health care experiences not listed in the Program (Health Core Curriculum courses) Prerequisites/Co-requisite options, may request an evaluation for course competency equivalence by contacting GateWay's Health Core Curriculum Coordinator Tawny DeLeon at tawny.deleon@gatewaycc.edu
- ❖ The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.
- ❖ The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: [\(480\) 731-8499](tel:4807318499). For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit <http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>.

COLLEGE COMMUNICATION

The following information is very important, so you do not miss any notices:

Communication with students is strictly through Maricopa Colleges email, not a personal email account.

GateWay Community College uses a district-wide Google powered email system. This system is the way all official College communications concerning selective admissions, class enrollment, financial aid, tuition due dates and other important student information are sent.

All students need to check their new student e-mail regularly or forward the new student e-mail to a personal e-mail to ensure that all official college communication is received.

Students may access their new e-mail accounts directly from their Student Center once they log in at my.maricopa.edu. First section "Student Communication Center".

The benefits to the student include:

- Quicker response
- Convenience. You can receive & read email even if out-of-town
- Saves trees!

Go to my.maricopa.edu and log in to your account. Click on 'create an account' in the paragraph above the picture of the students to set up your student account. You may edit your information, such as address, phone, etc. here also if you need to. This is a self-service for students, which includes registering for classes, adding/dropping classes, making payments, printing your class schedules, viewing financial aid & viewing your grades. If you have any technical issues, please call 1-888-994-4433.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The following is a list of physical/mental requirements that are expected of students in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

1. Demonstrate visual acuity and auditory ability to assess the condition of a patient and administer effective patient care.
2. Demonstrate manual dexterity, eye-hand coordination, fine and gross motor skills, and tactile abilities to perform functions as directed by the physical therapist and in accordance with skills outlined in section three of the Evaluative Criteria for the Accreditation of Physical Therapist Assistant Education Programs (see attachment).
3. Demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills for effective patient management and implementation of selected treatment interventions.
4. Maneuver equipment in a patient's room or in the physical therapy department in a time efficient manner.
5. Work in stressful situations that require quick thinking and the simultaneous coordination of a variety of activities.
6. Demonstrate physical agility to respond to patient and family needs, including unexpected changes in the patient's status.
7. Demonstrate the physical ability to assist patients in ambulating, positioning in bed, and transferring from the bed/mat, wheelchair, or car in a time efficient manner.
8. Demonstrate proper body mechanics for lifting.
9. Lift objects more than 100 pounds with assistance with frequent lifting and/or carrying objects weighing 50 pounds or more.
10. Tolerate prolonged standing, stooping, squatting, bending, pushing, and pulling.
11. Demonstrate ability to read, write, understand, and speak English.
12. Demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills with internal and external customers.

Students who are unable to perform these functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, may be unsafe in the clinical environment and thus will likely be unsuccessful in the program.

WORK / OBSERVATION HOURS

Applicants must complete 40 hours of work/observation in physical therapy settings before applying to the PTA Program, including at least 10 hours in an inpatient facility (hospital, skilled nursing, or rehab hospital). This ensures applicants understand PTA job duties and are committed to the career.

Most facilities only allow observation, not hands-on experience. Hours can be completed in hospitals, rehab centers, private practices, schools, or agencies. Students are responsible for arranging their own observation hours, which may require contacting multiple facilities and completing orientation.

A physical therapist or PTA must certify completed hours using the Work/Observation Hours Verification and Assessment Form. Personal physical therapy experience does not count toward this requirement.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE APPLICANT - On the attached form PRINT or TYPE your name in the indicated spaces. Give this form to each Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist Assistant who has observed your performance during your volunteer/work/observation in PHYSICAL THERAPY. Only DIRECT work/observation in PHYSICAL THERAPY will satisfy the prerequisite requirement. Make additional copies of this form if your work/observation have been performed in more than one facility. A separate form must be provided to each facility. Work/Observation Hours Verification and Assessment form must be submitted via email from the PT or PTA directly to **selectiveadmissions@gatewaycc.edu**

WORK / OBSERVATION HOURS - VERIFICATION & ASSESSMENT FORM

(Page 1 of 3)

Applicant's Name		GateWay ID #
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The above-named applicant is applying for admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College. A provision of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 allows students to review the Volunteer/Work/Observation Verification and Assessment form unless the student waives the right in writing.

I waive the right to review this Volunteer/Work/Observation Verification and Assessment Form.

Applicant's Signature		Date
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY WORK/OBSERVATION SUPERVISOR

Please complete the form below. Forty hours (40) of work/observation hours are required for admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College. The rating and comments sections of this form are used for student advisement purposes.

The supervising PT or PTA must email the completed form to selectiveadmissions@gatewaycc.edu.

I,		, do hereby verify that
	(SUPERVISOR'S NAME - PLEASE PRINT)	
		has completed
	(APPLICANT'S NAME PLEASE PRINT)	
hours of work/volunteer experience in physical therapy at		

(FACILITY NAME)		
Supervisor's Signature		Date
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Work Phone Number	PT/PTA License or Certificate #	State

Please rate the above-named applicant on their performance during the work / observation experience in the following areas. Rating scale = 0 - 10 with 10 being the highest score possible. The ratings on this form will be used as part of the application process to the program.

	Maturity			Personal Appearance
	Initiative			Attendance
	Problem-solving Skills			Interpersonal Communication
	Interest in Physical Therapy			Adaptability
	Professional Manner			Dependability

Please comment below about the applicant's performance during the work/observation experience at your facility. Please comment on the applicant's readiness to enter a Physical Therapist Assistant education program. Comments will be used for student advisement purposes only. Use additional paper, if necessary.

Signature		Date

The physical therapy work/observation certified on this form can best be described as occurring in the following setting:

* **NOTE:** Please specify the number of hours spent in each type of experience.

HOURS

	Inpatient – Acute Care Hospital
	Inpatient- Rehabilitation Unit - Hospital based
	Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit - Free standing
	Outpatient Services - Hospital based
	Outpatient Physical Therapy
	Outpatient Sports Medicine
	Inpatient Extended Care Facility or Skilled Nursing Facility
	Outpatient: Industrial injury rehabilitation clinic
	Outpatient- Neurological Rehab
	Other (please specify)

Submit to:

selectiveadmissions@gatewaycc.edu

PROGRAM APPLICATION – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

- Starting August, Day Program – Applications accepted from December 1 to April 1
- Starting May, Hybrid Weekend Program – Applications accepted from July 1 to November 1

NOTE: It is the applicant’s responsibility to assure that the information on this application remains current. The applicant must inform GateWay Community College of any changes in the information provided below. Failure to provide current information may result in the applicant forfeiting their program space.

Please print clearly:

LEGAL NAME – LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE
FORMER NAME(S) which may appear on transcript(s)		
ADDRESS STREET		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHONE NUMBER HOME	PHONE NUMBER WORK	PHONE NUMBER CELL
STUDENT ID NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	

ADMISSION APPLICATION DISCLAIMER:

Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Gateway Community College does not guarantee that a student will receive an Associate in Applied Science Degree from the college. Additionally, completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is not the sole criterion for obtaining a license/certificate to work as a physical therapist assistant. Licensing/certification requirements, if required, are the exclusive responsibility of the individual State Board of Physical Therapy or similar agency, and an individual must satisfy specific requirements of those agencies independent of graduation from an accredited PTA education program.

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the above answers are true, correct, and complete. I understand that any falsification or intentional misrepresentation of information on this application may be cause for dismissal from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program and from the college.

Applicant's Name (PRINT)

Signature Date

Submit to: selectiveadmissions@gatewaycc.edu

Last Name

First Name

Student ID

Date

The following requirements must be completed prior to submitting your application. If you have questions about this application prior to submitting please reach out to the advising team at healthcareadvising@gatewaycc.edu.

_____Forty (40) hours of work/observation experience in a physical therapy setting supervised by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant with a minimum of 10 hours completed in an inpatient setting.

70% or better on each section of the HESI exam for PTA (math, English composition, and anatomy and physiology)

_____ English Composition Score

_____ Math Score

_____ Anatomy and Physiology Score

Course	Course Title	Credits Required	College	Semester Completed or Enrolled	Circle Grade
+ BIO160 + BIO201	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology – Lecture/Lab OR Human Anatomy & Physiology I – Lecture/Lab	4			A or B
+ ENG101/ + ENG107 OR + ENG 102/ + ENG 108	First Year Composition OR First Year Composition for ESL OR First Year Composition OR First Year Composition for ESL OR	3			A or B

ENG 101/107 and ENG 102/108 are both required to graduate from this program, however, only one course with a B or higher is required at the time of application.
BIO 160 or BIO 201 must be completed with a minimum letter grade of an A or B

MCCCD Policy Background Check Acknowledgement (copy attached)



Student Signature

Student Name (printed)

Date