



# 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](http://www.apta.org/CAPTE)). Graduation from our program allows one to sit for the licensure examination.

Our 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. Each student must go through an interview to assist the Selection Committee in choosing the class. Go to our website at [www.volstate.edu/pta](http://www.volstate.edu/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 first step in entering our Physical Therapist Assistant Program is filling out an application to Volunteer State Community College. You should submit an application to the Office of Admissions. If you have previously attended any colleges, please have an official transcript for each college attended submitted to the Office of Records. In addition, if you have additional copies of your transcripts, bring them the first time you see a PTA advisor.
2. Another form should be completed and submitted is the **online application**. This can be found on the PTA homepage ([www.volstate.edu/PTA](http://www.volstate.edu/PTA)) and is listed as Application Form. There is a second application form that is submitted as part of the application packet (updated January 2nd of each year). To review this document, it is listed under the Forms and Documents link, (Screening Application Packet) also on the PTA webpage.
3. If you have not previously attended college and are under the age of 21, you are required to submit ACT scores to the Admissions Office. If you are over the age of 21 you will be required to take the Accuplacer placement test (testing in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics). Based on your scores you may be required to take some Learning Support level course work in these areas. An advisor will help you identify which courses are required.
4. Students who are required to test and who have not attended school for several years or who feel insecure in one or more of the areas of reading, writing, or mathematics are encouraged to seek

- assistance in the Learning Commons (ext. 3675) prior to testing. Several PTA students have reported that working in the Learning Commons contributed to their success.
5. Admission to the PTA program is limited to 32 students. Applicants must complete all 27 hours of 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 & 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 program. An applicant that has a C in one of these courses will be considered for admissions, **ONLY** if the Program cannot fill the class with B or better applicants.
  6. 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 of 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 may, with the approval of the PTA Program Director, request substitution for AHC 1100.
  7. 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 screening application. The application is due in the Health Sciences offices by March 20<sup>th</sup> of the year in which the applicant intends to start the second year of the Program. The application becomes available on the first working day on or after January 2nd. Please check the PTA web page under the Forms and Documents link for the updated application packet.
  8. Once a completed application has been submitted, the student may be scheduled for an interview in April to assist the Selection Committee in determining their suitability for the Program and the profession. You must have a B or higher in the Math and Science classes (Math 1130 or Math 1710, BIOL 2010, BIOL 2020, ALHS 110 and AHC 115) in order to be selected for an interview. The decision for interview candidates is determined on a yearly basis by the faculty and is based on factors that may affect the class size. The interview team will assess the applicant's knowledge of the professions, ability to function in an interview situation, communication skills, and rationale for wanting to enter the PTA Program. The interview and academic record will have approximately equal weight in the admission's decision. Final approval for admission rests with the faculty of the PTA Program.
  10. If accepted into the second year of the Program the student must submit the following items, which are required for clinical participation, by the first day of class (May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018):
    - Proof of freedom from tuberculosis
    - Proof of immunity to rubella
    - Proof of Hepatitis B immunization (at least the first shot in the series)
    - Students are required to take a drug test, at their own expense, prior to the Fall and Spring clinical affiliations.
    - Proof of passing a Background Check
    - Ten Panel Drug Screen
    - Additional medical requirements may be required at some clinical sites.
  11. **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 PT department. Walking, standing, bending, stooping and sitting for prolonged periods are also required. Full use of gross and fine motor skills of the upper and lower extremities is a requirement for safety 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

12. Students who are admitted to the PTA Program 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. Students seeking enrollment in this program **MUST** provide evidence of a passing score on a background check and a urine drug screen prior to official acceptance/enrollment into the program. Either the failure to provide the required results by the due date or the receipt of anything other than a passing score will make a student ineligible for enrollment in this program. The background check and urine drug screens are performed at the student's expense. *Specific details regarding the background check and urine drug screen are given to students after conditional acceptance into the program is granted.* The cost for background check verification will be approximately \$47.00 and the urine drug screen will be approximately \$40.00. Please contact program faculty for further information.

The PTA Program is located in Building 100 of the VSCC East Campus on GAP Rd.

If you are interested in more information about the PTA Program, please see the PTA website at [www.volstate.edu/pta](http://www.volstate.edu/pta)

Sincerely,

**Regina Brown, PTA, MS**  
**Program Director/Instructor**  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
[regina.brown@volstate.edu](mailto:regina.brown@volstate.edu)  
615-230-3332

**Daniel Ashley, PT, MHS**  
**ACCE/Instructor**  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
[daniel.ashley@volstate.edu](mailto:daniel.ashley@volstate.edu)  
615-230-3336

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

**FRESHMAN YEAR - FALL SEMESTER**

MATHEMATICS	MATH 1130 or MATH 1710	3 hours
BIOL 2010	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4 hours
AHC 115	Medical Terminology	3 hours
PSYC 1030	General Psychology	<u>3 hours</u>
		TOTAL 13 hours

Other than BIOL 2010 & 2020, and MATH followed by PTA 110, courses may be taken in any order.

**FRESHMAN YEAR - 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
Fine Arts or PHIL 1040	Introduction to Ethics	<u>3 hours</u>
(FINE ARTS: 1 class in ART 1030 or ARTH 2010 or 2020, ENGL 1030 or 2010 2020 or 2030 or 2110 or 2120 or 2310 or 2320, MUS 1030, PHIL 121 or 1030 or THEA 1030)		TOTAL 14 hours

\*\*Students are required to successfully complete Computer Applications (INFS 1010, three credit hours) or pass the computer competency exam prior to the program's May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Contact the Testing Center to schedule an appointment: (615) 230-3484.

**SCREENING INTERVIEWS ARE ONCE A YEAR IN APRIL. ALL FALL SEMESTER AND SPRING SEMESTER COURSES AND ALL LEARNING SUPPORT COURSES MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO SELECTION SCREENING. REFER TO THE APPLICATION PACKET FOR MORE DETAILS.**

**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