

Cuyahoga
Community
College



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM



LETTER FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dear Prospective PTA Program Applicant,

Thank you for your inquiry concerning the **Physical Therapist Assisting program** at Cuyahoga Community College. Our curriculum emphasizes physical therapist assisting practice and academic excellence. Graduates completing the program are prepared to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for PTAs.

This program is a full-time course of study, consisting of day classes, for two years. Our curriculum is demanding and quite rigorous, but the benefits and rewards that come from working in the physical therapy profession make it well worth the effort. Employment opportunities for physical therapist assistants exist in a wide variety of settings throughout the U.S.

Entrance to the program is guaranteed to applicants who complete the application process, including all prerequisite requirements. If you are a transfer student, your transcripts from previous colleges and universities must be submitted to the college to determine if you will be given transfer credit for courses taken at other institutions. The PTA program does not accept credit for technical coursework in physical therapy, or related fields, taken in programs at other colleges.

Please read the enclosed information carefully and follow the application procedures exactly. It is your responsibility to verify that your application folder is complete, by submitting all requested items and making sure your official transcripts are contained in your college record. I strongly urge you to keep a copy of all credentials you submit for your own records.

If you have any questions, please feel free to check with our enrollment specialists at the Health Careers Enrollment Center 216-987-4247 or healthcareers@tri-c.edu at any time during the prerequisite completion process. I will be happy to answer any questions that the enrollment specialists cannot answer, once you have reviewed the information on our website and read this packet in its entirety.

Best wishes in the pursuit of a rewarding career at Tri-C, where futures begin.

Sincerely,

Tanya D. Wright

Tanya D. Wright, PT MA
Program Director
Physical Therapist Assisting Program

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Application Process

The following criteria **MUST** be met **BEFORE** applying to the Physical Therapist Assisting program:

1. Applicants must first submit a completed **Cuyahoga Community College application** and gain acceptance to the College.
2. Applicants must achieve an **overall GPA of 2.7**. This GPA will be calculated based on all previously completed college coursework.
3. Applicants must have taken or be **eligible to take MATH 1240** or a higher-level math course to be accepted into the program. (MATH 1240 is the recommended math course for this health career).
4. Applicants must achieve a minimum **3.0 GPA** in the following core courses (or transfer of comparable courses from another college or university). All core courses must have a grade of "C" or better.

PTA PROGRAM CORE COURSES	
ENG 1010	English Composition I
BIO 2331	Anatomy and Physiology I
HTEC 1000	Introduction to Patient Care
MA 1020	Medical Terminology I

You may only repeat a core course once to improve your grade and a withdrawal ("W") counts as an attempt. Science course grades can be no older than 10 years

5. Applicants must complete a **total of 40 hours** of work, observation or volunteering in at least two different types of physical therapy settings, under the supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. These hours must be completed within the two-year period prior to the date of your application; and must be documented on the **experience verification form**: <https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/physical-therapist-assistant/documents/updated-experience-verification-form-covid-19.pdf> (Update: See website for COVID-19 provisions and submit the essay, if required, with your application.)
6. Submission of your **official high school transcript** or GED certificate to the College.
7. Submission of **official college transcripts** from all colleges, universities, and any other educational institution attended, to the College (Tri-C transcripts can be obtained by our office.)
8. It is recommended that you request these transcripts at least 10-12 weeks prior to submission of your complete application packet.
9. Official transcript must be sent (not faxed) from the institution to the following address:
Cuyahoga Community College
Office of the Registrar
PO Box 5966
Cleveland, OH 44101
10. Your application will not be considered complete until all external transcripts have been evaluated by the registrar's office. This process takes 4-6 weeks.
11. Use the **PTA program application checklist** to ensure you have completed all steps in the process: <https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/physical-therapist-assistant/documents/pta-program-application-checklist.pdf>
12. Complete the electronic **Health Careers program application**: <https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/documents/hc-application.pdf>.
13. Submit application, including experience verification form, scanned attachments and essay, if required, to: healthcareers@tri-c.edu.
14. When all of these requirements are met and verified, the student's folder will be dated and submitted to the program director. The program director will make the final determination of acceptance and inform accepted students by email. It will be the student's responsibility to acknowledge acceptance of the position by completing and returning the PTA program acknowledgement form included with the email.

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

Physical Therapist Assisting

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND COURSE OF STUDY

Physical Therapist Assisting is a two-year program leading to an associate degree. The Associate of Applied Science degree will be awarded to students who complete the required number of credit hours in general education and in Physical Therapist Assisting Technology (PTAT) courses. The curriculum includes a series of organized, sequential, and integrated learning experiences that are based on a simple-to-complex and normal-to-abnormal intervention approach based on the American Physical Therapy Association's Guide to Physical Therapist Practice. The curriculum includes general education and basic sciences such as English, psychology, anatomy and physiology, as well as physical therapy techniques and skills. Planned clinical experiences will be provided in a variety of health care facilities to implement classroom theory in practical application. Students will also participate in the Preventative Care Center located on the Metropolitan Campus. There are no evening courses offered and the program is considered a full time curriculum. Outside employment while in the program is not always feasible due to course requirements and a variable class schedule.

THE MISSION OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING PROGRAM

The program is dedicated to providing students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to become confident, innovative and contributing physical therapist assistants. The program strives to develop students to assume a responsible role in society and a concern for all people, best met by combining technical education with basic liberal arts education that is provided within the community college framework.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING PROGRAM

The program is committed to educating students who believe in the dignity of the individual, and specifically in the right of the individual to receive skilled comprehensive health care in times of illness or impaired function, and who will participate in delivering such skilled health care as a competent physical therapist assistant working under the direction of a physical therapist. This educational process must foster leadership abilities and collaborative relationships within a changing health care environment that includes a dedication to lifelong learning, ethical values consistent with the profession, and service to a multicultural community.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

In its acknowledgment of diversity, the college respects and welcomes differences among people and will carry out its mission mindful of the differences in its community. Through its overall climate, the College will provide opportunities and reinforce understanding, appreciation and action, intended to maximize the potential of all students. It is the policy of Tri-C that all terms of employment and educational benefits will be administered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry, age, sexual orientation, disability or status as a disabled Vietnam-era veteran.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

All health career programs at Tri-C are considered as selective admission. These programs have a limited number of openings each year and have specific admission requirements that must be met prior to admission. The completion of a criminal background check (BCI) is one of the admission requirements to a Health Career program. The background checks are required in order to ascertain the ability of students to eventually become licensed, registered and/or certified in their health career profession, and the ability of students to attend mandatory clinical, practicum or internship rotations at internal and external facilities, in accordance with the requirements of the applicable program of study.

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Physical Therapist Assisting

OTHER REQUIRED FORMS

The Physical Therapist Assisting program requires the annual completion of a health form, a health insurance attestation, verification of immunizations, and American Heart Association's CPR certification prior to starting all clinical rotations. These requirements must be completed prior to beginning field experience in the summer following the first year of the program, and renewed before beginning clinical practicum.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE INFORMATION FOR HEALTH CAREER STUDENTS

Standard Precautions is an infection control practice that must be adhered to in order to prevent and control the spread of infection. All health career students are required to utilize universal precautions when caring for clients and when handling any bodily fluid or substance. Because of the risk to the fetus, pregnant students should be especially familiar with precautions for preventing the transmission of any infectious disease. Health career students shall adopt a standardized, comprehensive method of practicing Standard Precautions during all classroom and lab activities and with every client or patient interaction, to control the spread of infection.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING PROGRAM OUTCOMES

1. Safely administer effective treatment interventions as defined by the physical therapist's plan of care, adjusting to the patient's physical, emotional and cultural responses. Instruct and educate the patient, family and caregivers in continued care and injury prevention.
2. Educate others regarding the role and scope of practice of the physical therapist assistant in the implementation of the plan of care, as established by the supervising physical therapist, and communicate patient's status to the physical therapist.
3. Obtain pertinent data, recognizes changes and responses of patient conditions, and environmental hazards that jeopardize safety. Modify intervention within the plan of care and take appropriate action.
4. Act professionally and ethically according to the APTA Code of Ethics and Standard of Conduct including social responsibility, and commitment to patients and consumer needs, lifelong learning, and the physical therapy profession.
5. Identify and document operational performance improvements, and provide accurate and timely information for billing and reimbursement purposes.
6. Communicate verbally, nonverbally and in writing with members of the health care team in an appropriate, culturally sensitive, effective and capable manner.
7. Complete thorough, accurate, logical, concise, timely and legible manual and electronic documentation that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting and other regulatory agencies.
8. Sit for licensure examination.

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

Physical Therapist Assisting

In order to meet program outcomes and successfully complete the program, the following personal aptitudes and characteristics have been identified:

- Visual acuity to distinguish colors, read various scales and measurements on instrumentation, read the patient evaluation and medical record, and document in the medical chart. The ability to observe for asymmetry, range of motion, tissue texture changes, and other items necessary for proper evaluation and treatment integration.
- Manual dexterity, sensation, coordination of both gross and fine motor control, equilibrium, and stamina to work with various pieces of equipment and patients/clients of all body types, sizes and disabilities.
- Strength to perform medium work, which is further defined by the U.S. Department of Labor as “exerting 20 to 50 pounds of force occasionally (up to one-third of the time), and/or 10 to 25 pounds of force frequently (one-third to two-thirds of the time), and/or up to 10 pounds of force constantly to lift, carry, push, pull or otherwise move objects.” Use effective body mechanics to avoid self-injury.
- Verbal and written communications skills in standard business English necessary to effectively communicate with patients/clients of all ages and cognitive abilities, instructors, classmates, health care professionals, and the general public. The ability to understand and convey information essential for the safe and effective care of patients in a clear, concise and rapid fashion and use nonverbal commands appropriate for patients who do not understand verbal commands. The ability to relate information to, and receive information from, patients/clients in a caring, articulate and confidential manner, using eye contact during communication.
- According to the operating procedures of the Health Careers programs, students in health careers programs must become competent in interpersonal and communication skills to effectively interact with diverse population groups. The ability to communicate in English verbally and in writing is basic to the provision of Allied Health services in a safe and effective manner. Write a grammatically correct progress note that includes all elements of acceptable and reimbursable documentation.
- Freedom from medical and emotional/behavioral disorders that could limit the ability to efficiently perform the duties required of the profession.
- The emotional health and stability for full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities, the safe and effective care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients, family members and others.
- Ability to follow written and verbal instructions accurately and respond to direction, accept constructive criticism and describe own limitations.
- Capacity for calmness, emotional stability, reasoned judgment and the ability to react rapidly and appropriately in stressful or emergency situations.
- Adaptability to deal with quick changes in work environment or patient/client status. Ability to prioritize and handle multiple tasks.
- Positive interpersonal skills including cooperation, flexibility, tact, diplomacy, respect, maturity, discretion, honesty, compassion, integrity, motivation and the ability to serve as part of the health care team.
- Enjoy patient/client contact, and demonstrate the ability and willingness to work with a multicultural population and persons of all ages.

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Physical Therapist Assisting

- A self-directed learner who recognizes that lifelong learning is mandatory for the maintenance of health care professional expertise.
- Maintain patient/client confidentiality, observe patient rights and informed consent, and recognize the ethical implications of patient/client care.
- Ability to integrate information, knowledge, skills and problem-solving, and apply this to the critical reasoning needed for patient/client treatment and interaction.
- Display a professional image that includes poise, neatness and good hygiene.

