

**General Admission Requirements for  
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute  
Associate Degree  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

**The deadline for completion of all admission requirements is June 15, 2024,  
to be considered to begin the PTA courses in spring 2025.**

**All documentation must be received by the appropriate personnel by the above date.**

***GENERAL INFORMATION  
PTA Program Mission Statement and Philosophy***

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Physical Therapist Assistant Program is a 1 + 1 program serving Caldwell and Watauga county areas. The Physical Therapist Program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. The PTA program provides qualified students instruction in highly effective lecture, lab, and clinical courses. Associate level PTA graduates, upon successful completion of the national Physical Therapist Assistant exam, are ready for entry-level employment in diverse physical therapy settings. To better serve the regional needs of the Physical Therapy community, CCCTI's PTA Program is designed to support transfer students from other community colleges and universities. It is the philosophy of the PTA program faculty that focused and determined students can achieve their goal of becoming a licensed physical therapist assistant through prioritizing social and family commitments, a strong commitment to learning, and hard work within the established curriculum. See the PTA web page for additional information: <http://www.cccti.edu/PTA/Default.asp#page=page-1>.

***APPLICATION/ADMISSIONS PROCESS***

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's mission and philosophy includes the process to establish fair and equitable student guidelines for admission and progression. It is the PTA applicant's responsibility to ensure that all requirements are met by the established deadline. Physical Therapist Assistant program deadlines, guidelines, and policies apply equally to all students.

Admission requirements for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program must be received by CCCTI's admissions office by the stated deadline of **June 15, 2024**. All requirements must be completed and submitted for consideration of admission.

The PTA program is accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). CCCTI is approved by CAPTE to admit up to 24 students per year. CCCTI utilizes a competitive admissions process. Applicants who meet all admissions requirements by the published deadline are ranked according to criteria specified in this document. The students with the highest accumulated point totals are offered admission into the PTA program. The PTA program is offered on the Caldwell Campus in Hudson.

**Admission requirements include:**

1. **Program GPA requirement** – Program GPA must be **2.75** or higher as of the deadline for the current application period. Program GPA is defined as any and all PTA program related general education coursework completed at CCCTI or other accredited institutions. Developmental English, reading, and math courses are NOT included in this calculation. To gain points in the admission criteria, a grade of “C” or better must be obtained in any completed general education coursework. Refer to the “Progression Policy” section for more information about the PTA program’s GPA requirement.
2. **College Application** – Available online at [www.cccti.edu](http://www.cccti.edu).
3. **High school transcript/high school equivalency** - A high school graduate should request an official transcript to be sent to CCC&TI indicating date of graduation. This is required even if the applicant holds a college degree.  
Applicants with a high school equivalency must provide official documentation to CCC&TI from the granting institution.  
Reproduced copies of documents are not acceptable.
4. **College transcripts** - The applicant should request colleges to mail transcripts directly to CCC&TI.  
If currently enrolled at another college, request a transcript now and another one at the completion of courses.  
College transcripts must be received and evaluated in order to determine placement test exemption and/or awarding of college transfer credit.
5. **Gateway English and math readiness**  
Applicant must be eligible to enter the program required gateway (college-level) English and math courses without a co-requisite or have successfully passed English and math transition courses as follows:

ENG 002 with a grade of P2

MAT 003 with a grade of P2

Contact one of the following in the Health Sciences Admissions Office for questions about English and math readiness:

**Caldwell Campus**

Last Names A-F: Amy Huffman 828.726.2710 or [ahuffman@cccti.edu](mailto:ahuffman@cccti.edu)

Last Names G-L: Cristian McLaughlin 828.726.2704 or [cmclaughlin@cccti.edu](mailto:cmclaughlin@cccti.edu)

Last Names M-Z: Ruthie Price 828-726-2711 or [rprice@cccti.edu](mailto:rprice@cccti.edu)

**Watauga Campus**

Movita Hurst 828-297-3811 \*5200 or [mhurst@cccti.edu](mailto:mhurst@cccti.edu)

6. **Information Session:** To become a qualified applicant, all students must complete an Information Session with the program director, Heather Bowman: <https://cccti.event451.sites.451.io/event/559409> or sign up by scanning the provided QR code.



**After you attend the Physical Therapist Assistant Information session,** a confirmation form will be emailed to you. You will need to complete this confirmation form to receive credit for completing this requirement.

7. **PTA Observation hours:** 24 hours of observation required (refer to #4 of the *Overview of Point System* on page 6 in this document). All hours must be completed and documented appropriately before submitting them to the Health Sciences Admissions Office for review.
8. **TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)** - Please see institutional requirement for students available in the college catalog if English is not your native language.
9. **PTA Program Entrance Testing** – The applicant must schedule and complete the most current ATI-TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) admission test with an overall score of at least **60** and a reading score of at least **50**. If applicants take the TEAS at CCC&TI, TEAS scores are automatically recorded in the applicant's record.

Applicants who do not take the TEAS at CCC&TI must provide official score reports from [ATI](http://ATI) ([www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com)) to the Health Sciences Admission Office before the program admission deadline.

Regardless of the test site, TEAS scores older than 2 years will not be considered. Valid scores must have been earned within two (2) years of the current program admission deadline. No more than 2 attempts are allowed within an academic year (August 1 – July 31). The highest overall score with a qualified reading score will be applied to the point calculation work sheet to determine ranking. For additional details, please see the Sample Points Tabulation Sheet.

**Study Resources for the ATI-TEAS Exam:**

- **Online study materials (PLATO)** are also available for the TEAS. Contact Tj Wilkie at [twilkie@cccti.edu](mailto:twilkie@cccti.edu) to obtain required login information.
- **Additional online study resources:**  
<https://www.mometrix.com/blog/ati-teas-7-test-breakdown/>  
<https://www.prenursingsmarter.com/teas-practice-test/>
- Students may also purchase personal resource material (**ATI-TEAS Study Manual**) from the ATI webpage [www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com), or local/online bookstores.

**Schedule TEAS exam** by calling CCC&TI Caldwell Testing Center at 828-726-2719 or Watauga Testing Center at 828-297-3811. Please check the center's open hours for

operation. The exam has a 3 hour and 48-minute time limit. The following link has information for what you need to know before taking the TEAS test:  
<https://www.cccti.edu/Students/Testing-ATI-TEAS.asp>.

**Pay testing fee** to take the TEAS exam. This fee is paid directly to ATI on-line the day you take the test. ATI's testing fee is currently \$70 and subject to change without notification.

**Name and Password** must be set up in order to test and establish a password for future account access and reference.

10. **MAR (Minimum Admissions Requirements) Review** - Contact the Health Sciences Admissions Office to request the MAR Review as soon as ALL the above admissions requirements (steps 1-9) have been completed. During the MAR Review, the Health Sciences Admissions Office will review your file for completion. If all admissions requirements have been met, you will be included in the pool of qualified applicants who will be ranked for admission according to your total point calculation. Request the MAR review by contacting one of the following:

**Caldwell Campus**

Last Names A-F: Amy Huffman 828.726.2710 or [ahuffman@cccti.edu](mailto:ahuffman@cccti.edu)

Last Names G-L: Cristian McLaughlin 828.726.2704 or [cmclaughlin@cccti.edu](mailto:cmclaughlin@cccti.edu)

Last Names M-Z: Ruthie Price 828-726-2711 or [rprice@cccti.edu](mailto:rprice@cccti.edu)

**Watauga Campus**

Movita Hurst 828-297-3811 \*5200 or [mhurst@cccti.edu](mailto:mhurst@cccti.edu)

11. Only one prior admission to any physical therapist assistant program will be allowed.
- *Completion of all admission requirements is not a guarantee of acceptance. Available student seating for the program is approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).*
  - When considering whether to admit an individual into a specific program of study, the College shall take into account that federal law prohibits states from granting professional licenses to undocumented immigrants. Furthermore, graduation from a CCC&TI health science program alone does not guarantee that the student has met all eligibility requirements for licensure, certification, or registry required in order to practice in the related medical field. Prospective students should contact the appropriate agency prior to enrollment if they have any questions concerning their eligibility for credentialing examinations and legal ability to practice.

## ***NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE***

The students with the highest point totals will be notified of acceptance to the 2024 Physical Therapist Assistant Program via letter mailed approximately one week after the PTA admission deadline. Additionally, other applicants will be notified of their admission status as either “alternate,” “complete,” or “incomplete.” All students must respond to their notification letter as requested and by the established deadline in order to remain in consideration for future acceptance. Responsive alternate and complete applicants may be considered (by order of point ranking) if an accepted student declines or is disqualified before the start of the program.

## ***OVERVIEW OF POINT SYSTEM PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM***

A point system will be used as an objective means for evaluating PTA applicants. Students must meet all admissions requirements before they are ranked for admission into the summer class. PTA applicants are ranked in order according to the present applicant pool. Admission is then based on the point totals. Acceptance letters will be mailed by mid-February. The PTA cohort will begin coursework the next semester.

- 1. Points for grades earned from College Level Classes.** PTA applicants may earn points for the completion of the following courses. In order to earn points for college courses, applicants must have achieved grade of "C" or higher. Students may receive points for only one course in each category. In order to receive credit for AP courses, official grade reports for the AP examination must be submitted.

| <b>Category</b> | <b>Class</b>   |
|-----------------|--|
| Category I      | ENG 111  |
|                 | High School AP 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade English (only if AP exam score of 3 or greater earned on AP English Language & Comp. exam) |
| Category II     | ACA 115 or 122   |
| Category III    | BIO 168  |
| Category IV     | BIO 169  |

*Transfer credits will be evaluated by the Registrar's Office and adhere to CCC&TI's transfer credit policies. Credit for PTA courses from other schools will be evaluated and awarded as appropriate by the Director of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.*

**2. Points for other earned credentials:**

**Nurse Aide I Or II Certification** - Submit a copy of current registry listing from the North Carolina Division of Facility Services (<https://ncnar.ncdhhs.gov/index1.jsp>) with no substantial findings to the Health Sciences Admissions Office by the stated application deadline.

**Licensed Massage & Bodywork Therapist** - Submit a copy of current license from the North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapists. The applicant must also be currently listed with NC BMBT (<http://bmbt.org/index.html>) with no substantial findings.

| <b>Certification/Licensure</b> | <b>Points</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Certified Nursing Assistant I  | 2 points      |
| Certified Nursing Assistant II | 3 points      |
| Massage & Bodywork Therapist   | 3 points      |

**3. Points for work experience**

PTA applicants earn **5 points** for employment as a physical therapy technician or a rehabilitation technician. In order to earn points for work experience, applicants must have worked as a PT tech or rehab for at least 2,000 hours at the application deadline of June 15. Applicants must provide proof of employment from employer on company letterhead. Contact information of the employer to verify this employment must be included in the letter.

**4. Points for observation hours**

PTA applicants earn points for observation of physical therapy practice. It is the responsibility of the applicant to schedule and meet all facility requirements while observing physical therapy services. Observation hours are not covered under clinical contracts with facilities. The applicant must remember he/she is a guest in the facilities where they are observing. The student must request the permission to observe each patient, their physical therapy interventions or care. The applicant must honor any patient's wish to not participate in the applicant's observation. Any private patient health information obtained during any observation is strictly confidential and may not be shared with anyone other than the health care provider supplying the services being observed.

| <b>Observation Hours</b> | <b>Points</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 24 Hours (required)      | 0 points      |
| 25-50 Hours              | 2 points      |
| 51-100 Hours             | 5 points      |

Each applicant is required to obtain **24 hours** in direct **observation** of physical therapy services (work experience does not count toward observation hours). These observation hours must also be obtained in 3 specific settings:

- i. 8 hours in hospital-based services,
- ii. 8 hours in skilled nursing care or some form of long-term care facility, and
- iii. 8 hours in other setting of your choice (not to duplicate the same facility for hospital based or skilled nursing facility / long term care)

Applicants must submit proof of observation hours by using the **Documentation of Shadow/Observation Time** form on pages 8 & 9 or submit letter on company letterhead from the facility including:

1. The name of the facility
2. The practice setting observed (hospital based, skilled nursing, etc.)
3. The number of hours spent in observation at the facility
4. The name and license number of the PT or PTA the applicant observed with

\*\*\*Forging or tampering with letters documenting observation hours will be considered academic dishonesty. Applicants found with falsified records will forfeit any chance at acceptance into the PTA program\*\*\*

NOTE: For each setting, the student must observe in 4-hour increments to count toward acquired hours. Therefore, each student will either observe 2 half days of 4 hours each in each setting, or 1 full day of 8 hours in each of the settings as indicated above. Any session shorter than 4 hours will not count and any session greater than 4 hours, but less than 8 hours, will be counted only as 4 hours.

#### **5. Points for ATI-TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills)**

PTA applicants earn points for the TEAS Exam. In order to earn points for TEAS, applicants must have achieved a score of at least **60** and a score of at least **50 on the Reading section**. Regardless of the test site, TEAS scores older than 2 years will not be considered. Valid scores must have been earned within two (2) years of the current program admission deadline. No more than 2 attempts are allowed within an academic year (August 1 – July 31). Scores are not rounded up (a score of 59.7% does not meet the minimum required score). Additionally, decimal places are dropped in the assigning of points for the TEAS score (a score of 73.9% equates to 73). *The student's highest qualifying score from the TEAS test will be applied to the total points for ranking in the class.*

- Applicant's point count is confidential; please do not call to inquire about your point count. To protect your privacy, point count totals will not be discussed over the telephone. Individual appointments can be made with the Health Sciences Admissions Coordinator to review your point count. To protect your privacy, it will be necessary to show a picture ID at the time of your appointment.
- In the event that more than one applicant has the same total point count, the students will be ranked according to the following in the order listed:
  1. TEAS score (Total Score)
  2. Program GPA

**Documentation of Shadow/Observation Time**  
**Must complete in increments of at least 4 hours**

**Facility Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Observation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(i.e. hospital based, skilled nursing, other)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours Shadowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Facility Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Observation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(i.e. hospital based, skilled nursing, other)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours Shadowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Facility Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Observation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(i.e. hospital based, skilled nursing, other)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours Shadowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Submit to Health Science Admissions office after 24 hours are completed\***



(continued)

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

(i.e. hospital based, skilled nursing, other)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours Shadowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

(i.e. hospital based, skilled nursing, other)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours Shadowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

(i.e. hospital based, skilled nursing, other)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours Shadowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

(i.e. hospital based, skilled nursing, other)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours Shadowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sample Points Tabulation Sheet

| Item  | Description  | Points Earned | Possible Points   |
|---|--|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Completed Academic Courses<br><i>***Applicants receive no more than 7 points per category<br/>           ***Points are awarded based upon grading scale: A=7, B=4, C=2</i> | <b>Category a</b> - ENG 111 or High School AP English (only if AP exam score of 3 or greater earned on AP English Language & Comp. exam) |               | (28 points total) |
|   | <b>Category b</b> – ACA 115 or ACA 122   |               | A = 7             |
|   | <b>Category c</b> - BIO 168  |               | B = 4             |
|   | <b>Category d</b> - BIO 169  |               | C = 2             |
| 2. Certifications   | Certified Nursing Assistant I  |               | 2                 |
|   | Certified Nursing Assistant II   |               | 3                 |
|   | Massage & Bodywork Therapist   |               | 3                 |
|   | Physical Therapy Technician, Physical Therapy Aide, or Rehab Tech  |               | 3                 |
| 3. Related Work Experience  | Physical Therapy Technician, Physical Therapy Aide, or Rehab Tech  |               | 5                 |
| 4. Observation Hours  | 24 Hours (Required)  |               | 0                 |
|   | 25-50 Hours  |               | 2                 |
|   | 51-100+ Hours  |               | 5                 |
| 5. TEAS Test Scores<br><i>***Score is multiplied by 0.1 to determine points earned</i>  | Reading Score (Minimum score 50.0)   |               | 10                |
|   | Total Score (Minimum score 60.0)   |               | 10                |
| 6. TOTAL  |  |               |                   |

## **AFTER BEING NOTIFIED OF ACCEPTANCE**

*Students will be notified by mail once they have been officially accepted into the Physical Therapist Assistant program. The acceptance letter will include further information and direction to submit the following documentation in order to be eligible for clinical participation within the program:*

- Current CPR certification. One of the following is required: American Heart Association Basic Life Support Provider course OR American Red Cross Professional Rescuer or Healthcare Provider OR National Safety Council Healthcare Provider. A copy of the CPR certification should be submitted by the **deadline established by the program director**.
- An accurate and satisfactory completed student medical form (health form), which includes appropriate documentation of immunizations by the health care provider or county health department and physical exam results, must be submitted to Castlebranch Medical Document Management by the deadline stated in the acceptance letter. The physical examination includes completion of the Essential Requirements for Physical Therapy Education form. **Each student will be responsible for the cost of the electronic health form tracking.** Requirements include current TB (2 step PPD) skin test (within 12 months), mumps/measles/rubella blood titer or vaccine, proof of chicken pox immunity by vaccination or blood titer, and current immunizations for tetanus and diphtheria. Some facilities may require influenza vaccine. It is required to complete and submit a COVID-19 vaccination status form. More information about this form and how to access it are at the provided link under Vaccination Protocols: <https://www.cccti.edu/COVID-19/Default.asp>. The PTA student is also encouraged to obtain Hepatitis B immunizations. Otherwise, the decision to decline the Hepatitis B immunizations must be formally documented.
- **Criminal background checks/Drug screening/ other expectations:**
  1. Criminal background checks and/or drug screenings are required for the student to participate in the clinical component of each PTA course. A signed acknowledgement statement must have been submitted to the Health Sciences Admissions office as an admissions requirement (see PTA admissions requirement #6 – Information Session). All costs associated with criminal background checks and drug screenings are the responsibility of the student.
  2. The students will assume responsibility for all health care or emergency room costs they might incur during their clinical rotations.
  3. The student will assume the responsibility for travel to and from the clinical site and all associated costs.
  4. The student will complete a final evaluation of all clinical rotation sites, including faculty and educational experience.
- **Progression policy** - A grade of “D” or “F” in any general education coursework must be repeated and completed with a grade of “C” or above as outlined in the PTA curriculum sequence in order to progress to the technical phase of the program. Additionally, all PTA prefixed courses must be completed with a final grade point average of 3.0 or above while maintaining a 2.75 program GPA. Failure to maintain this program standard will result in student dismissal from the program. Refer to the PTA Program Manual for further details.

## **Essential Requirements of Physical Therapy Education: Admission, Retention & Graduation Standards:**

Students enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at CCCTI must demonstrate competence in various intellectual, physical and social aspects, which represent the fundamentals of professional Physical Therapy practice upon graduation. The PTA curriculum provides the general, technical and clinical education required to enable the student to independently deliver entry-level clinical services in an array of health settings. All students must meet the minimum criteria established by the Commission of Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and the PTA Program at CCCTI.

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ensures qualified applicants to public institutions the ability to pursue program admission; however, the applicant must meet essential requirements. All students admitted to the PTA Program will be held to the same standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

The following functions are considered essential requirements for admission, retention and graduation in CCCTI's PTA Program. The purpose of these functions is to ensure PTA students provide safe, competent and timely care to patients receiving physical therapy services.

**Mobility/Motor Skills:** Sufficient motor ability (balance, coordination, speed and agility) and strength to move independently throughout a clinical setting, to move equipment/patients, and to ensure safe and effective treatment interventions. Examples (Not Inclusive):

- Assist and safely guard patients during mobility tasks (walking, transferring, exercising, and other Physical Therapy treatment procedures).
- Independently transition in and out of postures, including bending, kneeling, sitting, crawling, standing and walking for a minimum of 90 minutes without rest.
- Manipulate equipment and patients involving squatting to the floor, reaching above head, pulling/lifting or guiding weight in excess of 100 lbs.
- Demonstrate the dexterity required to manipulate devices/equipment commonly utilized in Physical Therapy interventions, including gauges, dials, small nuts/bolts/screws, and other equipment components.

**Sensory Abilities:** Sufficient auditory, visual and tactile ability to monitor and assess health needs of patients. *Examples* (Not Inclusive):

- Auditory (corrected or not): recognize soft voices/sounds, voices under protective garb, equipment signals, calls for assistance up to 10 ft. away, measurement of vital signs and breath sounds in often active/loud environments.
- Visual (corrected or not): recognize non-verbal responses including facial expressions and body language; observe and measure color changes, movement patterns, equipment settings; assess environmental situation up to 20 feet away.
- Tactile: palpation of musculoskeletal landmarks, pulse; identify skin temperature/texture changes, muscle tone and joint movement. Provide competent interventions including massage/soft tissue mobilization techniques, manual contact/resistance during functional and exercise training.

**Communication Skills:** Sufficient communication abilities in English for written (printed and typed), verbal (direct and telecommunications) and non-verbal communication with patients, families and other health care providers in the clinical environment. Examples (Not Inclusive):

- Speak, hear and observe individuals/groups in order to elicit information and communicate effectively in verbal and non-verbal formats.
- Attain, comprehend and utilize information presented in written and verbal format and produce appropriate written documentation, including treatment logs, medical records and billing. Use appropriate medical terminology and correct spelling/grammar.
- Communicate appropriately/professionally to individuals from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds (employ culture competence). This includes explaining and teaching physical therapy procedures and answering questions posed by others.

**Behavioral/Social Interpersonal Skills:** Sufficient behavior and social abilities to interact and work collaboratively with individuals, groups, and families. Examples (Not Inclusive):

- Ability to establish rapport and participate effectively as a team member in patient care delivery, including the ability to ascertain and honor the chain of command native to healthcare settings.
- Manage physically-taxing workloads and emotional stress.
- Demonstrate the ability to adapt to rapidly changing situations/environments without warning. Show flexibility and coping skills to function in fast paced clinical situations with multiple psychosocial issues presenting.
- Ability to define and navigate appropriate interpersonal boundaries between patient and caregiver, including sensitivity to the inherent power differential and patient vulnerability.

**Intellectual/Problem-Solving Skills:** Sufficient ability to collect, interpret and integrate information for sound clinical decision making. Must be able to understand 3 dimensional and spatial relationships of structures, and discern complex information for good clinical judgments.

- Observation and measurements of patient responses to physical therapy interventions. Ability to recognize normal and abnormal responses and appropriately decide modifications to treatment procedures.
- Respond to emergency situations, including first aid and CPR.
- Recognizing treatment effectiveness, relate treatment rationale to patients and others, consult with Physical Therapist or other health team members as indicated.
- Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, medical records, and professional publications.

**Please Note: Meeting these requirements does not assure (1) the ability of the graduate to pass state licensing examinations, nor (2) functions which may be required for employment of the graduate.**

Compiled from Technical Standards and Essential Requirements documents from the following academic institutions:

Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville, NC - Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC - Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Guilford Technical Community College, Jamestown, NC - Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
East Carolina University, Greenville, NC - Department of Physical Therapy  
Nash Community College, Rocky Mount, NC - PTA Program  
Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC - Department of Physical Therapy

Other Resources:

Ingram D. Essential functions required of physical therapist assistant and physical therapy students. *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 1994; 8:57-59.

Ingram D. Opinions of physical therapy education program directors on essential functions. *Physical Therapy*. 1997; 77:37-46.

### ***Legal Limitations of Licensure***

*PTA applicants should be aware that the application for licensure at the completion of the program might be denied or restricted by the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners for the following reasons:*

- The student practiced fraud or deceit in attempting to procure a physical therapist assistant license.
- The student has been convicted of a misdemeanor/felony (excluding minor traffic violations).
- The student is mentally or physically incompetent or uses any drug that interferes with ability to assist with the practice of physical therapy.
- The student engages in conduct which endangers the public health.

If the student has questions with regard to the NCBPTE requirements, they should contact the board at (919) 490-6393. More details can be found at <https://www2.ncptboard.org/documents/InformationBrochure.pdf>

Caldwell Campus Disability Services  
Telephone: 828-726-2746

Watauga Campus Disability Services  
Telephone: 828-297-3811 ext. 5263

## Physical Therapist Assistant (A45640) | 70 Total Credits

### Suggested Course Sequence

The following is the suggested sequence for when to take each course to complete the Associate in Applied Science degree, based on the 2023-24 catalog. This sequence is based on starting with college-level math and English courses (gateway ready), starting in the fall semester, and attending full-time. Speak with your admissions specialist about sequences for attending part-time and best strategies for sequence completion for competitive entry.

| <b>GENERAL EDUCATION</b>   |   | Cr Hrs.   |
|--|---|-----------|
| <b>Fall Semester I: 14 Credits</b>   | BIO 168 Anatomy and Physiology I          | 4         |
|  | ENG 111 Writing and Inquiry               | 3         |
|  | COM 120 Interpersonal Communication       | 3         |
|  | ACA 115 Success & Study Skills            | 1         |
|  | Humanities Elective ***                   | 3         |
|  |   |           |
| <b>Spring Semester I: 14 Credits</b>   | BIO 169 Anatomy and Physiology II         | 4         |
|  | PSY 150 General Psychology                | 3         |
|  | PHY 110 Conceptual Physics                | 3         |
|  | PHY 110A Conceptual Physics lab           | 1         |
|  |   |           |
| <b>Admission Deadline 6/15</b> – Accepted students will be notified late June and will begin the technical phase in spring semester. All general education courses must be completed with a 2.75 grade point average and prior to beginning the technical phase. |   |           |
|  |   |           |
| <b>TECHNICAL PHASE</b>   |   |           |
| <b>Spring Semester: 10 Credits</b>   | PTA 125 Gross and Functional Anatomy      | 5         |
| (Take PTA courses AFTER notification of acceptance)  | PTA 110 Introduction to Physical Therapy  | 3         |
|  | PTA 222 Professional Interactions         | 2         |
|  |   |           |
| <b>Summer Semester: 7 Credits</b>  | PTA 215 Therapeutic Exercise              | 3         |
|  | PTA 135 Pathology                         | 4         |
|  |   |           |
| <b>Fall Semester: 16 Credits</b>   | PTA 145 Therapeutic Procedures            | 4         |
|  | PTA 155 PTA Clinical I                    | 2         |
|  | PTA 212 Health Care / Resources           | 2         |
|  | PTA 225 Introduction to Rehabilitation    | 4         |
|  | PTA 175 PTA Clinical II                   | 2         |
|  |   |           |
| <b>Spring Semester: 14 Credits</b>   | PTA 245 PTA Clinical III                  | 4         |
|  | PTA 235 Neurological Rehabilitation       | 5         |
|  | PTA 255 PTA Clinical IV                   | 4         |
|  | PTA 270 Select Topics in Physical Therapy | 1         |
|  |   |           |
|  | <b>Total Hours</b>                        | <b>70</b> |

***Estimated PTA Program Costs (In-state students)***

| <b>Expenses</b>  | <b>Amount</b>   |
|--|---|
| <b><i>TUITION</i></b>  | <p><i>\$76.00 per credit hour</i></p> <p><i>\$35 per semester student activity fee (fall &amp; spring)</i></p> <p><i>\$3 per course for summer semester</i></p> <p><i>\$2 per course Campus Services Fee</i></p>  |
| <p><b><i>MISCELLANEOUS FEES</i></b></p> <p><i>All fees are subject to change.</i></p>  | <p><i>\$26.00 Malpractice Insurance Fee (\$13.00 paid fall semester of each year)</i></p> <p><i>\$12.00 Accident Insurance (\$6.00 paid fall semester of each year)</i></p> <p><i>\$142.75 Criminal Background Check, Drug Screen, &amp; Immunization Tracker</i></p> <p><i>\$25.00 Graduation Fee</i></p> <p><i>\$90.00 APTA Dues</i></p> <p><i>\$640.00 NC Licensure Fee &amp; Exam Center Fee</i></p> <p><i>\$90.00 PEAT</i></p> <p><i>\$120 PTA CPI &amp; CSI Web</i></p> |
| <p><b><i>Additional Costs for Program</i></b></p> <p><i>Attire &amp; Equipment</i></p> | <p><i>\$400.00 Required PTA shirts, sports bra, and shorts estimate includes <u>minimum</u> 4 sets of attire, and 1 lab coat, lab supply kit, stethoscope, etc.</i></p>   |
| <i>Textbooks</i>   |   |
| <i>Travel</i>  | <p><i>\$2000.00 Required textbooks: Variable but ranges from approximately \$350-\$550.00 each semester</i></p> <p><i>\$1500.00: Variable, but student must have transportation to and from class and clinical assignments.</i></p>   |
| <b><i>Estimated Total</i></b>  | <b><i>\$11,265.00</i></b>   |

- *Many above costs are speculative and are subject to change according to the General Assembly of North Carolina, CCCTI, and Physical Therapist Assistant Program.*



- **For additional information, please contact:**

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|   |
|---|
| <p><i>Since health program standards are mandated by accrediting and regulatory agencies, revisions to the above information may be necessary. Efforts will be made to keep changes to a minimum and finalized one year in advance of the starting date of the program; however, the college reserves the right to revise any part or section as necessary.</i></p> |
|---|

*This application process is reviewed on an annual basis.*

Revised 04/24/24