



Dear Potential PTA Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our Program! Enclosed please find the Curriculum Plan and Information Sheet regarding selection procedures for acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Please check our website, www.occc.edu/health/pta.html for the latest information and application to our program.

There is a selective admissions process using a preference point system because there are more applicants than available spaces in the program. The current application is available on our website beginning in November each year and has a \$20 selective admissions fee that must be paid at the time of application. The deadline for the application to be received by the Office of Admissions and Recruitment is 12:00 pm on **the first Friday in March** for a fall entry into the program. If the student has not attended OCCC, there is a \$30.00 OCCC enrollment fee with the first class attended. We begin with one class of 20 students each fall. The PTA classes are held in the late afternoons and evenings but occasional daytime participation is required, primarily the clinical education practicums. These courses involve a total 18 weeks of clinical experience in selected physical therapy settings and occur **during the day Monday through Friday** in the 3rd and 5th semesters of the program. They will require transportation off campus.

Additionally, applicants must have COMPLETED Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO 1314) or semester-long college-level Human Anatomy course and Human Physiology course with a minimum grade of “C” prior to beginning the fall semester of the PTA program. Although this is not considered a pre-requisite to apply to the program, having a background in anatomy and physiology is very important to help each student grasp the concepts presented in the first semester PTA classes.

The OCCC PTA Program is a two-year integrated program, meaning that it takes two years (five semesters including the summer clinical practicum) to complete the PTA portion and receive the Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant Degree, regardless of any courses that have already been completed, degrees earned, or work experience. I strongly suggest observing in the physical therapy field to insure that the student's personal attributes and interests match the job requirements of a physical therapist assistant. The physical therapist assistant degree is NOT a stepping stone toward the doctorate in physical therapy degree.

For students to successfully complete the PTA Program and become licensed, they must be able to meet all cognitive and behavioral objectives listed on the individual course syllabi and demonstrate competency of all required skills. Clinical agencies also have requirements in place that all students must meet. Students who do not meet the agency requirements will not be able complete the clinical practicums. This means that these student(s) cannot successfully pass the course(s) which require clinical performance and cannot be successful in the program. Please see the attachment regarding essential functions of the PTA for activity requirements.

Currently, the cost of in-state tuition and fees is \$135.29 per credit hour (2019-2020). There are a total of 72 credit hours required for the PTA degree including the general education and support courses. Estimated costs associated with the PTA Program are available on the website. All students must purchase medical malpractice liability insurance, which is available through the bursar's office (*estimated cost, \$30.00 each year in the program*). This must be purchased annually within three weeks after PTA classes begin each fall. Verification of

immunizations including: two negative tuberculosis (TB or PPD) tests, two MMR vaccinations, two chicken pox (varicella) vaccinations, TDaP, influenza, and a series of three hepatitis B vaccinations or a signed declination letter will be required. It is recommended for the students who are accepted to bring those copies to the new PTA student orientation to complete their files. The other requirement is a current Healthcare Provider level CPR documentation, The CPR and the TB must remain current throughout the PTA Program to comply with clinical requirements.

Due to clinical agency requirements, all students must obtain an extensive, nationwide Background Report which includes, but is not limited to, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) searches for sex offender, violent offender, and criminal history. The background report must occur within 3 months prior to the first day of class. The procedure and fee (\$42.50) are explained in more detail when acceptance materials are mailed. Clinical agency representative(s) review the reports that have a criminal history. The facility alone can accept or deny clinical access to a student. If a student is denied access to the clinical sites he/she will be unable to successfully complete the course or the program. Additionally, drug testing is also required for all students in the Division of Health Professions. Each student will receive a random drug test prior to the first clinical assignment. The \$40.00 fee must be paid online along with the background check. Any break in continuous enrollment will require the student to complete a new background report and random drug screen before participating in a clinical practicum at any facility. **Failure of the drug test, as confirmed by the Medical Review Officer, will result in the student being removed from the course and the program. Students may apply for readmission based on the procedure specific to the program, but admission is not guaranteed. Failure of a second drug test will result in dismissal from the program with no opportunity for readmission to any of the OCCC Health Professions Programs.**

In the past two years (2017, 2018 graduates), 95.12% of students who were admitted to the PTA Program graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree and 95% of the PTA graduates have successfully passed the national board exam becoming licensed physical therapist assistants. Our program graduates enjoy 100% job placement with starting salaries in the \$40,000-\$50,000 range depending on practice setting. We are fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education and were the first accredited PTA program in Oklahoma. The clinical community strongly supports this program as evidenced by the participation in our clinical education program, Program Advisory Committee, and graduate job placement.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have further questions, please feel free to call either Academic Advising at 682-1611 extension 7535 or myself at 682-1611 extension 7305. Good Luck to you!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ball, PT, MHR, ATC
PTA Program Director

ADMISSIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

- Applications for admissions to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program may be obtained online at www.occc.edu/health/pta.html. Application periods are once per year with deadlines occurring in early spring.
- Applicants must first qualify for admission to Oklahoma City Community College according to the criteria for admission, including a \$30.00 first time enrollment fee for OCCC and a \$20.00 selective application fee for the PTA Program as stated in the current College Catalog.
- It is very important that individuals interested in applying to the PTA Program begin by meeting with an advisor to ensure admissions criteria has been met.
- There are basic application requirements (reading, writing, math tests, and GPA) which must be met to qualify for application consideration. Once these basic application requirements are met, the applicant is placed on a candidate list in order of the total number of preference points earned. Although preference points are optional, they are the means for selection of each class admitted to the PTA Program. In the event of duplicate preference points, GPA is used to rank the candidates in each preference point category.
- Only completed applications will be accepted. They must include all documents, fee receipt, transcripts, test scores, and work experience forms. Preference points will be assigned according to existing criteria. **No additions or revisions may be made to an application once submitted.**
- An official transcript from **each** of the colleges/universities attended must be submitted with the application.
- When meeting with an advisor to plan semester courses and determine application preference points, it is helpful to bring copies of transcripts from outside colleges/universities attended.
- Applications will be considered for the specified application period only.
- Applicants not selected may reapply for admission during the next application cycle. There is no limit to the number of times the applicant may apply.
- A cohort of 20 students is selected for the PTA Program each fall.
- For students to successfully complete any of the programs in Health Professions, they must be able to meet all the cognitive and behavioral objectives listed in the course syllabi and demonstrate competency on all required skills. PTA essential functions can be found in the PTA Student Handbook. Students with disabling conditions who require accommodation to meet objectives or demonstrate required skills must contact OCCC Student Support Services at (405) 682-7520.
- Clinical Agencies have requirements in place that all students must meet. Students who do not meet agency requirements will not be able to attend that clinical. That means that those students cannot successfully pass the course(s) that require clinical performance and cannot be successful in the PTA program.

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE-72 CH

COURSES			CREDIT HOURS
FRESHMAN YEAR			
Summer			
BIO	1314	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	<u>4</u>
			4
1ST Semester			
SCL	1001	Success in College and Life	1
PTA	1013	Introduction to Physical Therapy	3
PTA	1023	Dynamic Human Motion	3
PTA	1213	PT Procedures I	3
BIO	1414	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENGL	1113	English Composition I	<u>3</u>
			17
2ND Semester			
PTA	1112	Pathology for Physical Rehabilitation	2
PTA	1224	Therapeutic Exercise I	4
PTA	2014	PT Procedures II	4
PTA	1151	Clinical Prep I	1
BIO	2102	Clinical Anatomy	2
COM	1123	Interpersonal Communications	OR
COM	2213	Introduction to Public Speaking	OR
SOC	2143	Race and Ethnicity in US	<u>3</u>
			16
Summer			
PTA	1312	Initial Practicum	2
SOPHOMORE YEAR			
1ST Semester			
PTA	1202	Development, Conditions & Treatment Across the Lifespan	2
PTA	2024	Therapeutic Exercise II	4
PTA	2113	PTA Systems/Problems	3
PTA	2021	Clinical Prep II	1
PSY	1113	General Psychology	3
ENGL	1233	Report Writing	OR
ENGL	1213	English Composition II	<u>3</u>
			16
2ND Semester			
PTA	2034	Practicum I (first 8 weeks)	4
PTA	2134	Practicum II (second 8 weeks)	4
PSY	1403	Developmental Psychology	3
PS	1113	American Federal Government	3
HIST	1483	US History to 1877	OR
	1493	US History from 1877 to Present	<u>3</u>
			17

**For the courses that indicate OR, the student may choose which course to take to complete the credit hour requirement in that area of study from the courses listed.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

I understand the physical and cognitive requirements of this program to be strenuous. I must be able to meet the following *Essential functions*:

1. Read, write and spell at the collegiate level
2. Demonstrate common sense, problem solving abilities, and sound judgment
3. Communicate effectively verbally and in writing
4. Stand for 8 hours
5. Sit for 8 hours
6. Perform skills requiring manual dexterity, fingering and feeling
7. Maintain good standing balance on all surfaces
8. Administer manual exercises
9. Perform skills requiring constant walking
10. Make simple mechanical adjustments and repairs of therapy equipment
11. Safely transfer patients from all surfaces
12. Measure vital signs
13. Lift up to 50# frequently
14. Lift up to 150# occasionally
15. Squat, stoop, kneel and/or crawl
16. Transport patients with wheelchairs and carts by pushing and pulling
17. Achieve "Health Care Provider" level CPR
18. Educate patients and other consumers of physical therapy
19. Responds/performs appropriately in the event of unexpected and/or stressful situations