

OCCC PTA Program Frequently Asked Questions:

If your question is not found here, please contact the PTA program director at jball@occc.edu

Q: Is the OCCC PTA Program accredited?

A: Yes, the OCCC PTA Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and the next site visit is 2028.

CAPTE

3030 Potomac Ave, Suite 100

Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085

Telephone: (800) 999-2782

Email: accreditation@apata.org

Website: <http://www.capteonline.org>

Q: When do I apply to the PTA Program?

A: Applications become available on the PTA and OCCC Admissions website in November each year. The applications are due the first Friday in March each year. They will not be accepted past the deadline. Candidates are notified of acceptance in April-May.

Q: What are the requirements to apply?

A: Applicants must meet the minimum standards to be considered for application which are: Accuplacer Reading Exam, College Math Placement Test and College GPA of 2.5 (minimum of 12 credit hours)

Q: What is the process to apply?

A: Apply online to OCCC and have official transcripts send from all college/universities including concurrent coursework. Schedule a meeting with a health professions advisor to review which classes will be transferred for OCCC PTA curriculum. Next, schedule the Accuplacer Reading test (required), College Math Placement test (required) and Accuplacer Writing test (optional for preference points). Ask the testing center to put all three scores on the same score report for easier uploading. **If you are using the ACT math score instead of College Math Placement test, log into your ACT account and they can add that score on your score report. You do have to let them know before they print. Finally you will need pay the special application fee to the bursar and download your receipt of payment. That will need to be uploaded with your application also.

Q: I think I am ready to apply, what do I do?

A: Read the entire application before completing it due to a time limit, gather your documents and then complete the application process. You will need to attest to each item in order for the application to be submitted.

Q: How are candidates selected for the PTA Program?

A: Selection is based on a preference point system. Points are earned from the following areas: degrees earned, GPA, Specific course grades (all verified with transcripts on file from application to OCCC). **Make sure you submit the most recent updated transcripts- you can view them on your student portal. Points are also earned from the Accuplacer Reading and Writing exam scores (uploaded with application) and finally from the observation and work experience form, uploaded with your application. The point totals earned are outlined on the application and the form. This form must be signed by your supervisor and the hours worked or observed must also be included. The total points available is 22 and the twenty students with the highest number of points are offered admission to the PTA Program. The rest of the candidates are placed on the wait list in order of preference points earned. In the event of a tie, GPA will serve as the tie breaker. In the event of another tie, Science class GPA will serve as the tie breaker.

Q: Which courses are required to apply?

A: There are NO pre-requisites to apply to the PTA Program. The entire program can be completed in 2 years, but it is very rigorous.

Q: Which courses earn preference points?

A: The courses determined by the OCCC PTA Advisory Committee and approved by the OCCC Curriculum Committee to earn preference points on the application are: 2 college level science courses (suggest: BIO 1314 Human Anatomy and Physiology I and BIO 1414 Human Anatomy and Physiology II as they are required for the degree), College Algebra/ Functions and Modeling or higher level math (transferrable to 4 year institutions), and Medical Terminology (not required for degree but recommended for success in career). The grade of A will earn 2 points for each of the courses listed and grade of B will earn 1 point each. The preference point total for coursework is 8 points.

Q: Will I need professional liability to participate in the PTA Program?

A: yes, the student is required to purchase professional liability insurance prior to participating in lab and clinical activities. This will need to be purchased each year of the PTA Program.

Q: Why is a background check and drug test required for the PTA Program?

A: The clinical partners require the background check and drug test prior to allowing student participation with direct patient care. There are three clinical practicums during the PTA Program. Additionally background checks are required to obtain a PTA license in the state of Oklahoma. Drug testing may be required by employers.

Q: I have a medical marijuana card, how does that affect me applying for the PTA Program?

A: While medical marijuana is legal in the state of Oklahoma, it is not accepted in healthcare or in any of the Health Professions programs at OCCC. A positive test for marijuana will result in the student's loss of eligibility to remain in a health professions program.

Q: What if I have committed a crime, can I still become a PTA?

A: Please contact the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and supervision with any specific questions about prior acts. It is important for you to know if you can be licensed prior to entering the PTA Program. www.okmedicalboard.org

Q: How long will it take to complete the PTA Program?

A: OCCC PTA Program is an integrated 2 year program, which means students can enter out of high school and complete the AAS degree in two years. For students who already have a degree or have completed many of the general education courses, it will still take two years. Those students may attend more as a part time student with only the 42 credit hours needed for the PTA program courses.

Q: Does OCCC PTA Program have a minimum grade requirement?

A: Students in the PTA Program must maintain a GPA of 2.5 to remain in good standing in the PTA Program. Students must earn a C or better in all the PTA Program classes and BIO 1314, BIO 1414, and BIO 2102 Clinical Anatomy. If a student does not earn a C, he/she will need to repeat that class the next time it is offered and will not be able to progress until that requirement is achieved. This can happen only one time during the PTA Program. Students have a maximum of 3 years to complete the PTA Program.

Q: Can I work while I attend the PTA Program?

A: The OCCC PTA Program offers the PTA Program courses in the afternoon/evening (4-8pm, and 3-8pm) with a few exceptions 3 nights per week. There is a two-week January intercession course: BIO 2102 Clinical Anatomy that meets daily from 8am-3pm. Additionally, the clinical practicum courses meet daily for 4 weeks (summer after first year in the program) and two 7-week clinicals in the final spring semester, separated by spring break. During these courses, it will be very difficult for students to work and they should plan accordingly.

Q: Does the PTA Program have clinical experiences?

A: The PTA students have one 4-week clinical practicum after the first year in the program. During the spring semester of the second year, the student will have 2 7-week clinical practicums. The clinical sites are located off campus and students will be responsible for their own transportation. These courses allow the students to apply their knowledge during patient care under the direct supervision of the assigned clinical instructor.

Q: After completing the PTA Program, what is the next step?

A: Students who earn the Associate of Applied Science in PTA degree from OCCC are eligible to apply for licensure as a PTA. Each graduate will schedule to take the national physical therapist assistant exam (NPTAE) and after earning a passing score can become a licensed PTA.

Q: Do PTAs eventually become physical therapists?

A: A physical therapist assistant is very important member of the healthcare team. A PTA is a licensed professional who works under the general supervision of the physical therapist in the state of

Oklahoma. The education process is different and the PTA courses do not transfer to the doctorate of physical therapy degree. It is important for students wishing to become physical therapists contact the PT schools to ensure they have the pre-requisite courses and take the GRE.

Q: Is it hard for PTAs to get jobs?

A: There is an excellent job market in a variety of settings. The OCCC PTA Program reports 95-100% employment within 6 months for PTAs seeking employment. Many graduates are offered employment from the clinical sites where they complete their practicums.