

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.occ.edu/health/pta for the latest information and application to our program. We begin with a cohort of 20 students each fall.

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 via the online format is **the first Friday in March by noon** 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. The PTA classes are held in the late afternoons and evenings but occasional daytime participation is required, primarily during the clinical education practicums. These courses involve a total 18 weeks of clinical experience in selected physical therapy settings and occur **during the day (8-5 or similar) Monday through Friday** in the summer after the first year and the second spring semester of the program. They will require individual transportation off campus.

Additionally, applicants must have COMPLETED BIO 1314 Anatomy and Physiology I or semester-long college-level Human Anatomy course with lab and BIO 1414 Anatomy and Physiology II or semester-long Human Physiology course with lab with a minimum grade of “C” prior to BIO 2102 Clinical Anatomy-January intercession. 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 PTA classes.

After acceptance, 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 coursework 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 ensure 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. There are three bridge programs PTA-DPT that require a bachelor’s degree, GRE test results and 2-3 years of experience as a physical therapist assistant prior to application.

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 to 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 \$146.06 per credit hour (2025-2026). Beginning in 2025, 68 credit hours are 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 student liability insurance, which is available through the bursar’s office (*estimated cost, \$30.00*). This must be purchased annually prior to the first PTA class 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 required for the students who are accepted to upload these records to complete their files.

OCCC does not require the COVID-19 vaccination for admittance or continuance in the PTA program. Clinical partners/sites may, however require the vaccine for clinical practicums. Students must complete clinical practicums to earn AAS degree and be eligible for PTA licensure. 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. OCCC will offer CPR classes in the summer and early fall to those in need.

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 program.**

Drug testing is required for all students in the Division of Health Professions. Each student will provide a sample for a 11 panel, pre-placement drug test prior to the first clinical assignment. Students must produce a **negative drug** result to remain eligible for the program. If a student is prescribed normal daily medications, from a medical professional, a Medical Review Officer will be able to determine eligibility. Any student receiving a confirmed positive drug test from the MRO will not be eligible to continue in the program, but may reapply to any of the Health Professions Programs for a future semester. Admission is based on program application procedures and is not guaranteed. Failure of a second drug test will result in dismissal from all HP Programs with no opportunity for readmission. Any break in continuous enrollment will result in an additional pre-placement drug test and background check, at the cost of the student. Licensing agencies require that any criminal history or positive drug test results must be reported to the appropriate licensing agency. **Please note – 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 HP Program.**

In the past two years (2023, 2024 graduates), 88.2% of students who were admitted to the PTA Program graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree and 97.6% 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 \$54,000-\$66,754 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 Student Success 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:

- Applicants must first qualify for admission to Oklahoma City Community College and submit official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended (including any concurrent work during high school). There is no fee to apply to OCCC. Students can view their transcripts in the student portal to ensure the most recent transcripts have been received. If courses are in progress, they cannot be used for preference points and after grades/degrees are posted, a new transcript should be sent to the office of records. This is necessary for course and degree verification.
- The PTA Program uses a selective admissions process which includes a fee. The receipt for the PTA application fee must be uploaded with the PTA Application. The applicant is ineligible if the receipt is not present.
- Application for admission to the PTA Program is available in November each year online at www.occc.edu/health/pta. Application is due first Friday in March by noon.
- It is highly recommended for applicants to meet with a health professions advisor during the application process to ensure understanding of the process and requirements (GPA and testing).
- The basic application requirements (reading, writing, math and GPA) must be met for the applicant to be considered for admission. After these basic application requirements are met, the applicant is placed on a candidate list, ranked by number of preference points earned. Although preference points are optional, they are the means for selection of each cohort admitted to the PTA Program. In the event of duplicate preference points, cumulative GPA is used to rank these candidates, with the science GPA as the next criteria for duplicate preference points (if needed).
- Only completed PTA applications will be accepted. They must include all documents: fee receipt, test scores, and work experience forms (if applicable). Preference points assigned accordingly.
- Applications are considered only during the specified application period. Applicants who are not selected may reapply in the next application cycle, with no limit to the number of times they may apply as a first-time student. However, students who are terminated from the OCCC PTA Program due to failure of a program course or withdrawal from a PTA course—and are unable to complete the program within three years—are not eligible to reapply.
- A cohort of 20 students is selected to begin the PTA Program each fall.
- For students to successfully complete any of the health professions programs, they must be able to meet all the cognitive and behavioral objectives listed in the course syllabi and demonstrate competency of all the required skills. The PTA essential functions can be found in the PTA Student Handbook, the PTA website, and in the prospective student letter. Students with disabling conditions, who require accommodation to meet objectives or demonstrate required skills, must contact OCCC Student Accessibility and Support at (405) 682-7520 each semester while enrolled to ensure the appropriate accommodation is in effect.
- Clinical agencies have requirements in place that all students must meet for placement at each respective location. Students who do not meet agency requirements (background check, immunization requirements, drug testing) will not be able to attend that clinical. Students who do not attend clinical cannot successfully complete the course(s) that require clinical performance and cannot be successful in the PTA Program.
- **Please note while medical marijuana is legal in the state of Oklahoma, it is not accepted in health care or any of the HP Programs at OCCC. A positive test for marijuana will result in the student's loss of eligibility to remain in a health professions program.**

Suggested Course Sequence-68 CH		
Courses		Credit hours
Summer after acceptance (4 CH)		
BIO 1314 Human Anatomy and Physiology I OR		4
BIO 2255 Human Anatomy (with cadaver lab)		
First year fall semester (14 CH)		
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 OR		
4		
BIO 2234 Human Physiology with Lab		
SCL 1001 Success in College and Life		
	1	
First year Spring (16 CH)		
BIO 2102 Clinical Anatomy (January intercession)		2
ENGL 1113 English Comp I		3
PTA 1112 Pathology for Physical Rehab		
2		
PTA 1224 Therapeutic Exercise I		4
PTA 2014 PT Procedures II		4
PTA 1151 Clinical Prep I (late 8 weeks)		
	1	
Summer (5 CH)		
COM 1123 Interpersonal Communication OR		3
COM 2213 Introduction to Public Speaking OR		
ENGL 1213 English Comp II		
PTA 1312 Practicum I (4 week clinical course at an assigned location offsite)		2
Second year Fall semester (16 CH)		
PTA 1201 Pediatric Development, Conditions and Treatment (early 8 weeks)		1
PTA 2024 Therapeutic Exercise II		4
PTA 2113 Systems/Problems in PT		3
PTA 1211 Geriatric Conditions and Treatment (late 8 weeks)		1
PTA 2021 Clinical Prep II (late 8 weeks)		1
PS 1113 American Federal Government		3
PSY 1113 General Psychology OR		3
SOC 2143 Race and Ethnicity in the US		
Second year spring (13 CH)		
HIST 1483 United States History to 1877 OR		3
HIST 1493 United States History 1877 to Present		
PTA 2035 Practicum II (7 weeks at an assigned location offsite)		5
PTA 2135 Practicum III (7 weeks at an assigned location offsite)		5
Total Credits		68

**For the courses that indicate "OR", the student may choose which course to take to complete that credit hour requirement in the 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. Typing/keyboarding skills for efficient documentation
5. Stand for 8 hours
6. Sit for 8 hours
7. Perform skills requiring manual dexterity, fine motor skills
8. Maintain good standing balance on all surfaces
9. Administer manual exercises
10. Perform skills requiring constant walking
11. Make simple mechanical adjustments and repairs of therapy equipment
12. Safely transfer patients from all surfaces
13. Measure vital signs
14. Lift up to 50# frequently
15. Lift up to 150# occasionally
16. Squat, stoop, kneel and/or crawl
17. Transport patients with wheelchairs and carts by pushing and pulling
18. Achieve "Health Care Provider" level CPR
19. Educate patients and other consumers of physical therapy
20. Responds/performs appropriately in the event of unexpected and/or stressful situations