

CLARK STATE COLLEGE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What do I need to do to enroll in the PTA Program?

A: Students must apply to be accepted into the PTA Program to take the core PTA courses required for graduation. However, students can take the non-core PTA courses prior to starting the program. The core courses are listed in the PTA Program Application Handbook. PTA 1112, PTA Survey is open to all students who meet the pre/co-requisite requirements, even though it is part of the technical phase of the program.

What are the requirements to apply?

Q: The requirements are outlined in detail in the handbook. In summary, students must:

- A:
- Be eligible to take English I and College Level Math.
 - Have taken Anatomy and Physiology pre-requisites. Biology is waived for those who have completed college-level anatomy and physiology I with a C or better. Physics is waived for Athletic Trainers with a valid certificate.
 - Have a 2.5 GPA in the curricular courses. Biology 1410 is not included in the GPA calculation unless this is the only class a student has taken.
 - Complete 30 observation hours.

Q: Where can I find the application, forms and any other details about the application process?

A: Detailed application information, required forms and attachments, and program information can all be found in the PTA Program Application Handbook at <https://www.clarkstate.edu/academics/degrees-and-certificates/school-of-health-human-and-public-services/physical-therapist-assistant/>. The application and summary of the application requirements are located on pages 43-44 of the handbook.

Q: What is the deadline for applying to the PTA Program?

A: Applications will begin being accepted December 1. The application deadline for any given year is February 1. All application materials must be received on or before February 1 of each year. If February 1 falls on a weekend, the packet must be received by the next business day. Any application materials received after this date will be classified as late and will be processed after the applications that were received on time are processed. In addition, the Program must be able to verify that the applicant has made application to Clark State, and that official transcripts from other institutions have been received by February 1. Transfer students should submit their CSC applications and official transcripts early enough to avoid problems.

Q: Can I apply before completing Biology 1410 so I can get a spot in the program?

A: Students who are enrolled in Biology 1410 in Spring semester can go ahead and apply. They should indicate on their application that they are enrolled in these course(s) in Spring in order verify application requirements have been met. Any acceptance decisions would be contingent on successful completion of this course by the end of Spring semester before the Fall for which they are applying.

Q: Is there a waiting list?

A: There is no longer a waiting list being created. An alternate list will be developed from the applicants who are not offered acceptance, based on their final point ranking. The alternate list will be used to fill openings that come available from students who decline acceptance for the current year. This can occur through the middle of August of each year. It is strongly recommended that students on the alternate list make contingency arrangements in the case they get accepted with short notice.

Q: What if I am on the alternate list? Do I still have to reapply?

A: Yes. All students on the alternate list who are not accepted will need to re-apply to be considered for acceptance in the next school year. Observation hours and evaluations will be kept on file for three years and will not have to be re-submitted.

Q: Do I have to complete volunteer/observation/paid work experience hours?

A: Students are required to complete a total of 30 hours of observation/volunteer/paid work experience in two different settings under the supervision of a PT or PTA, with a minimum of 10 hours at each location, within five years prior to application to the PTA Program. Details of the observation hours requirements are provided in the Application Handbook.

Q: Will courses from other colleges or universities transfer to the PTA Program?

A: It is most likely that general education courses such as English, Psychology, and Math will transfer and there is no time limit on these courses. The science courses such as Anatomy and Physiology have time limits as outlined in the Application Handbook. Technical PTA courses (indicated by an asterisk on the PTA Curriculum Sheet) must be individually evaluated. Please visit www.transferology.com for information on course transferability within participating institutions.

Q: Who evaluates my transcripts? Where should I send them? How long does it take?

A: Your transcripts are evaluated through the Records and Registration Office and by the appropriate academic Dean. Send official copies of your transcripts from all transferring institutions to the Admissions Office. Please make sure you have applied to the college and have indicated that PTA is your major. This can be a lengthy process, so you should plan ahead to meet application deadlines.

Q: How long does it take to complete the PTA Program? Can I finish it quicker if I already have college courses?

A: The PTA Program only starts in Fall of each year. It will take five semesters to complete the program. Core PTA courses are sequential and are only offered in the semester in which they are scheduled on the curriculum sheet. Most students opt to take non-core PTA courses for a year or two before starting the PTA Program, which will lessen their course requirements during each semester while in the Program, however, it will still take 5 semesters to complete the technical phase of the Program. Students should prioritize completing the application requirements so they can apply as soon as possible.

Q: When are the courses scheduled?

A: Please refer to the Clark State Course Schedule each semester for actual offerings. The information listed below is intended to be a guide and is based on past offerings. Course offerings are subject to change based on enrollment and instructor availability.

- Non-technical PTA courses (courses without an asterisk on the curriculum sheets) are often offered several times a year and sometimes several times a semester.
- Technical PTA courses are generally offered in Springfield daytime, Springfield evening and Columbus afternoon/evening. All lab sections may not run every semester throughout the program, depending on enrollment and instructor availability.

Q: I live in Columbus, can I take all of my classes/labs in Columbus?

A: We accept a maximum of 10 students to start each fall in the Columbus lab section. Although we try to limit the amount of time students are required to travel to Springfield, there will be times each semester that Columbus students will be required to travel to the Springfield campus for proctored testing, guest speakers, etc. There may also be times that Columbus lab sections could be cancelled due to decreased enrollment and/or instructor availability. In this case, students in the Columbus lab section would be required to enroll in a Springfield lab section corresponding to that course. We make every attempt to limit this from occurring, but there are no guarantees students will be able to complete the entire curriculum in Columbus.

Q: I want to be able to continue to work full-time while in the PTA Program. Can I work during the program? Can I take all of my classes/labs at night so I can work in the day?

A: Since our program is a hybrid program and all of our lecture material is online, there is decreased on campus seat time required as compared to a traditional program. This does allow many of our students to be able to continue to work throughout most of the program. Some students find they cannot manage working full-time along with the demands of the program and have to cut back to part-time hours. We recommend students work only part-time hours. During the summer between the first and second year of the program, students will begin clinical rotations 40 hours per week. During this time, it does become more difficult to work and keep up on class work. This is a time students may have to consider cutting back on or quitting work, depending on the flexibility of the employer.

We accept 10 students to start each fall in the Springfield Night lab section. Although we try to limit the amount of time students are required to come to campus during the day, there will be times each semester that night students will be required to come to campus during the day for proctored testing, guest speakers, etc. There may also be times that Springfield night lab sections could be cancelled due to decreased enrollment and/or instructor availability. In this case, students in the night lab section would be required to enroll in a Springfield day or Columbus lab section corresponding to that course. We make every attempt to limit this from occurring, but there are no guarantees a cohort will be able to complete the entire curriculum at night in Springfield. This could also impact a student's ability to work throughout the program.

Q: I heard your PTA Program is an online program. I live in South Carolina. Can I take your program online and continue to live in South Carolina?

A: Although our program is listed as an online program on the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education's (CAPTE) website, we are truly a hybrid program. All of our lecture content is delivered in the online format, however, students are required to attend on-weekly onsite labs for hands on application of skills. This onsite time commitment is 6-12 hours per week, depending on the semester. We currently only offer those lab sections in Springfield and Columbus, Ohio, thus it would not be possible to complete the entire curriculum while living outside of a reasonable commute distance.