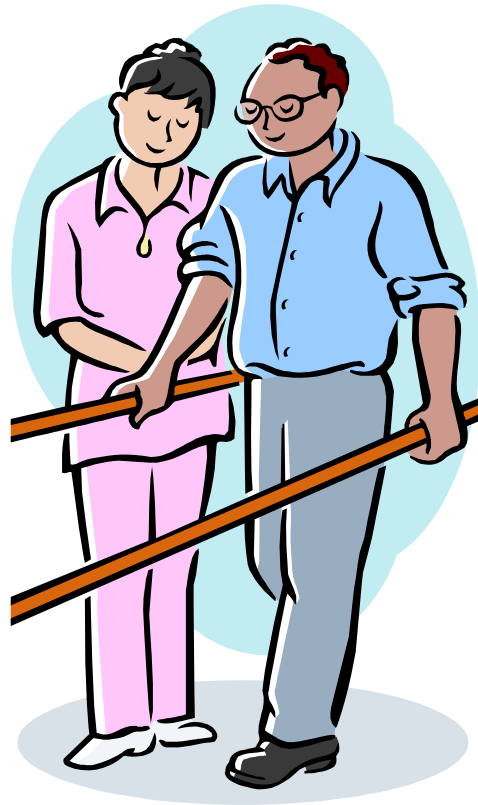


PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION



Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute

2855 Hickory Boulevard

Hudson North Carolina 28638

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Admissions Information

Program Information

The physical therapist assistant curriculum prepares the graduate to assist the professional physical therapist in a variety of direct patient care services delegated by the supervising therapist to restore function by alleviation or prevention of physical impairment and other activities essential to the operation of physical therapy service. The graduate is eligible to take the licensing examination given by the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

Essential Requirements of Physical Therapy Education:

Admission, Retention & Graduation Standards

(Adapted from Nash Community College, Rocky Mount, NC – P TA Program)

Students enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at CCC&TI 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 on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and the PTA Program at CCC&TI. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ensures qualified applicants to public institutions the ability to pursue program admissions, 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 CCC&TI'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 100lbs.*

- *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,
- 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.

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: These requirements do not reflect (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
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.

Suggested high school courses for individuals desiring a career as a physical therapist assistant would include biology, algebra, and possibly chemistry.

Applicants should be aware that travel up to an hour drive one way from the student's **home may be required for clinical affiliations.**

To insure the public health and safety of all patients many of our clinical affiliation sites require personal criminal background checks and /or drug screening in order for the student to participate in clinical education at that site.

Most disciplines of Health Sciences require registration, certification or licensure to practice in the health care field. Most examining boards require proof of good moral character to apply to take the registration, certification or licensure examination. If you have further questions, please contact the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners at 919-490-6393 or NCPTBoard@Mindspring.com.

The physical therapist assistant program is a two-year program with a limited class size. During the fall semester of each year a new class is accepted to begin the next summer semester.

Admission requirements should be completed by September 1st in order to be considered for admission to the next class.

Admission Process

Each applicant is tentatively admitted to the PTA program by the Consideration Date (the date that all admission requirements are met.) This is a chronological order of dates, “first-come, first-served” process.

Admission Requirements

It is suggested that admission requirements be met in the following order.

1. CCC&TI Application

- Submit an application to Student Services
- Applications are available in Student Services or online at www.cccti.edu

2. Official documentation of high school graduation or GED completion

- This is required even if the applicant holds a four-year degree.
- A high school graduate should request his/her high school to send to CCC&TI an official transcript indicating date of graduation.
- If the applicant is still in high school, an official transcript should be sent now only if SAT/ACT scores are to be used to waive the college placement tests; otherwise, an official transcript should be submitted after graduation.
- A GED or adult high school diploma graduate is exempt from sending a high school transcript, **but** an official copy of GED scores or official documentation of adult high school graduation must be sent to CCC&TI from the granting institution.
- Reproduced copies of personal documents are not acceptable.
- Transcript request forms are available in the Student Services office at CCC&TI.

3. Official transcripts of any college work.

- The applicant should request colleges to mail transcripts directly to CCC&TI
- If currently enrolled at another college, he should request a transcript now and another one at the completion of his courses.
- Transcript request forms are available in Student Services or may be downloaded from the college webpage, www.cccti.edu.
- College transcripts must be received and evaluated in order to exempt the applicant from placement tests.

4. Placement tests.

- Placement tests are given at the Testing Center at CCC&TI in Hudson or at the Watauga Campus. Please contact the Testing Centers directly for testing appointments.
- Any applicant whose placement test scores fall below the required minimum for the PTA program must take the indicated developmental course(s). **An applicant must complete all required developmental courses before the PTA Consideration Date will be given.**

- Acceptable CPT scores for the PTA Program and the corresponding exempted developmental courses:

○ Reading 80	Developmental Courses: RED 080, RED 090
○ Sentence skills 86	ENG 080, ENG 090
○ Pt I math(arithmetic) 55	MAT 060
○ Pt II math (algebra) 75	MAT 070, MAT 080
- Please see the Testing Center for comparable ASSET or COMPASS scores. Official test scores for these tests must be provided to the Testing Center if testing is done at another college on or after 2/1/07.
- Placement tests may be waived for persons who have transferable college credit that shows proficiency in reading, English and math.
- Documentation must be provided if an applicant has college transfer credit; or has high SAT or ACT scores (SAT = 500+ each section of Writing and Critical Reading and 520+ of Math; OR ACT = 21+ each section) within 3 years of the application date; which would exempt an applicant from testing.

5. Information Session and Accompanying Quiz

- Complete a Physical Therapist Assistant Information Session to receive current details regarding admission, academic, and program requirements.
- To locate the PTA Information Session at www.cccti.edu: click on “Attending CCC&TI” from the menu on the left side of the homepage. Click on “Programs of Study”. Click on Physical Therapy Assistant and then on “Information Session”.
- Answer the PTA Quiz questions that are located by clicking again on the PTA homepage.. **The Information Session quiz answers must be completed and returned to Health Sciences Admissions for completion of this admission requirement.**

THE PTA CONSIDERATION DATE IS GIVEN WHEN REQUIREMENTS 1 – 5 ARE MET.

6. Physical examination

- After program acceptance, a completed *Student Medical Form for North Carolina College System Institutions* form **must be submitted by April 1st prior to beginning the first semester of the PTA program** to provide documentation of physical and emotional health which indicates the applicant’s ability to provide safe care to the public.
- **The date of the actual physical examination must be dated within one year prior to the date of enrollment.**
- Immunizations must be up to date and reflect standards for health care workers according to CDC guidelines.

7. Infant, Child and Adult CPR certification

- Accepted students must be currently certified in CPR through one of the following: American Heart Association: BLS Healthcare Provider course, or American Red Cross: Adult CPR and Infant/Child CPR,
- **Submit a copy of CPR certification card with the health form by April 1st prior to beginning the first semester of the PTA program.**

Academic Progression Policy

Grade Point Average.

- The student is expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of **2.75** for all required courses, with no grade lower than a "C".
- Please refer to the GPA worksheet for calculating the grade point average.

Please note:

Each applicant is responsible for:

- ***completing admission requirements,***
- ***confirming receipt of letters and documents in the admissions office, keeping CCC&TI informed in writing of any personal information changes***
- ***keeping copies of all documentation submitted to CCC&TI (i.e., CPR, physical form).***

Applications are accepted for only one two-year health sciences program at a time. However, an applicant may apply for the one-year ophthalmic medical assistant diploma while also applying for a two-year health sciences program.

Curriculum for Physical Therapy Assistant (A45640)

Summer Semester I		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
BIO 168	Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	0	4
PSY 150	General Psychology	3	0	0	3
ENG 111	Expository Writing	3	0	0	3
ENG 111A	Expository Writing Lab	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		9	5	0	11

Fall Semester I

BIO 169	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	0	4
ENG 113	Literature-Based Research	3	0	0	3
	OR				
ENG 114	Prof Research & Reporting				
COM 231	Public Speaking	3	0	0	3
	OR				
COM 120	Interpersonal Communication				
	Humanities Elective	3	0	0	3
PTA 110	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2	3	0	3
BIO 161	Introduction to Human Anatomy	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		14	6	0	16

Spring Semester I (16-week didactic and #16 weeks one day clinical term)**

PTA 125	Gross and Functional Anatomy	3	6	0	5
PTA 135	Pathology	4	0	0	4
PTA 165	PTA Clinical I	0	0	9	3
PTA 222	Professional Interactions	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
		<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>

Summer Semester II (10-week term)

PTA 145	Therapeutic Procedures	2	6	0	4
PTA 152	Wellness Prevention	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
		3	8	0	6

Fall Semester II (PTA 245 4-wks, 5 wks didactic, PTA 185 3-wks, 4 wks didactic)

PTA 185	PTA Clinical II	0	0	9	3
PTA 215	Therapeutic Exercise	2	3	0	3
PTA 225	Introduction to Rehabilitation	3	3	0	4
PTA 245	PTA Clinical III	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>
		<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>14</u>

Spring Semester II (11-week didactics, 5-week capstone Clinical IV)

PTA 235	Neurological Rehabilitation	3	6	0	5
PTA 255	PTA Clinical IV	0	0	12	4
PTA 212	Health Care/Resources	2	0	0	2
PTA 270	Physical Therapy Topics	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		6	6	12	12

TOTAL		49	79	42	76
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Tuition:

In-State \$56.50 per credit hour
 \$904.00 maximum tuition per semester

Out-of-State \$248.50 per credit hour
 \$3,976.00 maximum tuition per semester

Activity Fees: \$7.00 per class, fall and spring semesters, up to a maximum of \$28.00.
 \$3.00 per class, summer semester, up to a maximum of \$9.00.

PTA Program Complaints Policy

Complaints from others not affiliated with the institution are handled on a case-by-case-basis by the PTA program director, the department chair for health sciences, and other administrative personnel as needed. The PTA program director and the department chair for health sciences address complaints not covered by current institutional policies to determine if the complaint has merit. If a complaint is deemed a bonafide complaint, depending on the nature of the complaint, the PTA program director or department chair for health sciences will address the complaint until resolution is reached maintaining appropriate documentation.

**For additional information,
please contact:**

Coordinator of Health Sciences Admissions
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute
2855 Hickory Boulevard
Hudson, NC 28638
828-726-2710; 828-264-7670, ext. 710

Revised 10/10

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.