



**Health Sciences Division  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

Dear PTA applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the PTA program. Physical therapy is an exciting and dynamic career with job possibilities in all types of health care environments. The PTA program is interesting, challenging, and action packed. I look forward to helping you answer any questions you may have about our program or the physical therapy profession.

Sincerely,

Holly Gunning, Ed. D., PT  
PTA Program Coordinator

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
APPLICATION INFORMATION**

**DEADLINE: MAY 5**

The physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a skilled technical health care worker who delivers physical therapy services under the supervision of the physical therapist (PT). PTAs carry out patient treatments designed by the PT that include training patients in therapeutic exercises and activities of daily living with or without assistive devices; application of physical agents such as heat, cold, electricity and traction; gait training; assisting in performing tests, evaluations and treatments administered by the PT; observation and reporting of patient's response to treatment.

Employment opportunities can be found in a variety of settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, schools, and outpatient PT clinics. Salaries generally start anywhere from \$30,000 - \$34,000 throughout the country, but may be higher or lower in some areas.

The Gulf Coast Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education and accepts one class of 16-20 students per year in the fall semester. Applications will be accepted at any time throughout the year, but the application deadline is **MAY 5th** of the year of desired admission. The application deadline may be extended if the class is not filled. It is the student's responsibility to see that the application is complete. Proof of completion of all items listed as prerequisites (see prerequisites page), must be submitted with the Health Sciences Application to the Division of Health Sciences room 219, Technology building.

It should be understood that the satisfaction of minimum requirements does not automatically guarantee admission. Completed applications will be sent to the PTA Admissions Committee for review. All applicants will be notified in writing, after May 5th, whether they are accepted into the program, placed on an alternate list, or not accepted for the current year. **No acceptance results will be given out over the phone.**

For more detailed information, see the current Gulf Coast Community College General Catalog.

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Gunning at 850.913.3312 or 800.31.3685, ext. 3312, Kelli Walsingham at 850.769.1551, ext. 6180 or 800.311.3685, ext. 6180, or Mr. Wise at 850.913.3311 or 800.311.3685, ext. 3311.

# PTA Program Checklist

**Deadline: May 5**

Students accepted into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program are chosen based upon an objective point system. The following table indicates the scores and points awarded toward the admission score. The top 16-20 applicants that meet the minimum requirements will be accepted into the program.

	Points Towards Admission		
	Minimum	Exceeds Minimum	
Prerequisites	1	2	3
1. Completed GCCC Application (To Admissions Office)	★		
2. Completed Health Science Application (To Division of Health Sciences) By <b>May 5th</b>	★		
3. High School diploma or equivalent for students with less than 12 college credits ( <u>Official</u> transcript to Admissions) [GPA will only be used for those <u>without</u> prior college.]	"C" or GPA 2.0	"B" or GPA 3.0	"A" or GPA > 3.5
4. College Placement Test (CPT) ( <u>Submit Copy</u> )			
English 83 <u>or</u> ENC 1101 with "C" or better	83 on CPT or "C"	95 on CPT or "B"	105 on CPT or "A"
Reading 83 <u>or</u> ENC 1101 with "C" or better	83 on CPT or "C"	95 on CPT or "B"	115 on CPT or "A"
Algebra (not arithmetic) 72 <u>or</u> MAT 0024 (or higher) with a "C" or better	72 on CPT or "C"	88 on CPT or "B"	100 on CPT or "A"
5. College GPA	2.0	2.8	3.5
( <u>Official</u> transcripts to Admissions) (Students must ensure transfer transcripts are evaluated prior to deadline)			
Extra points for: Anatomy & Physiology I and Lab	"C"	"B"	"A"
Related field of study	< 10 hrs.	> 10 hrs.	degree
6. Technical Standards Form ( <u>Submit Form</u> )	★		
7. Extra points will be given for observation/volunteer experience greater than 30 hours. ( <u>Submit Form</u> )	30 hrs.	> 60 hrs.	> 120 hrs.

**IT IS THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT PROOF OF ALL PREREQUISITES IS SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE.**

Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to complete as many of the general education courses as possible prior to acceptance into the PTA program. Refer to the general education sequence for the specific requirements of the program. Extra credit is given for completion of **Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab** prior to the application deadline (enrollment in the spring semester will qualify for extra points.)

# GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM CURRICULUM

### GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

Hrs.		Cr.	Hrs.		Cr.
ENC 1101	English I .....	3	BSC 2086	Anatomy & Physiology II .....	3
ENC 1102	English II .....	3	BSC 2086L	Anatomy/Physiology II Lab .....	1
BSC 2085	Anatomy & Physiology I .....	3	PSY 2012	General Psychology .....	3
BSC 2085L	Anatomy/Physiology I Lab .....	1	OST 1257	Medical Terminology .....	2
	Humanities Elective .....	3			

#### NOTE:

General education courses may be taken during the PTA Program, however, applicants are **strongly** encouraged to begin work on the general education courses prior to entry into the program. Completion of A & P I prior is suggested but not required. Extra points can be earned for a "C" or better prior to the application deadline.

#### COMPLETE PROGRAM:

##### FRESHMAN

##### CREDIT HOURS

##### FALL

BSC 2085	Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BSC 2085L	Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1
	Humanities Elective	3
OST 1257	Medical Terminology	2
PHT 1000	Introduction to Physical Therapy	3
PHT 1102	Applied Anatomy for PTA's	1
PHT 1200	Basic Skills in Patient Care	2
PHT 1200L	Basic Skills in Patient Care Lab	2
		<u>17</u>

##### SPRING

BSC 2086	Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BSC 2086L	Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1
PHT 1124	Functional Human Motion	3
PHT 1124L	Functional Human Motion Lab	2
PHT 1220	Introduction to Therapeutic Exercise	2
PHT 1220L	Therapeutic Exercise Lab	2
PHT 1131	Assessment, Measurement and Documentation	1
PHT 1131L	Assessment, Measurement and Documentation Lab	2
		<u>16</u>

##### SUMMER

ENC 1101	English Composition I	3
PSY 2012	General Psychology	3
PHT 2224	Therapeutic Interventions I: Medical/Surgical Disabilities	2
PHT 2224L	Therapeutic Interventions I Lab	1

**SUMMER (cont.)****CREDIT HOURS**

ENC	1102	English Composition II	3
PHT	2211	Therapeutic Modalities	2
PHT	2211L	Therapeutic Modalities Lab	2
			<u>16</u>

**SOPHOMORE****FALL**

PHT	2225	Therapeutic Interventions II: Orthopedic Disabilities	3
PHT	2225L	Therapeutic Interventions II Lab	2
PHT	2226	Therapeutic Interventions III: Neurological Disabilities	3
PHT	2226L	Therapeutic Interventions III Lab	2
PHT	2801	PTA Clinical Practice I	3
			<u>13</u>

**SPRING**

PHT	2810	PTA Clinical Practice II	5
PHT	2820	PTA Clinical Practice III	5
PHT	2931	Seminar	2
			<u>12</u>

**Typical Physical Therapist Assistant Schedule  
(Following Curriculum as Designed)**

On Campus Hours Per Week			Off Campus Hours Per Week		
Semester	Class Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Prep.	Clinical Hours	Total
Fall 1	14	6			20
Spring 1	9	14			23
Summer A2	20	5			25
Summer B	12.5	10			22.5
Fall 2	8.25 (for 11 weeks)	11 (for 11 weeks)	4	40 (for 4 weeks)	19.25 for 11 weeks 40 for 4 weeks
Spring 2	15 (for 2 weeks)		4	40 (for 14 weeks)	44

★ The PTA Program is designed as a full-time course of study and students are required to complete courses in the designated sequence. Most classes are offered during daytime hours with only a few evening courses.



January 13, 2005

To: Prospective Health Science Students

From: Chair, Health Sciences Division

**Re: Criminal Background Checks / Fingerprinting**

The implementation of this new policy is in response to increasing enrollment and the need to expand clinical sites to agencies which require a criminal background check before allowing an employee or volunteer (students are classified as volunteers) to have access to a vulnerable population. This population includes, but is not limited to minors under the "National Child Protection Act of 1993," and Title 29, Chapter 394.4572 of the Florida Statutes dealing with mental health patients and clients.

For acceptance into any health science program, and continuing through enrollment, the student must not have been found guilty, regardless of sentence, of an offense that would disqualify the student for employment in any health care or a community health care agency. Exemptions from disqualification can be sought through an appeal process at Gulf Coast Community College. Pursuit of appeal does not guarantee an exemption.

I have attached a copy of the **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK / FINGERPRINTING** policy for your review. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the Human Resource Office at Gulf Coast Community College at (850)-872-3866.

Thank You.

Sue Suggs  
Chair, Health Sciences Division

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS & FINGERPRINTING POLICY**

**Applicants to the programs in the Health Sciences Division of Gulf Coast Community College work very hard to meet the entry requirements for selection. Our programs make every effort to accept as many academically qualified students as possible. In addition to meeting basic entry requirements, however, applicants must also consider how their personal history may affect their ability to attend clinical in local hospitals, health departments and mental health agencies, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment.**

Various clinical sites require level two criminal background / fingerprinting procedures in order to have access to their agencies. Students must have a favorable criminal background check to participate in health science clinical agencies. Students who cannot produce a favorable criminal background check may not be able to participate in clinicals at any participating agency and may be unable to complete the program requirements.

Students who graduate from many health care programs must also pass licensure exams in order to be employable. The various entities that provide testing and licenses for health professionals, oftentimes, require criminal background checks, fingerprinting and drug screening prior to sitting for the exams and applying for licensure. It is possible to successfully graduate from a health sciences program but be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable criminal background check. It is also possible to graduate from a program and obtain the health professional license, but be denied some employment options due to an unfavorable drug screen.

We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision concerning making application to one of our programs.

## ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

### 1. Initial Advising and Application

Distribution of applications will be handled through the Health Sciences Administrative Office (room 219, Technology building). Applicants assume all responsibility for completion of application materials. **Incomplete applications will not be considered in the student selection process.** Mr. Craig Wise, Assistant Coordinator-Health Sciences Admissions (850-913-3311), will be the initial contact person for applicants to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Holly Gunning (850-913-3312) or Kelli Walsingham (850-769-1551, ext. 6180) can answer questions related to the physical therapy profession.

### 2. Admissions Committee

Each member of the Admissions Committee will review and rate each application independently, assigning points according to the standards, on each admission criterion. Points will be added to obtain an overall score for the application. The applicants will be ranked from highest to lowest.

When all members of the committee have individually completed review of the applications, the committee will meet as a group to select the class and alternates. The admissions committee adheres to the Gulf Coast Community College's policies for non-discrimination in student selection. Should there be tied scores, the admissions committee will use a majority committee vote as the deciding factor in final student selection.

The next 8-10 applicants (by ranked score) will be placed, in order, on an alternate acceptance list for the current program year only, and will be offered admission should a vacancy become available prior to the first day of required class attendance. **No waiting list is maintained for subsequent year's enrollment and interested individuals must renew and update their applications for the next year.** Procedures for compliance with non-discrimination policies and procedures guaranteeing students due process may be found in the GCCC Student Handbook.

### 3. The top 16-20 students will be offered a **conditional** admission to the program pending a background check. Should a health problem or disability be identified which appears to make compliance with the technical standards impossible, the applicant will be requested to meet with the admissions committee and a representative from disabled student services to discuss a possible way of adapting the program to enhance the applicant's chances of succeeding in the required course and clinical work. (See policies re: Disabled Student Services in the GCCC Student Handbook, or in the GCCC General Catalog). If it appears the applicant will probably not succeed in the program, final acceptance will be withdrawn.

### 4. All applicants to the PTA program will be notified in writing whether or not they are accepted into the current class. **PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS ON THIS APPLICATION FORM IS THE MAILING ADDRESS TO WHICH YOU WISH US TO MAIL YOUR ACCEPTANCE LETTER.** If your mailing address changes after you have submitted this application, **PLEASE** be sure to notify Craig Wise, 850-913-3311 or Glenda Broxson, Administrative Assistant, PTA, 850-873-3542, of this change **as well as** the Office of Admissions and Records. Accepted students will be provided with a form, which must be signed and returned to the PTA program coordinator within 2 weeks, which confirms their acceptance of a space in the PTA class.



5. Admission of **FORMER PTA STUDENTS**.

An applicant wishing to be admitted to the Gulf Coast Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program as a transfer student must:

1. Apply for admissions to Gulf Coast Community College.
2. Apply to Health Sciences for admission to the PTA program:
  - a. submit proof of completion of all prerequisites.
  - b. submit official transcripts of all PTA and applicable general studies courses completed directly to the Coordinator of the PTA program as well as to GCCC Office of Admissions and Records.
  - c. provide the coordinator of the PTA program with a college catalog which contains the course descriptions of all PT courses taken.
3. Schedule a meeting with the PTA coordinator.
4. Admission may be granted only if the courses already completed reasonably coincide in content and sequence with those of the GCCC program so that the student may progress through the remainder of the PTA program with the class into which he is accepted.

**Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Estimated Student Expenses  
(based on 2008 - 2009 fees)**

Registration will not be officially completed until all fees are paid in full by the dates identified in the college calendar. **Students are responsible for all fees for courses not dropped by the student during the refund period.**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program requires 74 credit hours of instruction.

**\*In-State Estimate**

Matriculation fee, per credit hour.....	\$57.89
Student Activity fee, per credit hour .....	5.79
Capital Improvement fee, per credit hour .....	5.61
Financial aid fee, per credit hour.....	2.89
Technology Fee .....	1.80
<b>TOTAL, PER CREDIT HOUR .....</b>	<b>\$73.98</b>

**\*Out-of-State Estimate**

Matriculation fee, per credit hour.....	\$57.89
Tuition, per credit hour.....	175.77
Student Activity fee, per credit hour .....	5.79
Capital Improvement fee, per credit hour .....	8.42
Financial aid fee, per credit hour.....	11.68
Technology Fee .....	5.40
<b>TOTAL, PER CREDIT HOUR .....</b>	<b>\$264.95</b>

Graduation fee for all graduates .....	20.00
Graduation reapplication fee .....	7.00

Lab fees [includes liability/accident insurance] (approximately) .....	80.00
Uniform and equipment expenses .....	75.00 - 100.00

Travel/living expenses for clinical training are the personal responsibility of the student and will vary depending on the location of the clinical site. Students are NOT guaranteed local placements.

Textbooks .....	1,300.00
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**ESTIMATED cost for the program -**

In-state .....	\$ 6,975.00
Out-of-state.....	\$21,106.00

<p><b>* Fees are subject to change without notice. Page 17 of the 2008-2009 catalog.</b></p>
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## **PTA TECHNICAL STANDARDS:**

The practice of physical therapy is a physically demanding occupation. All applicants must, therefore, meet the following technical standards to be admitted into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program:

1. Able to tolerate being physically active the entire working day.
2. Able to lift 70 pounds as needed.
3. Able to transfer, lift and guard patients safely, providing appropriate assistance.
4. Able to bend, stoop, squat and lift numerous times daily.
5. Able to carry out fine motor and manual dexterity skills with tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.
6. Mental acuity and judgment skills to adequately and safely perform job requirements.
7. Able to see and hear adequately in order to respond to auditory and visual cues for the observation, monitoring and assessment of patients.
8. No medical problems such as brittle diabetes, uncontrolled seizures, etc. which could endanger self or others if such should occur while providing patient care.
9. Critical thinking ability sufficient for sound clinical judgment.
10. Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, educational, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.
11. Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in both verbal and written form.

I have read the above and feel that it is within my ability to carry out the duties, responsibilities and qualifications of a Physical Therapist Assistant.

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SIGNATURE

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DATE

**GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

**PHYSICAL THERAPY EXPERIENCE FORM**

Extra points will be granted towards admission to those applicants who have documented greater than 30 hours of observation/volunteer or work experience in physical therapy. A Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant must verify the observation or work experience and this form must be submitted with the application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. OBSERVATION/VOLUNTEER experience in a Physical Therapy Department. (Be specific in number of hours completed)**

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Date # of Hours</u>	<u>Therapist's or Assistant's Signature</u>	<u>Lic. No.</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____

**II. WORK EXPERIENCE in Physical Therapy:**

Paid Employment in a Physical Therapy Department. (Be specific in number of hours completed)

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Date # of Hours</u>	<u>Therapist's or Assistant's Signature</u>	<u>Lic no.</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____

Professional Licenses or Certifications \_\_\_\_\_

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Please provide information about two people who will always know where to locate you.

	Name	Mailing Address	Telephone Number
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____

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### HEALTH RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE AND/OR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Street & No. City State

Supervisor's Name Title \_\_\_\_\_

Dates employed: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of Your Job Duties \_\_\_\_\_

Mo./Yr. Mo./Yr.

Reason for Leaving \_\_\_\_\_ Full \_\_\_\_\_ Part-Time \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Street & No. City State

Supervisor's Name Title \_\_\_\_\_

Dates employed: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of Your Job Duties \_\_\_\_\_

Mo./Yr. Mo./Yr.

Reason for Leaving \_\_\_\_\_ Full \_\_\_\_\_ Part-Time \_\_\_\_\_

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### PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING

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I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or falsification of information is cause for denial of admission from the College. I understand that illegal use, possession, and/or misuse of drugs are reasons for immediate dismissal from any of the programs in the Health Sciences Division.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### RETURN APPLICATION TO:

Gulf Coast Community College  
Health Sciences Division  
5230 W. U.S. Highway 98  
Panama City, FL 32401-1058

#### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street & No \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_