

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.html](http://www.occ.edu/health/pta.html) 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 insure 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 \$135.29 per credit hour (2024-2025). This is the sixth year in a row that OCCC has not raised tuition costs! Beginning in 2020, 69 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 medical malpractice liability insurance, which is available through the bursar’s office (*estimated cost, \$30.00 annually*). 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 bring those copies to the new PTA student orientation 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 of the HP Programs with no opportunity for readmission. Any break in continuous enrollment will result in an additional pre-placement drug test, 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 (2022, 2023 graduates), 76.5% of students who were admitted to the PTA Program graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree and 100% 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

- Applications for admissions to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program may be obtained online at [www.occc.edu/health/pta](http://www.occc.edu/health/pta). Application periods are once per year with deadlines occurring in early spring.
- Applicants must first qualify for admission to Oklahoma City Community College according to the criteria for admission by submitting official transcripts from every college/university attended (including concurrent coursework).
- Fees include a \$30.00 first time enrollment fee (for students new to OCCC) and a \$20.00 selective application fee as stated in the current College Catalog. The selective application fee receipt must be uploaded with the PTA application.
- It is very important that individuals interested in applying to the PTA Program begin by meeting with an advisor to ensure admissions criteria has been met (testing and GPA requirement).
- There are basic application requirements (reading, writing, math tests, and GPA) which must be met to qualify for application consideration. Once these basic application requirements are met, the applicant is placed on a candidate list in order of the total number of preference points earned. Although preference points are optional, they are the means for selection of each class admitted to the PTA Program. In the event of duplicate preference points, cumulative GPA is used to rank the candidates, with Science GPA used as the next criteria used 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. Preference points will be assigned accordingly.
- An official transcript from **each** of the colleges/universities attended must be submitted to the office of records to be reviewed at the time of application. (including concurrent work). Students can view the transcripts from their student portal to ensure the most recent transcripts have been received (especially necessary for course and degree verification).
- Applications will be considered for the specified application period only.  
Applicants not selected may reapply for admission during the next application cycle. There is no limit to the number of times the applicant may apply to enter the PTA Program as a first-time PTA student. If a student is terminated from the OCCC PTA Program due to failure of a PTA course or withdrawal due to a failing grade and unable to complete the OCCC PTA Program in the three-year timeframe, that student will be ineligible to reapply to the OCCC PTA Program.
- A cohort of twenty students is selected to begin the PTA Program each fall.
- For students to successfully complete any of the programs in Health Professions, they must be able to meet all the cognitive and behavioral objectives listed in the course syllabi and demonstrate competency of all required skills. PTA essential functions can be found in the PTA Student Handbook and on the PTA website under 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 enrolled to ensure accommodations.
- Clinical Agencies have requirements in place that all students must meet. Students who do not meet agency requirements (background checks, immunization requirements, drug testing) will not be able to attend that clinical. That means that those students cannot successfully pass 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 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.**

## SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE – 69 CH

Courses			Credit hours
<b>Summer after acceptance (4 CH)</b>			
BIO	1314	Human Anatomy and Physiology I OR	4
BIO	2255	Human Anatomy (with cadaver lab)	
<b>First year fall (14 CH)</b>			
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
<b>First year spring (16 CH)</b>			
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
<b>Summer (5 CH)</b>			
COM	1123	Interpersonal Communication OR	3
COM	2213	Introduction to Public Speaking OR	
SOC	2143	Race and Ethnicity in the US	
PTA	1312	Practicum I (4 week clinical course at assigned location)	2
<b>Second year fall (14 CH)</b>			
ENGL	1213	English Comp II OR	3
ENGL	1233	Report Writing	
PSY	1113	General Psychology	3
PTA	1201	Pediatric Development, Conditions and Treatment (early 8wk)	1
PTA	2024	Therapeutic Exercise II	4
PTA	2113	Systems/Problems in PT	3
PTA	1211	Geriatric Conditions and Treatment (late 8wk)	1
PTA	2021	Clinical Prep II	1
<b>Second year spring (16 CH)</b>			
PS	1113	American Federal Government	3
HIST	1483	United States History to 1877 OR	3
HIST	1493	United States History 1877 to Present	
PTA	2034	Practicum II (7 week clinical at assigned location)	4
PTA	2134	Practicum III (7 week clinical at assigned location)	4

**Total credits=69**

\*\*For the courses that indicate OR, the student may choose which course to take to complete the credit hour requirement in that 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