



Physical Therapist Assistant Application Planning Guide

Confirm Your Interest in a Physical Therapy Career

- ✓ Learn more about PTA Careers and differences between becoming a Physical Therapist vs. a Physical Therapist Assistant from the American Physical Therapy Association: www.apta.org/careers
- ✓ Review the US Department of Labor’s Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm

Know the Important Differences Between:

	Role	Education
Physical Therapist Assistant	Performs interventions and collects data as directed by the physical therapist	Associate Degree in PTA*
Physical Therapist	Examines, evaluates, determines a PT diagnosis and develops the plan of care	Doctorate Degree in Physical Therapy

*** IMPORTANT NOTE:** *PT programs typically accept the General Education courses required in the PTA program, but rarely accept PTA course work. PTA programs are NOT a transitional step to applying to PT school.*

Attend an Informational Meeting:

Please see website for dates, time and location

<http://www.heartland.edu/catalog/pta/events.jsp>

Review Accreditation Information

Graduation from a physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org, is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Physical Therapist Assistant program at Heartland Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314; telephone 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 309-268-8673 or email daryl.menke@heartland.edu.

CAPTE has a mechanism to consider formal complaints about physical therapy education programs (PT or PTA). Please refer to the CAPTE website: <http://www.capteonline.org/Complaints/>.

To file a complaint with Heartland Community College about the PTA Program please refer to the HCC website: <http://www.heartland.edu/academicDepartments/hhs/pta.html>

Review the PTA Curriculum

The PTA program at Heartland Community College leads to an **Associate in Applied Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant**.

This degree contains pre-admission (general education) courses, PTA technical courses and practical clinical experiences.

The pre-admission courses must be completed with a “C” or greater AND a GPA of 2.5 in these courses must be obtained by the end of the fall semester to be eligible for admission to the PTA program in the subsequent spring.

All PTA courses must be taken in sequence.

Associate in Applied Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Requirements		Credit Hours	Prerequisites
Pre Admission Requirements	ENGL 101 Critical Reading & Writing	3	ENGL 99 (completed with concurrent enrollment in ENGL 101) with a grade of "C" or better OR satisfactory score on placement assessment
	BIOL 181 Anatomy & Physiology I	4	One year of high school biology or college level biology course within the last five years, BIOL 099 with a grade of "C" or higher, or assessment; and completion of Math through Intermediate Algebra Level I, or assessment
	BIOL 182 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	BIOL 181 with a grade of "C" or higher; and completion of Math through Intermediate Algebra Level I with a grade of "C" or higher, or assessment
	COMM 101 Intro to Oral Communication	3	College Level English and reading placement
	HLTH 225 Clinical Kinesiology	3	BIOL 181 with a grade of C or higher or concurrent enrollment
	PSY 101 Intro to Psychology	3	College Level English and Reading Placement
	PSY 209 Human Growth & Development	3	PSY 101
Total Credit Hours for Pre-admission Requirements		23	
PTA Courses			
Term	Course	Credit Hours	Admission to the PTA program
1st Year			
Spring Semester	PTA 100 Introduction to Physical Therapy	1	
	PTA 101 Principles of Patient Care	2	
	PTA 102 Patient Care Skills & Assessment	3	
	PTA 110 Physical Agents in Rehabilitation I	2	
	PTA 111 Application of Physical Agents I	3	
	PTA 120 Foundations of Therapeutic Exercise	3	
	PTA 121 Therapeutic Exercise for Orthopedic Conditions	3	
		17	
Summer Term	PTA 140 Clinical Experience I	4	Completion of all 1 st year Spring Semester PTA courses with a "C" or greater
		4	
Fall Semester	PTA 210 Physical Agents in Rehabilitation II	3	Completion of all previous PTA courses with a "C" or better
	PTA 211 Application of Physical Agents II	3	
	PTA 220 Concepts of Rehabilitation	4	
	PTA 221 Rehabilitation Techniques	3	
	PTA 230 PTA Pathophysiology	3	
	16		
2nd Year			Completion of all previous PTA courses with a "C" or better
Spring Semester	PTA 240 Clinical Experience II	10	
	PTA 250 Clinical Seminar	2	
		12	
Total Credit Hours for Technical Courses		43	
Total Credit Hours for Associate of Applied Science in PTA		72	

Review Admission Criteria & Recommendations for Course Selection

Admission Criteria

- Pre-admission courses must be completed with a "C" or higher or in progress during the fall semester of the application deadline.
- A GPA of 2.5 is required in these courses.
- If the student has completed Advanced Placement exams it will be scored as follows: 5 = letter grade A / 4 = letter grade B / 3 = letter grade C. Scores below 3 will not be considered.
- If a transcript utilized in the application process has a Credit or Pass in lieu of a letter grade for a required program prerequisite course taken during or after January 2020, HCC will verify that the Credit or Pass equated to a letter grade C. If the Credit or Pass does not meet this standard, that course will not be accepted as passed.

This provision shall only be allowed when there is documented evidence this grading policy related to Credit or Pass is in effect. HCC reserves all rights in determination of utilization of letter grades versus other grading mechanisms.

- ENGL 101 – Critical Reading & Writing
- BIOL 181 – Anatomy & Physiology I (*completed within the last five years*)
- BIOL 182 – Anatomy & Physiology II (*completed within the last five years*)
- COMM 101 – Introduction to Oral Communication
- HLTH 225 – Clinical Kinesiology (*completed within the last five years*)
- PSY 101 – Introduction to Psychology
- PSY 209 – Human Growth & Development

- HLTH 225, BIOL 181 & 182 or equivalent completed within the last five years. This will be counted from the Spring semester of the application cycle (i.e. Apply in Spring 2016 - the five years would be Spring semester of 2011).

- If a candidate is completing one or more general education courses during the fall semester of the application cycle, the grade utilized for that course will be the mid-term grade.

- In the event a candidate elects to re-take a course in an attempt to improve the grade that is on their transcript, the following will be utilized in the selection process:
 - If the candidate completes the re-take prior to August 1 of the application cycle, the highest grade will be utilized.
 - If the candidate is retaking the course during the fall semester of the application cycle, the grade utilized for that course will be the mid-term grade and not any previous grade.

- All general education courses must be passed with a minimum grade of 'C' and the candidate must have a minimum GPA of 2.5. If the candidate was provisionally selected for the program but does not meet these requirements, they will not be allowed to enter into the program. The candidate would need to submit a new application for the PTA program during a subsequent application cycle.

Minimum comprehensive score of 59.4% is required on the ATI TEAS.

- The ATI TEAS will be offered between April and August at Heartland and can be retaken one time within the application period. The highest grade within the application period will be used for evaluation. Appointments can be made through *my.Heartland*. Study guides are available at www.atitesting.com

Residency Requirement

Applicants who are legal residents of Community College District #540 will be given preference for admission provided all admission criteria are met. A maximum of two qualified applicants who are out of district that are ranked in the top 16 will be offered a seat in the program. Review details at <https://www.heartland.edu/payingForCollege/cost/residency.html>

Review the Evaluation Process of Qualified Applicants

This is how your application will be evaluated:

Weighting	Criteria
65%	Normalized GPA on pre-admission courses $\left[\left(\frac{\text{Pre-admission GPA}}{4.0} \right) \times 100 \right]$
30%	TEAS V AH Score
5%	Prior Academic Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Degree (100) Bachelor Degree (75) Associate Degree (50) College Certificate in CNA, EMT, Massage Therapy (25)

$$[\text{Normalized GPA}] \times 65\% + [\text{TEAS V AH Score}] \times 30\% + [\text{Prior Achievement}] \times 5\% = \text{SCORE}$$

Example Calculations:

	GPA	Normalized GPA	TEAS V Score	Prior Achieve	SCORE
Student A	3.2	80	87	75	81.85
Student B	2.8	70	75	50	70.5
Student C	2.9	72.5	92	25	75.975
Student D	3.4	85	68	0	75.65

Review HCC Application Procedures for PTA Program

1. Apply to Heartland Community College

Complete the new student admission process at www.heartland.edu/application.

2. Apply to the PTA Program

*No early or late applications will be accepted. Applications may be reopened at a later date if seats remain open.

Application Window	Application Due	Documentation Due	Decision Date
April 1- August 1	August 1	September 1 ** (2021 cycle only = September 15)	Mid November

If enrolled in pre-admission courses in the fall semester, midterm grades **due by last college business day of October

- a. Complete and submit the Application for Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA). Applications for PTA must be postmarked or office stamped in the Enrollment Services Center in Normal between **April 1 and August 1**. No early or late applications will be accepted.
- b. Submit required documents for evaluation by **September 1**. These include:
 - Official copies of all college transcripts received by Student Records
 - Photocopy of driver's license or State ID
- c. Submit midterm grades if enrolled in pre-admission courses in the fall semester of application deadline by **last college business day of October**

3. Take the Test of Essential Academic Skills V Allied Health (TEAS V AH)

The TEAS will be offered at Heartland Community College's Normal Campus:

- A fee must be paid at the time of testing
- To schedule the TEAS test, please log into myHeartland account, click on appointments, Allied Health, TEAS testing. Check your myHeartland for email confirmation.
- Study guides are available at <https://www.atitesting.com/ati> or the HCC Library.
- Students may retake the TEAS test one time within the application period at HCC (April - August).
The highest grade within the application period will be used for evaluation.
 - ❖ Test of Essential Academic Skills V AH (TEAS V AH) comprehensive score of 59.4% or greater is required for admission into the PTA
- TEAS scores are valid for a period of two years.

Review Other Program Requirements

Please review the following PTA Program Policies, Procedures, and documents to ensure the program is right for you. Found at: <http://www.heartland.edu/catalog/pta/admission.jsp> - click on Program Handbook (pdf) link

- ✓ Student Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening
- ✓ PTA Essential Functions
- ✓ Clinical Education Requirements and Health Clearances Prior to Clinical Placement
- ✓ Licensure Requirements for the State of Illinois

ESTIMATED PTA PROGRAM COSTS

The tuition rate for PTA courses is the same as for all other Heartland courses.
Other items and approximate costs include:

Fee	Cost
Tuition & Fees: full PTA program (excluding prerequisites) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$163.00 / credit hour (in-district tuition) \$ 8.00 (tech / life) / credit hour (college fees) \$550.00 course fees 	\$12,862
Pre-entrance Criminal Background Check	\$50-60
Pre-entrance Drug Screening	\$50-60
Pre-entrance TEAS Test	\$70
Pre-entrance Physical / Immunizations / Lab work	Varies
Books	\$1,000- 1,500
Name Tag / Uniform / Shoes	\$250
CPR Certification	\$40-60
2 – School Patches (\$5 each) (2)	\$10
Personal Health Insurance (student’s responsibility)	Varies
NPTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online application fee for Continental Testing Services FSBPT registration Prometric Testing Site Fee 	\$ 98 \$ 485 \$ 80
State of Illinois PTA License Fee (this is inclusive of acceptance of examination and the license fees)	\$150
Travel to Clinical Sites	Varies
Graduation Pin	\$35-\$150

Estimated Fees as of Mar 5, 2020

There are a variety of immunizations required by our clinical partners.
A list of immunizations will be distributed after acceptance into the program.

All tuition, fees, and cost estimates are subject to change without notice