

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT INFORMATION SESSION

## TRINITY RIVER CAMPUS EAST



# PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

- Briefly describe the profession of physical therapy and the role of the PTA
- Outline the essential job functions of a PTA
- Outline the details and application procedures for the TCC PTA program
- Answer any questions related to the profession, program or application process

# WHAT DOES A PT/PTA DO AT WORK?

- Restore maximum function possible after injury or illness, prevent injury and promote overall wellness across the lifespan and continuum of care.
- Injuries/illness to bones, muscles, joints, brain, spinal cord, skin (wound care), post cardiac event or those battling cancer can benefit from physical therapy.
- Examples of common physical therapy interventions
  - Strengthening
  - Balance training
  - Stretching
  - Aerobic exercise
  - Coordination and timing of muscular activation
  - Manual therapies
  - EDUCATION

# WHAT IS A PTA?

- An extension of the physical therapist who works under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.
- The nature of the role is comparable to that of a physician/physician assistant or nurse practitioner.
- Curriculum is much more compressed, but the content is mostly the same as a PT program

# PTA MAY BE A GOOD CAREER CHOICE IF...

- Compassion and interest in helping people
- Lifelong learner
- People person
- Good communication skills
- Good time management skills
- Critical Thinker/problems solver: able to figure out a solution when things don't go as planned.
- Work well with others

# WHERE DO PT/PTA'S WORK?

- Hospitals
  - Many settings
- Outpatient Clinics
- Schools: K-12
- Nursing homes
- Home Health
- Prisons
- Corporate Health/Wellness
- Industry and ergonomics
- Sports teams: (Professional, collegiate, Olympics)
- Education: PT/PTA Programs
- Dance Companies/Performing Arts Medicine
- Rodeo circuits
- Travel PT/PTA

# ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- **Visual Acuity** (with corrective lenses, if needed)
- **Hearing ability** (with auditory aids, if needed)
- **Physical ability** (see next slide)
- **Ability to communicate efficiently and effectively**
  - Verbal, written
- **Ability to manage stress and stressful situations/environments**

- **Lifting** (in excess of 50 pounds for patient transfers activities)
- **Pushing and pulling** moderate loads (wheelchair, equipment)
- **Walking and standing** (more than 30 minutes without a break)
- **Stairclimbing**
- **Sitting/squatting/stooping** (bending at the waist)
- **Reaching** (above shoulder level and behind the body)
- **Manual Dexterity** (bilaterally functioning hands)
- **Environmental Conditions** (culturally diverse, high stress, fast-paced, various age groups, various diagnoses, high risk for exposure to biohazardous waste and diseases such as Hepatitis B, TB, Coronavirus, and HIV)





# **PTA PROGRAM AT TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE**

- Requirements
- Application procedures
- Methods of cohort selection and notification

# **APPLICATION PERIOD**

**9/1-6/1 for Fall start**

**No late applications will be considered**

**[www.tccd.edu/physicaltherapistassistant](http://www.tccd.edu/physicaltherapistassistant)**

**”How to Apply” tab**

**Go to Step 7 for link to form**

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM SEATS, COSTS AND SALARY

**How many seats per  
application period?**

**Up to 32** students per  
cohort are invited to enroll.

Fall semester start

**Cost of Attendance and  
PTA Salary**

<\$10,000.00 for Tarrant Co. residents!

Salary dependent on the setting and  
geographical location of employment

BLS.gov reports \$31.66/hr an HOUR  
national average and \$34/hr in Texas!

\$69,090 is the annual mean wage for ALL  
PTA's in the DFW area. (seasoned  
clinicians, management, etc...as of May  
2023 report)

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

SEE SELECTIVE ADMISSION TAB ON THE PTA PROGRAM WEBSITE

[tccd.edu/physicaltherapistassistant](http://tccd.edu/physicaltherapistassistant)

## TCC ID Number

- You must apply and gain acceptance to TCC
- [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)

## Completed Online Application

How to Apply page  
Step 7

## TSI Requirements

- Meet TCCD's Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements. For additional information on TSI requirements, please reach out to the TCCD advising office.
- [Tr.HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu](mailto:Tr.HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu)

# MORE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

SEE SELECTIVE ADMISSION TAB ON THE PTA PROGRAM WEBSITE

- HESI A2
- Documentation of Experience Form/Forms
  - indicating 40 hours of observation
  - Can be obtained at >1 facility
  - Can be paid or volunteer hours
- 3 references
  - PT/PTA only
  - Must work at facility where you observed
  - Electronic Microsoft form will be sent to individual via email
- GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Transcript Evaluation
- Demonstrate Language Proficiency if ESL
  - TOEFL
  - IELTS

# ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

## Background

### Checks/Criminal History & Drug Screening

**After entrance** to the program. Completed **30 days** prior to your first clinical rotation in the 4<sup>th</sup> semester

Required by clinical sites

[www.ptot.Texas.gov](http://www.ptot.Texas.gov) to request a criminal history evaluation to be sure you are eligible for licensure

## Immunizations

Upon Application:

- ✓ \*HEPATITIS A
- ✓ \*HEPATITIS B
- ✓ MMR
- ✓ Varicella
- ✓ Tdap (every 10 yrs)
- ✓ \***Covid-19: 2 doses**(some facilities are requiring)
- ✓ If under 22, please submit proof of MCV4 (Meningitis) to your campus registrar's office.

**After entrance to program just prior to clinical rotations:**

- ✓ Influenza (annually)
- ✓ TB Skin Test (annually)

**\*Requires multiple injections & take up to 6 months to complete. Must have at least one dose to be eligible to apply.**

## Other

**After entrance** to the program:

- CPR certification
  - American Heart Association BLS course
- Physical Exam
- Personal Health Insurance

# ADMISSION RANKING CALCULATION

**3 items are considered:**

**1. OVERALL GPA**

Last 5 years of college coursework (or HS transcript)

**2. SCIENCE GPA\***

\*BIOL 2401/2402 ONLY

**3. HESI A2 SCORES**

Reading, vocabulary, grammar, math only

Min of 70 required for each section

# BONUS POINTS

## HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS

- Documented Military Veteran (no children/spouses)
- Dual credit student with TCC
- Existing college degree
  
- All will receive .1 for each as applicable



# IMPORTANT!

- Having the stated requirements does not guarantee admission
- Regardless of previous college coursework, it will still take 5 semesters to complete our program
- NOTE to those receiving **financial aid**: Taking non PTA courses ahead of time MAY reduce financial aid eligibility later when completing the program. Talk to your TCC financial aid office to determine if this concerns you and what the amount of the reduction may be. **Email**: [financial.aid@tccd.edu](mailto:financial.aid@tccd.edu)
- PTA courses must be taken in the order shown in the catalog curriculum page (they are **ONLY offered during the semester shown**).
- Progression to the next semester of the program requires successful completion of ALL courses in the current semester. Courses are only offered once a year.
- Only students accepted into the PTA program may take PTA courses.

# PTA DEGREE PLAN

## **First Fall Semester**

PTHA 1201 Profession of PT

PTHA 1321 Pathophysiology for PTA

PTHA 1413 Functional Anatomy

**\*BIOL 2401** and **HPRS 2200**

## **First Spring Semester**

PTHA 1405 Basic Patient Care Skills

PTHA 1225 Communications in Healthcare

PTHA 1431 Physical Agents

**\*BIOL 2402** and **\*PSYC 2301**

## **Summer Semester**

PTHA 2201 Data Collections

PTHA 2431 Management of Neurological Disorders

**\*PSYC 2314** OR **PSYC 2308** and **\*ENGL 1301**

# PTA DEGREE PLAN

## **Second Fall Semester**

PTHA 2360 Clinical

PTHA 2409 Therapeutic Exercise

PTHA 2435 Rehab Techniques

## **Second Spring Semester**

PTHA 2361 Clinical

PTHA 2239 Professional Issues

PTHA 2363 Clinical

\*Creative Arts/Language, Philosophy and Culture  
(**Humanities course**)

# GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

- **\*BIOL 2401 (Anatomy and Physiology I)**
- **\*BIOL 2402 (Anatomy and Physiology II)**
- ENGL 1301 (English Composition I)
- PSYC 2301 (General Psychology)
- Either PSYC 2308 (Child Psychology) OR PSYC 2314 (Life Span Growth & Development)
- HPRS 2200 (Pharmacology for Health Professions)
- One Humanities/Fine Arts Electives: (3 hour course) See advising for options

\*These are recommended to be complete prior to application, **but not required.**

**These courses must be completed according to the degree plan schedule with a grade of C or higher.**

# PTA PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Program courses are **in person** and **usually** (not always) meet weekdays between 8am and 6pm

Clinical courses MAY require weekend hours

**This is a “Full-Time” Program in terms of class time and outside of class study time requirements.**

Students need to be able to commit to a **full-time** schedule for **five consecutive semesters**. Please be sure your family is on board and understands the rigor and study time required of this endeavor.

Part-time, evening and distance learning options are **not available** at this time.

# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

## When Will I Be Notified of my status?

Mid-June

## How will I Be Notified?

Your my.tccd.edu email address

## What then?

A. Invited to Top 40

B. Not selected (you were not in the Top 40 of those candidates in the applicant pool)

## Selection Into Program

Top 40 attendees are notified within a few days after the **MANDATORY** meeting.

## Selected or Alternate?

Must have attended the meeting to be eligible for a seat in the program.

Up to 32 will be invited to enroll  
Remaining 8 will be considered alternates.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure the correct e-mail address has been provided.

\*Please note that the PTA Program Director is not privy to the status of the applicant.

# PAYING FOR SCHOOL

- Apply for scholarships through the TCC Foundation **now!**
  - <https://foundation.tccd.edu/scholarships/tccf-scholarships/>
  - **March 1-May 1** (decisions made mid-August)
- Complete the FAFSA and apply for federal loans
  - [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)
  - Application opens on December 1, 2024 for next academic year aid and federal loans
- Private loans: Sallie Mae, College Avenue, SoFi, etc...
- Cash flow it (not recommended to work during the program....so work a lot now and **save it...**)

# THANK YOU!

If you have any questions, please

see our website:

[tccd.edu/physicaltherapistassistant](http://tccd.edu/physicaltherapistassistant)

or contact:

[TR.HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu](mailto:TR.HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu)





# **PLEASE PAY ATTENTION!**

**For those who could not attend a live session:**

To receive credit and be eligible to apply,  
you must complete the associated quiz!!

# QUIZ

- When is the deadline to submit an application to the program?
- How many hours of observation are required to be eligible for application?
- Can I obtain my observation hours from multiple facilities?
- T/F: Other medical professionals (not PT/PTA's) can serve as references for our program?
- How many references are needed for your application?
- Describe the requirement for Covid 19 vaccination (do ALL facilities mandate it)?
- Which immunizations require multiple doses?
- T/F: you must pass a criminal background check and drug screen to participate in clinical education?
- List the physical requirements for obtaining employment as a PTA?
- How is the admission ranking calculated? (Which criteria are used)
- Which email address will TCC use to communicate with you regarding the status of your application?