

# **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT INFORMATION SESSION**

## **TRINITY RIVER CAMPUS EAST**

## **TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT**



# LETTER TO THE APPLICANT

- We at TCCD appreciate your interest in the PTA program. The purpose of this information session is to answer any questions you might have about the application process, in order to make it less complicated
- TCCD is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The PTA program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). This accreditation satisfies the educational requisite to sit for the licensure exam administered by the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.
- The program is well supported by local hospitals, private practice clinics, and rehab facilities in and around Tarrant County. Our graduates have excellent pass rates on the licensure exam and are actively recruited by employers.
- The curriculum plan for the program begins in the fall semesters of the school year and consists of 5 consecutive semesters. Besides the PTA courses, our program includes a full complement of general education and science courses necessary for earning an Associates of Applied Science degree. Successful completion of the program satisfies the academic requirement for applying for state licensure as a PTA.
- Currently, PTA courses are offered only during the day on week-days. The student schedule will vary each semester and is also dependent upon whether any of the general education courses are completed prior to program admission.
- During the second half of the program, students are placed in a variety of clinical sites for hands on experience in Physical Therapy. Licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants provide the student with onsite, direct supervision. Clinical hours and days vary by semester.
- Thank you again for your interest in our program!
- **[www.tccd.edu/physicaltherapistassistant](http://www.tccd.edu/physicaltherapistassistant)** for more information and application procedures

# **APPLICATION PERIOD**

**September 1st through June 1st (or 1st business day in June)**

**For Fall Admission**

**Online Application at**

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

**You can bring the application to an advisor for review**

**All application materials can be uploaded within the application. Any additional documents can be mailed to the address below.**

**Attention: PTA APPLICATION**

**245 E. Belknap St.**

**TRHN 3211A**

**Fort Worth, Texas 76102**

# ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AS A PTA:

- **Visual Acuity** (with corrective lenses, if needed) to identify cyanosis, absence of respiratory movement in patients, adverse skin reactions to treatments, read physicians orders, read very fine print on medication containers, visualize displays on monitors and other equipment, and evaluate images for diagnostic quality.
- **Hearing ability** (with auditory aids, if needed) to understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker's face; hear and monitor alarms, emergency signals, call bells from patients, equipment timers and alarms; and take/hear blood pressures.
- **Physical ability** to stand for prolonged periods of time, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, **lift** to transfer patients and objects of **50 pounds or more**, perform treatment procedures with two hands, push patients and pieces of equipment from room to room and/or maneuver in limited spaces. Health insurance is also required at one or more clinical sites.
- **The ability to communicate efficiently and effectively** in verbal, spoken and written form by speaking clearly and succinctly when explaining treatment procedures to patients, family members, medical staff and when describing patient conditions/reactions and implementing health techniques. Write legibly and correctly in patient's records for legal documentation.
- **The ability to function safely** under stressful situations involving patient care; to adapt to the ever-changing environment inherent in clinical situations involving patient care, and to exercise independent judgment and discretion in the performance of assigned responsibilities.

# ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AS A PTA, CONTINUED:

- 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)
- Hands (bilaterally functioning)
- Sight (for reading small print on data collection tools, non-verbal communication from patients, tissue colors and texture)
- Speech (volume, diction and grammar skills)
- Hearing (oral communication and equipment tones high and low)
- Written language (to interpret and report patient data in a timely fashion)
- 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, and HIV)

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM SEATS, COSTS AND STARTING PAY

## How many seats per application period?

The TCCD Physical Therapist Assistant program currently accepts **up to 32** students per application period.

Those selected will begin classes in the following Fall semester. On average, the program has about 100 students apply in a single application period.

## Program Cost and Starting Pay

Less than \$10,000.00 for Tarrant Co. residents!

This includes uniforms, books, tuition and other miscellaneous expenses.

Salary dependent on the setting and geographical location of employment

BLS.gov reports \$28.58/hr an HOUR national average and \$33/hr in Texas!

\$69,900 is the annual mean wage for ALL PTA's in the DFW area. (seasoned clinicians, management, etc...as of May 2020 report)

# ADMISSION RANKING

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE (*NOT THE ADVISOR*) CALCULATES AN ADMISSIONS RANKING FOR EACH STUDENT WHO COMPLETES AN APPLICATION. THE RANKING ADDS TOGETHER THE CUMULATIVE UNDERGRADUATE GPA FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS AND TOTAL BONUS POINTS.

## Grade Point Average

The last 5 years of your undergraduate transcripts from regionally accredited colleges will be used to calculate a cumulative grade point average. Developmental classes do not count towards this calculation. If a student does not have at least 12 credit hours of college, high school transcripts will be used to calculate the GPA. If a student has taken a course more than once, the course with the highest grade will be used to calculate the GPA; thus a student may retake a course to increase their application ranking.

The admissions ranking is calculated by adding together the student's **cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) for the past 5 years (SP 2018 and after)**, **“Science” GPA (Consists of BIOL 2401/2402 only)**, **Average of the HESI A2 scores**, and **any bonus points**

From this ranking, the top applicants will be determined. These applicants will be required to attend an Informational Meeting in the spring. The other students who attended the meeting and not selected for admission to the program will be the alternates.

# BONUS POINTS

## HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS

- .1 will be given to those registered with TCCD as a military Veteran
- .1 will be given to those who were enrolled as TCC dual-credit high school students
- .1 will be given to those who are returning to our programs after completing an advanced degree (associate's or higher). Transcripts must state successful completion with GPA of 2.5 or higher, which is the minimum GPA for applying to the programs we currently offer.



# COMPETITIVENESS

Not everyone who meets program application requirements will be selected for program admission. At this time, the Physical Therapist Assistant applicants will begin the program in the following Fall semester.

***\*\*\*MANY STUDENTS ACCEPTED HAVE AN EXISTING  
DEGREE\*\*\****

At time of selection, applicants are given an applicant score. Applicants that did not score in the top selection are recommended to continue improving on their \*scores and reapply.

\*The Applicant Score is currently comprised of: Cumulative GPA and “science” GPA, average HESI A2 scores and bonus points

# SELECTION NOTIFICATION: CANDIDATES AND SELECTION INTO PROGRAM

## When Will I Be Notified?

The top 40 candidates will be notified 1-2 weeks after the conclusion of the application period and are invited to a **mandatory** information meeting

## Selection Into Program

Acceptance Notification of selected applicants are sent within 10 days after the information meeting.

## Alternates

The remaining applicants within the **Top 40** (that attended the information session) are designated as alternates.

It is important to remember that selection is based on how each applicant compares with others in the applicant pool for this program in that particular application cycle.

Applicants with higher GPA's are the most competitive.

The selection committee notifies all candidates by the applicant's **MyTCC e-mail address** of their admission status (accepted, alternate, not accepted or incomplete). 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.

# ELIGIBILITY

## Must have a TCCD ID Number

- To be eligible to apply for the Physical Therapist Assistant program, the student must first be a current TCCD student. This means that the student has a TCCD student ID number and has already applied and been accepted to the college.
- Individuals that have not applied to the college may follow this link: [Apply For Admission](#) to begin the process.

## Transcript Evaluation

- ALL official transcripts from a college or university other than TCCD, must be received and evaluated by TCCD at the time of Application to the Physical Therapist Assistant program.
- First, submit your transcripts to the Transcript Office or your local Registrars office.
- This process can take up to two months, please keep this in mind.

## TSI Requirements

- Meet TCCD's Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements. For additional information on TSI requirements, Please visit: [TSI Requirements](#)

# ELIGIBILITY CONTINUED

## Background Checks/Criminal History

- Background checks and drug screens are required
- If you have a felony or misdemeanor conviction, jail-time associated with a crime or deferred adjudication that may show up in your background check, please contact the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners ([www.ptot.texas.gov](http://www.ptot.texas.gov)) and “Request Criminal History Evaluation Letter” to be sure you will be eligible to sit for licensure examination upon completion of the program.  
**The Assistant Dean** should also be contacted to check eligibility for participation in clinical education.

## Immunizations/Screenings

- Please be aware that the TAC (Texas Administrative Code) and DFW Hospital Council Standards require that all students in health-related programs complete certain immunizations. They are currently as follows:
  - ✓ **\*HEPATITIS A**
  - ✓ **\*HEPATITIS B**
  - ✓ **MMR**
  - ✓ **Varicella**
  - ✓ **Tdap (every 10 yrs)**
  - ✓ **\*Covid-19: 2 doses**(some facilities are requiring)
  - ✓ Influenza (annually)
  - ✓ TB Skin Test (annually)
  - ✓ If under 22, please submit proof of MCV4 (Meningitis) to your campus registrar’s office.

**\*require multiple injections & take up to 6 months to complete**

## Other Requirements

- **CPR**
  - American Heart Association BLS course
- **Personal Health Insurance**

# RECOMMENDED COURSES

**ALL PTA AND OTHER COURSES (REQUIRED FOR DEGREE) MUST BE PASSED WITH A MINIMUM GRADE OF C.**

**THESE ARE RECOMMENDED TO BE COMPLETE PRIOR TO APPLICATION, BUT NOT REQUIRED.**

**The following education courses must be completed prior to graduation with a grade of C or higher.**

- 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 Admissions Information Booklet approved courses

# IMPORTANT!

- NOTE to those with **previous degree or those with non PTA courses completed**: Even if all required general education and specialized courses have been completed prior to program admission, it will still take 5 semesters (2 years) to complete the PTA program. If those courses were not completed at TCC, a transcript evaluation will be required to determine transferability of those courses to the degree plan.
- NOTE to those receiving **financial aid**: Taking non PTA courses ahead of time may reduce financial aid received 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.
- PTA courses must be taken in the order shown in the catalog curriculum page (they are **ONLY offered during the semester shown**).
- The student may not progress to the next semester in the program until s/he successfully completed all courses required for the previous semester.
- Only students accepted into the PTA program may take PTA courses. Audits of these courses are NOT permitted

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM SCHEDULE/LENGTH

## Course & Clinical Hours

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

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

Students need to be able to commit to a **full-time** schedule for **five semester (2 YEARS) consecutively.**

Part-time or evening learning options are **not** available at this time.

No distance learning options at this time.

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

## **Coursework in the First Fall Semester**

PTHA 1201 Profession of PT

PTHA 1321 Pathophysiology for PTA

PTHA 1413 Functional Anatomy

BIOL 2401 and HPRS 2200, if not already completed.

## **Coursework in the First Spring Semester**

PTHA 1405 Basic Patient Care Skills

PTHA 1225 Communications in Healthcare

PTHA 1431 Physical Agents

BIOL 2402 and PSYC 2301, if not already completed.

## **Coursework in the Summer Semester**

PTHA 2201 Data Collections

PTHA 2431 Management of Neurological Disorders

PSYC 2314 OR PSYC 2308 and ENGL 1301, if not already completed.



# **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM CONTINUED**

## **Coursework in the Second Fall Semester**

PTHA 2360 Clinical

PTHA 2409 Therapeutic Exercise

PTHA 2435 Rehab Techniques

## **Coursework in the Second Spring Semester**

PTHA 2361 Clinical

PTHA 2239 Professional Issues

PTHA 2363 Clinical

# PAYING FOR SCHOOL

- Apply for scholarships through the TCC Foundation
  - [www.foundation.tccd.edu](http://www.foundation.tccd.edu)
- Complete the FAFSA and apply for government sponsored loans
  - [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)
- Cash flow it (not recommended to work during the program....)

# **PLEASE PAY ATTENTION!**

In order to receive credit for this information session, 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?
- T/F: Other medical professionals (not PT/PTA's) can serve as references for our program?
- How many letters of reference 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?

# FAQ

**If you have any questions, please**

**See website:**

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

**contact:**

**TR. HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu**

