



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

2025 ADMISSION INFORMATION

Application Process

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program has a maximum enrollment of 28 students per year. It is recommended that students have a strong background in biological science and enjoy working with people. Potential students should be physically fit as the demands of this field require moderate to heavy lifting. Admission to the program is by selection process, due to the highly technical and academically intense curriculum.

Acceptance is competitive. Admission to the program will be based on assessment of ACT/ACCUPLACER reading score (70%) and answers to website questions (30%). In order to be competitive, an ACT reading score higher than 18 is recommended. Students with lower reading scores should consider taking the Accuplacer. Bonus points will be awarded for completion of required college general education courses with grades of A or B.

Application priority deadline is December 15, 2024. All application process steps must be completed by the application priority deadline to be considered for the program. Applications received on or after the priority deadline will be reviewed for consideration to the wait list. Late applicants are encouraged to complete the required application steps in a timely manner. The PTA program staff will assess complete files and admit up to 28 students. Applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial by letter. The PTA Program Director encourages applicants to set up a time to visit the campus, tour the PTA department and discuss career ambitions.

Application Checklist

A complete Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) application file requires the following action:

- Submit a completed application with the \$25 application fee, an official high school transcript or GED certificate and college transcripts, if applicable.
- Submit ACT scores, if available, or schedule an appointment with LATC for the ACCUPLACER test. Appointments can be made by contacting the admissions office at 1-800-657-4344 or 605-882-5284.
- Applicants must view a series of informative pages and videos about physical therapy and physical therapist assistants here: <https://www.lakeareatech.edu/academics/on-campus-programs/physical-therapist-assistant/pta-eval/>
- After viewing the site, answer a few short questions by clicking on [Essay Questions](#) located at the bottom of the site. The purpose of this process is to allow the student to explore the field of physical therapy and make an informed decision regarding their career aspirations.
- Whenever possible, students are encouraged to visit a physical therapy department to observe the profession in the workplace setting.

Who are Physical Therapist Assistants?

Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) are skilled healthcare providers who, under the supervision of a Physical Therapist, assist in the treatment and prevention of physical disabilities, movement dysfunction, and pain resulting from injury, disease, disability or other health-related conditions. PTAs are an integral part of a healthcare team that allows for more efficient care. The duties of a PTA include preparing patients, treatment areas, and equipment for treatments, and implementing treatment programs which may include therapeutic exercise, gait training, activities of daily living, therapeutic heat and cold, ultrasounds, electrical stimulation, and other treatment procedures. PTAs are trained in basic examination procedures such as vital signs, manual muscle testing, range of motion measurements, sensation testing, gait and postural assessment and measurements of length, girth and volume.

PTAs assist in educating patients, family members, and other health professionals. They are employed in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools, and outpatient clinics. There is great diversity in the field of physical therapy.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

The Lake Area Tech's PTA program consists of lectures, laboratory experience, discussion, field trips, and three clinical experiences. Each clinical experience is completed at an affiliated clinic, hospital, or care center. The program has sites located all over the United States. Upon completion, the graduate is awarded an Associate of Applied Science degree. Graduates of this accredited program are eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination. All states require passage of the national licensure examination prior to obtaining a license or becoming certified. All states require licensure or certification to practice. Be advised that students with felony convictions may not be eligible to sit for the national exam and/or obtain state licensure.

First Year – Fall Semester

Course Number	Course Title	Clock Hours	Credits
◆ BIOL 221	Human Anatomy *	90	4
◆ CMST 101	Foundations of Communication *	45	3
◆ MATH 100	Applied General Math	45	3
◆ CSC 100	Computer Concepts	15	1
◆ MA 115	Medical Terminology	45	3
◆ SOC 118	Sociology in Healthcare	45	3
PTA 100	Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting	28	1
PTA 110	Fundamentals of Physical Therapist Assisting	84	3
PTA 116	Ethics and Issues in Physical Therapy	56	2
Total		453	23

First Year – Spring Semester

Course Number	Course Title	Clock Hours	Credits
◆ ENGL 101	Composition *	45	3
◆ PHGY 210	Human Physiology *	64	4
◆ CPR 112	Basic Life Support (BLS) for the Healthcare Worker	8	.5
PTA 106	Kinesiology	84	3
PTA 120	Observation and Measurement	84	3
PTA 125	Physical Agents and Massage	112	4
PTA 136	Electrotherapy	56	2
Total		453	19.5

First Year – Summer Session

Course Number	Course Title	Clock Hours	Credits
◆ PSYC 101	General Psychology *	45	3
PTA 145	Theories of Therapeutic Exercise	42	1.5
PTA 150	Pathology for the PTA	56	2
Total		143	6.5

Second Year – Fall Semester

Course Number	Course Title	Clock Hours	Credits
PTA 220	Musculoskeletal Disorders and Treatment	112	4
PTA 228	Neuroanatomy and Neurological Dysfunction	84	3
PTA 229	Human Development and Pediatric Disorders	42	1.5
PTA 241	Clinical Affiliation I (4 weeks)	180	3
PTA 242	Rehabilitation Procedures	112	4
Total		530	15.5

Second Year – Spring Semester

Course Number	Course Title	Clock Hours	Credits
◆ CSS 100	Career Search Strategies	8	.5
PTA 216	Applications in Therapeutic Exercise	56	2
PTA 231	Special Topics	42	1.5
PTA 245	Clinical Affiliation II (6 weeks)	240	4
PTA 250	Clinical Affiliation III (6 weeks)	240	4
Total		586	12

◆ Classes based on college model where 15 clock hours = 1 credit

All others based on technical education model where 28 clock hours = 1 credit with the exception of clinical affiliations where 60 hours = 1 credit

Courses marked with an asterisk (*) can be transferred directly to the university system and may be substituted for recommended courses on the outline. Students should speak with an advisor before doing so.

Accreditation



Physical Therapy Assistant program at Lake Area Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave. Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

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