

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program offered at Daytona State College. The PTA Program is accredited by the Commission of Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association.

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is a skilled technical health care worker who implements treatment programs under the direction and delegation of the Physical Therapist. Typical duties of the PTA include the application of physical agents such as cold, heat, electrical stimulation, and traction; implementation of therapeutic exercise programs for strengthening, balance, and coordination; developing mobility and functional skills, and instruction while communicating with the physical therapist as the client's medical condition changes.

Physical Therapist Assistants are employed in a variety of physical therapy settings such as nursing homes, outpatient clinics; acute care hospitals, rehabilitation centers, public school, and other qualified agencies.

The PTA Program admits students once per year during the Spring semester. This is a full-time Day Program. Applications can only be submitted during the month of September.

Individuals who enter this field must enjoy working with people in a physically demanding work environment as an active team member. The PTA will implement treatment sessions under the direction and delegation of the physical therapist. Graduates of the program are eligible to apply to take the state licensing examination.

If you have additional questions, you may contact Melissa Brown-Mack, Academic Advisor @ melissa.brown-mack@DaytonaState.edu (386) 506-3052, or, Robert Wagner, PT, DPT @ robert.wagner@DaytonaState.edu (386) 506-3752.

Sincerely,

Robert Wagner, PT, DPT, OCS
Assistant Chair
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
School of Health Careers
Daytona State College

Application Process

1. Complete the College admissions process and take the Post-Secondary Education Test (PERT) if needed.
2. Obtain the School of Health Careers Department application, which is available in Bldg. 320 rooms 549 or 552 or the Department will either mail/email you the information packet.
3. **Complete applications are accepted during the month of September only for the class that will begin in the Spring semester in January. Please be advised that applying does not guarantee program acceptance.**
4. **Applicants must attend a mandatory program information session in the calendar year they are applying to the program. This includes individuals that have previously applied and were not accepted. The information session must be attended prior to the September admission window. Any applicant that has not attended a session based on the above criteria will not be given credit.**
5. Attach to the application an unofficial copy of your transcript and documentation of the completed 20 observation hours, submit these forms to Melissa Brown-Mack, Academic Advisor Building 320 room 549 on the Daytona campus. The completed application may also be mailed to Daytona State College, Attn: Melissa Brown-Mack, P. O. Box 2811, Daytona Beach, FL 32120, Health Sciences Hall, Building 320 Room 549.
6. **Selection is made once per year; application submission does not guarantee program acceptance. Applicants will be notified by mail as to their acceptance or denial by early December. Applicants that are selected must return the written response by the indicated deadline or will forfeit their seat.**

PTA Selection Criteria

The PTA program is a selective admissions program. Students will be selected according to the following criteria:

Completed School of Health Careers packet to include:

- a. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher needed to apply to the program.
- b. School of Health Careers Department application (accepted during the month of September only)
All Applicants must have attended a PTA Program information session in the calendar year they are applying to the program. This includes previous applicants that applied in the past and were not accepted.
- c. Documentation of a minimum twenty (20) hours of physical therapy volunteer observation or clinical health care work experience. The twenty hours need to be distributed as evenly as possible among at least two different types of health care facilities; hospital, nursing home, or out-patient. **If the applicant is re-applying a minimum of 5 hours needs to be current (within 6 to 9 months) of applying to the program.** *Some facilities may require a background check.
- d. Completion of pre-requisite and co-requisite courses with a grade of "C" or better.
Unofficial transcripts can be submitted to the School of Health Careers Department, however, if courses are being transferred from another school, official transcripts must also have been received and evaluated by the College's Records Department, by September 30 of the year the application is being submitted.
- e. Applicants being considered for the program will be contacted for an onsite interview with the program selection committee. **Please be advised that not all applicants will be contacted for an interview.**

*****Applicants that are not accepted to the PTA Program will be required to submit a new application and all documentation for future program consideration.**

PTA Selection Criteria cont.

*Category 1

Successful completion of ALL the required PTA Program pre and co-requisite courses with a Cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher; 20 observation hours in at least two different areas; hospital, nursing home, or out-patient; attended a mandatory program information session in the calendar year the application is submitted & prior to the September admission window. An interview with program selection committee, which will be rated.

*Category 2

Successful completion of ALL the required PTA Program pre and co-requisite courses with a Cumulative GPA of 2.99 - 2.50 and 20 observation hours in at least two different areas; hospital, nursing home, or out-patient; attended a mandatory program information session in the calendar year the application is submitted & prior to the September admission window. This group of applicants **may or may not** be offered an interview with program selection committee.

*Category 3

Students with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and have not successfully completed all pre and/or co-requisite courses and completion of the 20 observation hours, and/or have not attended the mandatory program information session in the calendar year they are applying

****Applicants do not receive credit for courses “In Process” at the time of application submission**

**** Not all applicants will be granted an interview.**

****Application submission does not guarantee program acceptance**

****Attendance at a Program Information Session is mandatory for all applicants in the calendar year the application is submitted & prior to the September admission window**

Most Frequently Asked questions regarding The PTA Program

1. What pre-requisites are required to be considered for the program?

The following courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better to be considered for entry into the PTA program:

BSC 1085 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab
ENC 1101 College Composition I
PHT 1006 Introduction to Physical Therapist Assistant
MAC 1105 College Algebra or MGF2106 College Math

Program co-requisites are:

BSC1086 - Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab
POS2041 - American Federal Government **OR** AMH2020 US History 1865 to Present
Humanities Elective

In addition, students are required to have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater, complete a minimum of 20 hours (documented) of volunteer service under the supervision of a PT or PTA. Volunteer hours must be a minimum of five (5) hours in at least two (2) different types of healthcare settings. Attend a mandatory program information session.

2. How much will the PTA Program cost?

Tuition for this 74 - credit hour program will be approximately \$7,576.00 (\$102.38 per credit hour) for Florida residents and \$29,500.00 (\$398.65 per credit hour) for non-residents. Approximately \$700 - \$800 will be needed for textbooks, lab fees, uniforms, etc. A satisfactory Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE- \$90) Level II Background Screening to include Fingerprinting and Drug Testing. This must be completed and received prior to the first day of classes for applicants who have been accepted. Additional funds will be needed for clinical internships for transportation, meals, and possible housing.

3. Will my previous college coursework count toward this program?

All official transcripts must be submitted to the DSC Admission’s Department. The **Record’s Department** will then determine which credits are transferable/equivalent to the A.S. Degree Program.

4. Will I be required to obtain a license to practice as a PTA?

Yes. You must pass the state licensure examination to obtain a license, which enables you to practice in the state of Florida. This examination process will cost about \$850.

5. What is the job market for PTA's?

Employment opportunities for PTA's in the area appear to be excellent.

6. What salary can I expect to earn?

Salaries may vary with each agency, however, a salary of approximately \$38,000 per year can be expected.

7. When does the program start and how may I get an application?

The program starts every Spring semester (January), and applications may be obtained by contacting Melissa Brown-Mack, Academic Advisor @ (386) 506-3052, melissa.brown-mack@daytonastate.edu

8. Will PTA coursework transfer to senior colleges or secure a seat in a PT Program?

PTA courses usually do not transfer throughout the United States. PT Programs are highly competitive in their admissions process for Doctoral degree's. These programs usually do not give "preference" to PTA's.

9. How can one obtain more information on PTA programs?

Contact American Physical Therapy Association at www.apta.org

**DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF HEALTH CAREERS
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
VOLUNTEER OBSERVATION FORM**

Applicant information:

Student Name (please print clearly): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Supervising Facility Information:

Agency Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of hours completed by the applicant at this facility: _____

Verified by PT or PTA:

Print Name: _____

Signature _____

License number: _____ Date _____

Comments (optional):

*This form may be duplicated