

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

APPLICATION PACKET

Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA's) are health professionals who help individuals recover from injury, illness, or dysfunction and who also assist clients in obtaining optimal fitness and health. PTA's work under the supervision and direction of the physical therapist in a variety of settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient centers, home health agencies, and schools. Graduates of the physical therapist assistant program should demonstrate safe and effective treatment interventions for neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary, and integumentary interventions throughout the lifespan. Additional attributes necessary for successful completion of the curriculum include observation skills, communication skills, motor skills, good judgment, and professional behavior.

Accreditation and Degree: The physical therapist assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Students graduating from the physical therapist assistant program receive an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. It should be noted that the AAS degree is not a prerequisite for physical therapy education, nor does it prepare one for physical therapy education. Physical therapy education requires graduate coursework and generally many more basic science courses during the undergraduate education.

Accreditation is an important indicator of the quality of academic programs. Shawnee State University supports the concept of accreditation of its programs and strives to maintain accreditation to meet the needs of its students.

Contents of the Application Packet: *Please use this outline as a checklist for the application packet. Prior to applying to the PTA program, applicants should also apply and be accepted to Shawnee State University.*

- I. _____ Special Application for admission to the PTA program including affidavit
- II. _____ Application Deadline
- III. _____ Minimum Qualifications for application
- IV. _____ Suggested Course Sequence
- V. _____ Student worksheet for GPA calculation (high school) Include an unofficial transcript with the courses highlighted.
- VI. _____ Student worksheet for GPA calculation (college) Include an unofficial transcript with the courses highlighted.
- VII. _____ Job shadowing form for PTA Admission (Including Log of Hours)

All material contained within the application packet **MUST BE POSTMARKED** by **April 1** of the year of application, and **MUST** be mailed or hand delivered to the **Admissions Office**. ***Please note: The PTA program will not accept applications without first being reviewed by the Office of Admissions.***

Acceptance into the PTA Program is competitive. Meeting minimum requirements does NOT guarantee acceptance into the PTA Program.

Physical Therapy Assistant Program

Special Application for Admission

Please Print Legibly

Name _____ SSU Student ID: _____

Current Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: Day () _____ Alternate () _____

Email Address: _____

Please include a double spaced 12 font typed 800-1500 word essay answering the following question:
“Why do I want to become a Physical Therapist Assistant?”

Personal affidavit:

I certify that the information contained in this application packet is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Additionally, I am the sole author of the included essay.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Return this completed application packet and essay with a \$30 (check or money order only) to:

Shawnee State University, Office of Admissions, 940 Second Street, Portsmouth, OH 45662

Shawnee State University does not discriminate in admission, access or treatment in programs and activities or employment policies or practices on the basis of race, creed, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Upon successful acceptance into the PTA program and in compliance with our clinical affiliation contracts the program requires a criminal background check of each student. Results are sent by the student to the program leader (federal and state checks) and are kept confidential. While the background checks will not hinder the matriculation through the didactic portion of the curriculum, positive criminal background may delay clinical placement and/or PTA licensure. The cost of the background checks are the responsibility of the individual student (Currently less than \$100). It is recommended that if a student applicant has a criminal felony history, that student is encouraged to contact the relevant state licensing board (authority) prior to the commencement of training in order to confer with the state about his/her eligibility for PTA licensure.

II. Application Deadline:

The application deadline for consideration into the physical therapist assistant program is **April 1** of the year of application. Applications will be accepted between **January 1 and April 1** of the year of application. Early application is highly encouraged as SSU has a rolling admissions process and once the class is accepted there are no wait list(s).

High School Student Applicants:

Official transcripts should be sent to the Office of Admission directly from the high school (**You may not hand deliver them**). Additionally, you should include with your application an unofficial copy of the most recent transcript(s) with the courses used in the science/math GPA highlighted. Also, please send a completed high school transcript as quickly as possible after graduation.

College Student Applicants:

Official transcripts from all high school coursework, and college coursework should be sent to the Office of Admission directly from the school. (**You may not hand deliver them**). However, you should include with your application an unofficial transcript with the courses highlighted that are included in the science/math GPA from each school. If you are currently enrolled in courses, please update the official transcripts on record at SSU as soon as possible after course completion.

III. Minimum Qualifications for Consideration into the PTA program

1. Acceptance into Shawnee State University.
2. Completed Physical Therapist Assistant Application Packet (\$30 included).
3. Official high school transcript OR official GED score transcript with relevant documentation.
4. Official college transcript(s). (*if applicable*)*
5. Minimum GPA of 2.66*.
6. Minimum of high school **algebra, biology, chemistry**, and a **third higher level science** course with a grade of "C" or better. (A third science could include, but is not limited to: Chemistry II, Physics, Biology II, Anatomy & Physiology, Marine Biology, Comparative Anatomy, etc.)**.
7. Minimum Science/ Math GPA of 2.66.
8. Minimum ACT score of 18 composite.***
9. Typed 800- 1500 word essay "Why do I want to become a PTA?"
10. Signed Affidavit.
11. Documentation of a minimum of 40 hours of clinical observation of job shadowing under supervision of a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. **Minimum of 20 hours in 2 different settings. Please refer to the "Job Shadowing/ Recommendation" form in the packet. You should also have every therapist that you observe evaluate you, and return the evaluation to the admission office. There should be a minimum of 2 evaluations**

since you are observing in at least 2 different settings. (It is recommended that you provide the PT or PTA with a self- addressed stamped envelope to mail the form.)

* If the number of college credits exceeds 24 semester hours, the GPA used will be the college GPA. However, requirement #6 would still pertain.

** Similar college coursework would substitute for any of these requirements.

***The ACT must be taken and the scores must be within the last 10 years. SAT exam will be accepted as long as it has been within 10 years, and the equivalence of 18 on the ACT is met. Students that have a confirmed bachelor degree will not have to repeat the ACT.

IV. Suggested Course Sequence

First Year		
FALL		
Course No.	Course Description	Credit Hrs.
AHNR 1104	Phys. Prin. for HS Students	2
BIOL 1130	Prin. Of Anatomy & Phys. I	4
PSYC 1101	Introduction to Psychology	3
ENGL 1101/1102	Discourse and Composition	3-5 hrs.
MATH 1500	Principles of Statistics	3
PTAT 1111	Introduction to PT	<u>2</u>
		17-19
SPRING		
BIOL 3630	Kinesiology	4
PSYC 1130	Life Span Dev. For Health Sciences	3
PTAT 1115	PT in Physical Dysfunction	3
PTAT 1231	PTA Procedures 1 & 2 concepts	3
PTAT 1230	PTA procedures 1 &2 Laboratory	<u>2</u>
		15

SUMMER		
PTAT 1114	Regnl. Studies in Movement & Sci.	3
PTAT 1113	Reg. Studies in Movt. & Sci. Laboratory	3
EMTP 1010	First Aid and CPR	2
ENGL 1105	Composition & Argument	<u>3</u>
		11
Second Year		
FALL Intersession		
PTAT 2190	Clinical Practicum I	<u>2</u>
FALL		
PTAT 2235	PT Administration (Online/Hybrid)	2
PTAT 2231	Rehab Procedures I Concepts	3
PTAT 2230	Rehab Procedures I Laboratory	2
PTAT 2241	Neurology & Rehab Procedures Concepts	3
PTAT 2240	Neurology & Rehab Procedures Laboratory	<u>2</u>
		14
SPRING		
PTAT 2255	PTA Seminar (Weekend and Capstone)	1
PTAT 2290	Clinical Practicum 2	3
PTAT 2390	Clinical Practicum 3	3
PTAT 2490	Clinical Practicum 4	<u>3</u>
		10

The above schedule is a sample for an incoming freshman. Please see a PTA faculty or program leader once accepted into the PTA program for academic advising to develop an individualized plan.

V. High School Science/ Math GPA Worksheet

Applicant's Name _____ Student ID _____

Name of High School _____

Address of High School _____

Current High School GPA _____

Please Record the courses and Letter Grade or percentage for each of the following courses: (Please see below for an example of how to calculate the Quality Points and GPA.

Name of Course	Year Completed	Grade Earned (letter <u>or</u> percentage)	Credit Hours	*Quality points
Algebra I				
Biology				
Chemistry				
Third Science _____				
Additional Math _____				
Additional Science _____				
			Total =	Total=

Total Science/ Math GPA _____

NOTE: A= 4.0 points A-= 3.67 points B+= 3.33 points B= 3.0 points B-= 2.67 points
C+= 2.33 points C= 2.0 points C-= 1.67 points D+= 1.33 points D= 1.0 points

*To calculate "Quality Points" use the conversion table above and multiply the number by the number of credit hours.

To Calculate "Science/Math GPA" take the total quality points and divide by the total credit hours.

Some Schools will use a weighted GPA scale for college preparatory courses. If your high school is on a weighted scale for your coursework, modify your worksheet to that scale. Additionally, many schools will differ in the percentage equivalent to letter grade score. Please use the letter grade whenever possible.

YOU MUST ALSO TURN IN AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT WITH THE COURSES HIGHLIGHTED WITH THE WORKSHEET

VI. College Science/ Math GPA Worksheet

Applicant's Name _____ Student ID _____

Name of College/ University	Year(s) Attended	Overall GPA

Note: Quarter hours should be converted to semester hours by using a 2/3 conversion factor.

Please use the following chart to fill in the requested information for the course requirements. Please include any additional Math or Science courses taken at the College level. If additional room is needed please attach a separate typed page using this table format.

Course Number	Course Name	Semester taken	University taken	Letter Grade	Credit Hours	Quality Points
AHNR 1104	Phys. Principles for HS Majors					
BIOL 1130	Prin. Of Anatomy and Physiology					
BIOL 3630	Kinesiology					
PSYC 1130	Lifespan Dev. For HS Majors					
MATH 1500	Prin. Of Statistics					
					Total=	Total=

Total Science/ Math GPA _____

**NOTE: A= 4.0 points A-= 3.67 points B+= 3.33 points B= 3.0 points B-= 2.67 points
C+= 2.33 points C= 2.0 points C-= 1.67 points D+= 1.33 points D= 1.0 points**

Quarter credit hours should be converted to semester credit hours by using a 2/3 conversion factor.

To calculate "Quality Points" use the conversion table above and multiply the number by the number of credit hours.

To Calculate "Science/Math GPA" take the total quality points and divide by the total credit hours.

All applicants MUST also include an unofficial transcript from each college or university attended and MUST highlight the courses that are included in the science and math GPA calculation.

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VII. Job Shadowing Form for PTA Admission (Page 1 of 2)

**Job Shadowing OR PT Tech/Aid Recommendation Form for PTA
Admission: Shawnee State University**

Instructions to Applicant: Please make duplicate copies of this form as needed. You are required to obtain **20 hours** of observation in at least **2** different physical therapy settings. Please fill out the FERPA waiver located in the top box prior to submitting the form to the clinician. It is your responsibility to follow the facility's requirements for observation regarding HIPAA confidentiality, and OSHA.

NOTE: Remember each clinician that you observe should complete a recommendation form and send it directly to SSU admissions office in an addressed envelope that you provide.

Student ID Waiver of FERPA: this waiver statement should be signed if you desire to waive the rights of privacy provided by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, so that this reference may be read by others. This information will be used in a confidential manner for the express purpose of application to the PTA program.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date: _____

Printed Applicant's Name _____ Student ID: _____

Instructions for the Recommending Clinician: The PT/PTA supplying this reference should document hours spent observing and complete the student evaluation.

Please mail the recommendation form and the log of hours to: **Shawnee State University, Office of Admission, 940 Second Street, Portsmouth, OH 45662.**

PTA or PT Name (print) _____

Title: _____ **License Number** _____

Department or Site _____ **Facility Name** _____

Note to the Clinician: The PTA program feels that it is crucial for prospective students to be exposed to various clinical settings. We thank you for your willingness to assist our prospective students with this requirement. Students are required to obtain a minimum of 20 hours in two different physical therapy settings prior to applying to the program. However, more volunteer hours are encouraged.

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Student Applicant Name _____ Student ID: _____

Date	Hours Spent Observing	Clinical Site Name
Total Hours		

Signatures: A signature and review are required with each PT/ PTA shadowed for full points towards admission.

Clinician #1 _____ Clinical Site _____

Clinician #2 _____ Clinical Site _____

Clinician #3 _____ Clinical Site _____

Clinician #4 _____ Clinical Site _____

Area/ Skill	Outstanding	Good	Average	Below Average	Not able to Access
Commitment to Learning					
Interpersonal Skills					
Communication Skills					
Professionalism					
Responsibility					
Problem Solving					
Critical Thinking					
Use of Constructive Feedback					
Stress Management					
Effective use of resources or time					

Strongly Recommend _____ Recommend _____ Recommend with Reservations _____

Do not recommend at this time _____

Comments _____

