

Gulf Coast State College

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT





**Health Sciences Division
Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program. Physical therapy is a rewarding and demanding career field with job possibilities in all types of healthcare environments. Graduates from our program earn a two-year Associate in Science Degree and may apply for licensure as a Physical Therapist Assistant by examination in the state of Florida.

The PTA program is exciting, challenging, and action-packed. The faculty and staff work hard to ensure that the program meets both our community needs and the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE) accreditation standards. We look forward to helping you by answering any questions you may have about our program or the physical therapy profession.

Sincerely,

Melinda Cumbaa, PT, DPT
Coordinator, PTA Program
mcumbaa@gulfcoast.edu

Adam Padgett, PTA, CKTP
Assistant Coord. & Director of Clinical Education, PTA Program
apadgett@gulfcoast.edu

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Gulf Coast State College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305; telephone (703) 706-3245, email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call (850) 913-3312 or email mcumbaa@gulfcoast.edu.

revised 11.21.2023

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE APPLICATION INFORMATION

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 11:59 P.M., C.S.T., ON MAY 9, 2024

The physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a skilled technical health care worker who delivers physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist (PT). PTAs carry out treatments designed by the PT that include a variety of interventions to help patients return to function and activities of daily living. PTA duties may include instructing patients in therapeutic exercises for strengthening, flexibility, balance, and coordination; developing mobility and functional skills; applying physical agents such as heat, cold, electricity, and traction; and communicating with the PT as the patient's medical condition changes. The physical therapist assistant is responsible for monitoring and reporting the patient's response to treatment to the physical therapist. This requires the PTA to collect data, document treatments administered, and communicate findings objectively.

Physical therapy is a rewarding and demanding career field with job possibilities in all types of healthcare environments. Employment opportunities can be found in a variety of settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, schools, and outpatient PT clinics. According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the mean annual wage is \$64,510, but can vary based on geographical location. The mean entry-level hourly wage for Bay & Gulf counties was reported as \$21.58, according to the PTA Occupational Profile report completed in 2023, by CareerSource Gulf Coast. To be successful in this career you should be comfortable with performing physical activity, have a strong background in science, be able to communicate well with a diverse group of people, and have an interest in disease prevention and wellness.

The Gulf Coast State College Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and accepts a maximum of 20 students per year in the fall semester. The class size may vary depending on clinical site availability and employment opportunities. Applications will be accepted any time throughout the year, but the application deadline is **11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on MAY 9, 2024** for Fall 2024 desired admission. It is the **student's** responsibility to see that the application is complete. The items listed on the front of the Applicant Checklist should be submitted to Enrollment Services, and the items listed on page 4 of the Applicant Checklist should be uploaded with the PTA Application. You do not need to turn in the Applicant Checklist itself; this document just serves as a guide to help you gather documents in support of your application to the program. Submit the PTA Application online at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/index.html> by **11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on MAY 9, 2024.**

This program uses a selective admission process, and satisfaction of the minimum requirements does not automatically guarantee admission. Completed applications will be sent to the PTA Admissions Committee for review. The program is piloting in-person interviews for the top 30 applicants, which will not have any impact on applicant ranking during this pilot period. All applicants will be notified in writing, within six weeks after the deadline, whether they are accepted into the program, placed on an alternate list, or not accepted for the current year. **No acceptance results will be given over the phone. Once “conditionally accepted” into the program, students are required to complete/pass a background check, drug screening, and physical exam, and attend a mandatory orientation in July/August. There is a strict professionalism policy required in this program and attendance is mandatory. Please refer to the [PTA Program Handbook](#) for details.**

Thank you again for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. If you have any questions, please contact:

- Dr. Melinda Cumbaa, Program Coordinator, (850) 913-3312
- Mr. Adam Padgett, Assistant Coordinator & Director of Clinical Education, (850) 769-1551, Ext. 6180
- Academic Programs Specialist, (850) 913-3311
- Mrs. Rebecca Acton, PTA Senior Administrative Assistant, (850) 873-3589

**PTA
PROGRAM**



**Application
Deadline:
11:59 p.m., C.S.T.,
on MAY 9, 2024**

Applicant Checklist
Submit the items on this list to GCSC Enrollment Services:

- Apply for general admission to Gulf Coast State College and pay GCSC application fee at the time of submission.** You can choose a planned course of “Health Sciences A.A., General Education and then choose “*Physical Therapist Assistant*” as the area of concentration. Returning students who have not taken classes at GCSC in the last year must re-apply for admission. Refer to <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html> for instructions.

Note: While working on admission to this program, you may choose the Associate of Arts as your major only if you intend to complete that separate degree either before or after this limited access program.

Failure to pay the college application fee at the time of submission can result in your ineligibility for program consideration, due to delays with processing.

Call (850) 872-3892 or visit Enrollment Services to receive information regarding the college admissions process. The application is online at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html>.

- Provide official High School (or GED) AND All College Transcripts to GCSC Enrollment Services**
An official transcript is a transcript that is sent directly from the granting school/institution to the Gulf Coast State College Enrollment Services. Transcripts that have been in the student’s possession (regardless of whether they are “sealed,” stamped, or in a sealed envelope) are not considered official and will not be accepted. Transcripts must be submitted from **BOTH High School (GED) and ALL Colleges or Universities** attended and must display all periods of enrollment. **The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all college transcripts are evaluated by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on MAY 9, 2024.**

Note: If graduating from high school after the program deadline, conditional acceptance may be considered by the admissions committee. Applicants must also meet the minimum overall GPA requirement of at least 2.5 to be eligible.

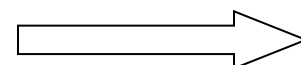
- New students must complete a free GCSC Onboarding.** This onboarding may be completed online. Onboarding **must** be completed to register for courses. The online instructions can be found at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html>.

- Demonstrate Math/Algebra, English, and Reading Competency**
Students may demonstrate this competency in one of the following quantitative methods:

Subject	PERT	ACT	SAT	College Course
Math/Algebra	114	19	440 or 24 (new)	Eligibility for or successful completion of a 3-credit minimum course with prefix MAC, MGF, or STA (flexible placement does not apply)
English	103	17	440 in Critical Reading or 24 (new)	Eligibility for ENC 1101 English Composition I or successful completion of the course. (flexible placement does not apply)
Reading	106	19		

If the applicant wishes to use test scores to demonstrate competency for any of the above, and the test was not administered at Gulf Coast State College, the applicant must have an OFFICIAL score report sent to the GCSC testing office. **The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the test scores are received and posted to their GCSC computer record by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on MAY 9, 2024.** The PERT is administered in Student Union West, 3rd floor testing area, and may be taken two times per semester. The cost is \$7.50 per testing session. Please consult the Placement Testing Schedule at <https://www.registerblast.com/gcsc/Exam/List>, call (850) 769-1551, Ext. 5807 or email testingcenter@gulfcoast.edu for additional information.

Checklist continued on back of this sheet



Submit the items on this list with your PTA Application:

PTA Program Application Packet –

Note: Students who have previously been admitted to any Physical Therapy, Physical Therapist Assistant, or Health Sciences Program must produce a Letter of Recommendation (Letter of Good Standing) from the director of that program to be considered for admission. Complete and submit the following materials in this packet:

- ✓ **1. PTA Application** – *You can choose a planned course of “Health Sciences A.A., General Education and then choose “Physical Therapist Assistant” as the area of concentration; failure to do so could cause delays in the process of your transcripts from other educational institutions.*

Note: This should be submitted early for those already holding a Bachelor’s (or more advanced) degree to allow time for the evaluation of transcripts before the deadline. Courses taken at another institution may not automatically transfer to Gulf Coast State College for credit. The PTA program faculty provide input regarding courses that should be considered, but Enrollment Services makes the final determination about course transfer (See GCSC catalog for details).

- ✓ **2. Technical Standards Form** – This will be completed and submitted as part of the online application.
- ✓ **3. GCSC Physical Therapy Observation Form** – Documented evidence of a minimum of 10 hours of observation or work experience in a PT environment is required. **The applicant must use the GCSC Physical Therapy Observation Form (page 16) in this packet to document hours, requiring the signature of the PT or PTA.** We do not accept other PT experience forms.

EXTRA CREDIT

Completion of these general education courses with a minimum grade of “C” will earn extra credit for application into the PTA program.

- ✓ ENC 1101
- ✓ MAC 1105 or STA 2023, or a higher-level math course
- ✓ BSC 2085 / BSC 2086 Anatomy & Physiology I /II, (Lab is also required, but does not contribute to admission points.)
- ✓ HSC 1531 Medical Terminology (Only grade of A or B will earn extra credit for this course.)

If these courses are transferring from another institution, the applicant is responsible for ensuring that they have been submitted via an official transcript, evaluated, and posted to their GCSC computer record by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on May 9, 2024. Courses taken at GCSC during the spring semester in which the application has been submitted will also be considered for extra credit. Multiple attempts at a course will result in a reduction of admission points in this section.

EXTRA CREDIT- Additional Work/Observation Form

Documented evidence of a minimum of 10 hours of observation or volunteer work experience in a PT environment is required as noted above. Extra points will be considered for additional hours documented above the minimum and for observing in more than one location. **It is required that the applicant use the GCSC Physical Therapy Observation Form (page 16) in this packet;** we do not accept other PT experience forms.

It is the student’s responsibility to maintain copies of all application materials, including observation/work hours. We DO NOT carry over, copy, or return applications or other documents. If using documentation from previous years, write “see attached” in the signature portion only on the **2024 form** and submit the previous year’s form for reference. All other areas on the 2024 form must be filled out completely or the forms will not be considered.

Note: Work / Observation hours may be updated at any point through the deadline, following submission of the PTA application.

EXTRA CREDIT- Additional documentation (if applicable):

Advanced degree or current certifications achieved (i.e. BS, BA, MA, or MS) in a related field (i.e., exercise physiology, *massage therapy, *athletic trainer certification, *or other medically applicable certificate).

***Must also submit a copy of license or certificate with application by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on May 9, 2024.**

Degree(s) achieved must be evident in official transcripts sent to GCSC Enrollment Services.

A Bachelor's degree evaluation packet must be completed internally by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T, on May 9, 2024.

(Note: The student must complete the following steps for the Bachelor’s degree to be evaluated internally:

1) Ensure all transcripts are received by Enrollment Services & request evaluation, 2) Submit the PTA Application (documented hours may be updated through the deadline.)

Only applications that are current and complete are considered for selection. Students will not automatically be notified of missing or incomplete documents. It is the applicant’s responsibility to make sure his/her application folder is complete by the deadline.

GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM CURRICULUM

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

	Cr Hrs.		Cr. Hrs.
ENC 1101 English I.....	3	BSC 2086 Anatomy & Physiology II.....	3
*College Level Math	3	BSC 2086L Anatomy & Physiology II Lab.....	1
BSC 2085 Anatomy & Physiology I.....	3	PSY 2012 General Psychology.....	3
BSC 2085L Anatomy & Physiology I Lab.....	1	POS 2041 or AMH 2020 and Competency Exam....	3
Core Humanities I, II or III	3	HSC 1531 Medical Terminology.....	2

**The College Level Math Requirement may be satisfied with MAC 1105, MGF 1106, MGF 1107, OR STA 2023, or a higher-level math course.*

NOTE: General education courses may be taken during the PTA Program; however, applicants are **strongly** encouraged to **begin** work on the general education courses prior to entry into the program. Completion of BSC 2085 prior to starting the PTA program is suggested but not required. Extra points will be awarded for a "C" or better in BSC 2085, BSC 2086, ENC 1101, MAC 1105 or STA 2023 and a "B" or higher in HSC 1531 if completed prior to the application deadline. All courses in the PTA curriculum must be completed with at least a "C" or higher.

COMPLETE PROGRAM:

FRESHMAN

CREDIT HOURS

FALL

BSC	2085	Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BSC	2085L	Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1
Math		College Level Math (MAC 1105, MGF 1106, MGF 1107, STA 2023, or higher)	3
HSC	1531	Medical Terminology	2
PHT	1000	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2
PHT	1102	Applied Anatomy for PTAs	2
PHT	1102L	Applied Anatomy Lab for PTAs	1
PHT	1200	Basic Skills in Patient Care	2
PHT	1200L	Basic Skills in Patient Care Lab	2

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SPRING

BSC	2086	Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BSC	2086L	Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1
Civic Literacy		POS 2041/American National Government-or-AMH 2020/US History II (Must also pass a state competency exam)	3
PHT	1124	Functional Human Motion	2
PHT	1124L	Functional Human Motion Lab	1
PHT	1220	Introduction to Therapeutic Exercise	3
PHT	1220L	Therapeutic Exercise Lab	2
PHT	1131	Assessment, Measurement, and Documentation	1
PHT	1131L	Assessment, Measurement, and Documentation Lab	2

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SUMMER

ENC	1101	English Composition I	3
PSY	2012	General Psychology	3
PHT	2224	Therapeutic Interventions I: Medical/Surgical Disabilities	2
PHT	2224L	Therapeutic Interventions I Lab	1
HUM		Core Humanities I, II, or III (courses denoted by • in GCSC catalog)	3
PHT	2211	Therapeutic Modalities	2
PHT	2211L	Therapeutic Modalities Lab	2

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SOPHOMORE**CREDIT HOURS****FALL**

PHT	2225	Therapeutic Interventions II: Orthopedic Disabilities	3
PHT	2225L	Therapeutic Interventions II Lab	2
PHT	2226	Therapeutic Interventions III: Neurological Disabilities	3
PHT	2226L	Therapeutic Interventions III Lab	2
PHT	2801	PTA Clinical Practice I	2

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SPRING

PHT	2810	PTA Clinical Practice II	4
PHT	2820	PTA Clinical Practice III	4
PHT	2931	Seminar	2

10

TOTA PROGRAM HOURS**74**

**Typical Physical Therapist Assistant Schedule
(Following Curriculum as Designed)**

On-Campus Hours Per Week			Off-Campus Hours Per Week		Total Hours/Weeks
Semester	Class Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Prep.	Clinical Hours	
Fall 1	14	8			22
Spring 1	12	12			24
Summer (B)	20	5			25
Summer (C)	12.5	10			22.5
Fall 2	7.5 (for 12 weeks)	10 (for 12 weeks)	4 (clinical in-service, one session only)	35 (for 4 weeks)	36 for 4 weeks, then 17.5 for 12 weeks
Spring 2	15 (for 1.5 weeks)		2 hours/week for 2 weeks; 1 hour/week for 12 weeks	40 (for 14 weeks)	41.5 for 14 weeks, then 25 for 1 week

- ★ The PTA Program is designed as a full-time, face-to-face course of study, and students are required to complete courses in the designated sequence. There is one technical course, Medical Terminology (HSC 1531), which is only offered online. Please note the fifth semester will require students to complete 40 hours/week, but there are only 10 credit hours in the PTA curriculum. This may impact financial aid status, due to the requirement of needing 12 credits for full-time status.
- ★ Most classes are offered during daytime hours with only a few evening courses. The PHT courses in the curriculum are offered once a year, in a particular sequence. If general education courses are completed in advance, students are still required to complete five consecutive semesters as listed above. Completing general education courses in advance would lighten the academic load for the corresponding semester, but would not decrease the total length of the program.
- ★ Students will need access to a computer with a camera/microphone and internet access for most courses.

NC-SARA PTA Program Application Disclosure Statement

Gulf Coast State College Physical Therapist Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. This disclosure is strictly limited to GCSC's determination of whether the PTA program, if successfully completed, would be sufficient to meet the educational licensure requirements in a State, as defined as 34 C.F.R. § 600.2. GCSC cannot verify an individual's ability to meet licensure requirements unrelated to its educational programming.

This disclosure does not provide any guarantee that any particular state licensure entity will approve or deny your application. Furthermore, this disclosure does not account for changes in state law or regulation that may affect your application for licensure and occur after this disclosure has been made. Enrolled students and prospective students are strongly encouraged to contact their state's licensure entity to review all licensure or certification requirements imposed by their state(s) of choice.

In accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 668.43, GCSC has determined the PTA program meets the educational licensure requirements for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the US protectorates, as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 600.2. It is strongly encouraged that students, applicants, and prospective students determine any additional requirements for licensure in the State in which they seek to be licensed. Information regarding state licensure can be found at: <https://www.fspt.org/Free-Resources/Licensing-Authorities-Contact-Information>

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact Melinda Cumbaa at mcumbaa@gulfcoast.edu or (850) 913-3312.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS:

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students that are granted conditional acceptance into a Health Sciences program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Division to which the student has applied. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the applicable program coordinator.

Please Note: Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. Also, be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. Although background checks are required before program entry, it is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC and be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check. Even if the student has been accepted into and completed a program at GCSC, this does not guarantee authorization for licensure or eligibility to take the licensure exam. Those authorizations are granted by the Health Sciences governing professional licensure boards. This is a notification to the applicant that Gulf Coast State College has no authority over any state-level medical licensure board and cannot be held responsible if the student is accepted into or completes a Health Sciences program and subsequently is denied authorization to take the program-specific licensure exam due to criminal background information.

An applicant must consider how his/her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website at <https://www.floridahealth.gov/> for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

Please read the following information carefully: Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be **disqualified** from admission to any Health Sciences program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering into the Health Sciences programs and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html

456.0635 Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.-

(1) Healthcare fraud in the practice of a healthcare professional is prohibited.

(2) Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.

2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application; or

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for initial licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(3) The department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate, or registration of any applicant if the applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in a pretrial diversion or drug court program that allows the withdrawal of the plea for that felony upon successful completion of that program. Any such conviction or plea excludes the applicant from licensure renewal unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.

2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application.

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396 since July 1, 2009, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application.

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years.

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application.

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for renewal of licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(4) Licensed health care practitioners shall report allegations of health care fraud to the department, regardless of the practice setting in which the alleged health care fraud occurred.

(5) The acceptance by a licensing authority of a licensee's relinquishment of a license which is offered in response to or anticipation of the filing of administrative charges alleging health care fraud or similar charges constitutes the permanent revocation of the license.

Important Note: After acceptance and during enrollment in this program, the student is responsible for notifying the program coordinator of any arrest, regardless of adjudication, that occurs after acceptance through graduation. Failure to promptly notify the program coordinator shall be grounds for dismissal from the program.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

1. Initial Advising and Application

Application information packets are available through the PTA program website at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/index.html>. Applicants assume all responsibility for the completion and submission of all application materials. **Incomplete application materials will not be considered in the student selection process.** GCSC Physical Therapy Observation Form should be submitted via fax to Academic Programs Specialist, at (850) 747-3246 or emailed to Attn: Academic Programs Specialist, HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu, by the published application deadline. Applications can be submitted at any time during the academic year and additional materials can be added by the applicant as long as they are received by the published deadline.

2. Admissions Committee

Members of the Admissions Committee will review and rate each application independently, assigning points according to the standards for each admission criterion. Points will be totaled to obtain an overall score for the application. The applicants will be ranked from highest to lowest. The program is piloting interviews this year for the top 30 applicants. This will not affect the candidate's score but is a required part of the selection process. The interviews will take place during the first week of June.

When all members of the committee have individually completed review of the applications, the committee will meet as a group to select the class and alternates. The admissions committee adheres to Gulf Coast State College's policies for non-discrimination in student selection. Should there be a tie with the scoring, the admissions committee will use a majority committee vote as the deciding factor in the final student selection. Procedures for compliance with non-discrimination policies and procedures guaranteeing students due process may be found in the GCSC Student Handbook at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/index.html>.

The top *20 students will be offered conditional admission to the program pending a satisfactory background check, drug screen, and physical examination. Should a health problem or disability be identified which appears to make compliance with the technical standards difficult, the applicant will be requested to meet with the admissions committee and a representative from Student Accessibility Resources to discuss a possible way for the program to enhance the applicant's chances of succeeding in the required course and clinical work. See policies re: Student Accessibility Resources (SAR) in the GCSC Student Handbook or in the GCSC General Catalog. If it is not feasible to adapt to the program's technical standards, final acceptance will be withdrawn.

The next 8-10 applicants (by ranked score) will be placed, in order, on an alternate acceptance list for the current program year only, and will be offered conditional admission should a vacancy become available (prior to the first day of class). **No waiting list is maintained for the subsequent year's enrollment and it is the student's responsibility to maintain copies of all application materials for possible reapplication the following year.**

IMPORTANT: Applicants will receive email notification of applicant status (interview request, conditional acceptance, alternate, or regret) through their “my.gulfcoast.edu” email account. If offered conditional acceptance or alternate status, those applicants will have **five business days** to respond to the email notification. There is a required response form to confirm acceptance of this status, which must be signed and returned to the program’s Senior Administrative Assistant by the specified deadline in June. The required response form should be returned to Rebecca Acton via fax (850) 747-3246, email racton@gulfcoast.edu, **or** in person to HS 309. If we do not receive this form by the deadline, we will extend an offer to the next qualified candidate. If an applicant has not received notification from the program by June 15, please contact Ms. Rebecca Acton, to verify that a notification was sent. Please note that applicant status cannot be disclosed by phone. Following confirmation of conditional acceptance, there are additional requirements including a **mandatory PTA Orientation** held at the end of July and an **Interprofessional Healthcare Training** that should be completed before the beginning of the term in August. A list of specific program requirements for those students with conditional acceptance admission status can be found under the Minimum PTA Program Requirements.

Minimum PTA Program Requirements

Eligibility Requirements

- **Meet minimum competency requirements for English/Reading and Mathematics with testing or complete specific coursework (ENC 1101 & college level math) with a grade of “C” or higher.**
- **Earn a minimum GPA of 2.5 for program entry. Once accepted into the program, must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher.**
- **Meet technical standards for the program**
- **Must be at least 18 years old by August during the second year of the program, prior to beginning clinical experiences**

PTA Applicant Requirements prior to acceptance:

This is a limited access program, application to the program does not guarantee acceptance to the program.

1. **Complete the general college application - acceptance to the college does not guarantee admission to the program**
2. **Send all transcripts from both high school and all colleges attended**
3. **Complete the PTA Application – application to the PTA program does not guarantee admission**
4. **Complete the Technical Standards Form**
5. **Complete the GCSC Physical Therapy Observation Form**
6. **Submit other supporting documents (certificates, letters, if applicable)**

Additional Requirements After Conditional Acceptance:

The following items must be completed in July/August following the receipt of a conditional acceptance email from the program director, prior to the beginning of the fall term (unless otherwise stated).

1. **Complete the response form by the deadline** (5 business days from initial notification in June)
2. **Complete a satisfactory criminal background check**- these results are valid for one year only prior to the start of the PTA technical phase classes. The background check process is repeated in the third term of the program, prior to full-time clinical. Additional background checks may also be required depending on clinical site placements.
3. **Submit proof of drug screening results annually & per request from clinical sites.**
4. **Submit a satisfactory physical examination (signed by a licensed medical professional)**
5. **Submit and maintain a report of vaccination history.** This includes:
 - a. **Tuberculosis** – Provide documentation of a TB skin test. If positive, must provide evidence of a clear chest x-ray and follow-up report. The Mantoux Test (TB skin test) is not as accurate and may not meet some clinical facility requirements. Note: Some facilities require more specific tests which require a blood sample (Quantiferon Gold or T Spot).
 - b. **Hepatitis B** – Provide documentation of starting the first dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine or lab report of a positive antibody titer. The vaccine for Hepatitis B is highly recommended. It is a series of either two or three shots administered within a specific timeframe. The full series should be completed prior to the second fall term. If a student chooses not to have the vaccine, a signed declination/waiver form is required.
 - c. **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (TDAP)** – Provide documentation of these immunizations, and the tetanus shot must have been given within the past 10 years.

Additional Requirements After Conditional Acceptance (continued)...

- d. **Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)** – Provide documentation of two doses of live-measles-containing vaccine or positive titer, documentation of prior physician-diagnosed measles disease, or laboratory evidence of measles immunity for students born in or after 1957. Students can be admitted after receiving the first dose.
 - e. **Poliomyelitis** – Provide documentation of oral polio or polio vaccine.
 - f. **Varicella (Chicken Pox)** – Provide documentation of two doses of this vaccine or positive titer results.
 - g. **Annual Flu Vaccination** – Provide documentation of the annual flu shot administered specific to the current flu season (Fall/Winter). If a student opts not to receive the flu shot, a signed declination/waiver is required. Note: The flu vaccination is not typically available until September in the fall semester, thus not required prior to the first fall term.
 - h. **COVID-19 Vaccination** – Provide documentation of the annual COVID-19 shot administered specific to the current season (Fall/Winter). If a student opts not to receive the COVID-19 shot, a signed declination/waiver is required. Note: The COVID-19 vaccination will not typically be available until mid-September in the fall semester, thus not required prior to the first fall term.
6. **CPR** - Submit proof of American Heart Association Basic Life Support Certification for the Healthcare Provider by the end of the first Fall term
 7. **Attend Physical Therapist Assistant Program Orientation** – This is a mandatory program orientation that takes place at the end of July (typically on the third or fourth Wednesday, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) prior to entering the first Fall term.
 8. **Complete Interprofessional Healthcare Training** (online by August, prior to the first Fall term)
 9. **Complete all curriculum courses with a grade of “C” or higher and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0.** All general education courses should be completed by the end of the third semester (summer term), prior to beginning clinical coursework.
 10. **Provide proof of health insurance** upon request for clinical placement during the third semester.
 11. **Read and comply with program policies as specified in the PTA Program Handbook**, found on the program website under Resources [Gulf Coast State College | Physical Therapist Assistant Resources](#)

**Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Estimated Student Expenses
(Based on 2022 - 2023 fees)**

Registration will not be officially completed until all fees are paid in full by the dates identified in the college calendar. **Students are responsible for all fees for courses not dropped by the student during the refund period.**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program requires 74 credit hours of instruction.

***In-State Estimate**

Matriculation fee, per credit hour	72.92
Student Activity fee, per credit hour.....	7.29
Capital Improvement fee, per credit hour.....	7.29
Financial aid fee, per credit hour	3.65
Technology Fee	3.65
TOTAL, PER CREDIT HOUR.....	\$94.80
Access Fee	3.95
TOTAL, PER CREDIT HOUR.....	\$98.75
74 credits x 98.75 =.....	\$7,307.50

***Out-of-State Estimate**

Matriculation fee, per credit hour	72.92
Tuition, per credit hour	221.42
Student Activity fee, per credit hour.....	7.29
Capital Improvement fee, per credit hour.....	24.69
Financial aid fee, per credit hour	14.72
Technology Fee	14.72
TOTAL, PER CREDIT HOUR.....	\$355.76
Access Fee	3.95
TOTAL, PER CREDIT HOUR.....	\$359.71
74 credits x 359.71 =	\$26,618.54

GCSC Application fee (\$10), PERT x 1 (\$7.50).....	17.50
Lab fees [includes liability/accident insurance, application fee] (approximately).....	337.00
Uniform and equipment expenses.....	200.00
TOTAL.....	\$554.50

Travel/living expenses for clinical training are the personal responsibility of the student and will vary depending on the location of the clinical site. Students are NOT guaranteed local placements and may need to travel up to 100 miles for at least one clinical experience.

Textbooks	2,168.00
Background Check / Fingerprinting Fee (\$85 x 2)	170.00
Compliance Tracker for Immunizations (\$35) / Drug Screening (\$40 x 2) / Flu shot (\$35).....	150.00
Interprofessional Healthcare Training Orientation (\$119), BLS (\$57) fees	176.00
TOTAL.....	\$2,664.00

ESTIMATED cost for the program -

In-state	\$10,526.00
Out-of-state	\$29,852.04

** Fees are subject to change without notice.
Estimates are based on pages 21-22 of the
2022-2023 catalog.*

**Estimated Costs by Semester for Cohort 2024
(based on 2022-2023 Catalog)**

Sem. 1	Course	Credits	Textbook	Lab Fees	Tuition	*Prog. Fee	General	Technical	Clinical		*Program fees 1st Semester	
Fall I	BSC 2085	3	\$ 182.00	\$ -	\$ 296.25	Uniform	3	0	0		Uniform	\$ 200.00
Fall I	BSC 2085L	1	\$ 52.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 98.75	Bk Ck 1	1	0	0		Bk Ck 1	\$ 85.00
Fall I	MATH xxx	3	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 296.25	Imm.	3	0	0		Immunizations	\$ 35.00
Fall I	HSC 1531	2	\$ 130.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 197.50	Drug Sc 1	0	2	0		Drug Screen 1	\$ 40.00
Fall I	PHT 1000	2	\$ 95.00	\$ -	\$ 197.50	IHT	0	2	0		IHT	\$ 119.00
Fall I	PHT 1102	2	\$ 235.00	\$ -	\$ 197.50	BLS	0	2	0		BLS	\$ 57.00
Fall I	PHT 1102L	1	\$ 54.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 98.75	App fee	0	1	0		App	\$ 10.00
Fall I	PHT 1200	2	\$ 111.00	\$ -	\$ 197.50	CPT	0	2	0		CPT	\$ 7.50
Fall I	PHT 1200L	2	\$ -	\$ 42.00	\$ 197.50		0	2	0		Total	\$ 553.50
2022	Total	18	\$1,109.00	\$ 104.00	\$ 1,777.50	\$ 553.50	7	11	0			
Sem. 2	Course	Credits	Textbook	Lab Fees	Tuition	Prog. Fee	General	Technical	Clinical			
Spring I	BSC 2086	3	same	\$ -	\$ 296.25		3	0	0			
Spring I	BSC 2086L	1	\$ 53.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 98.75		1	0	0			
Spring I	PHT 1124	2	same	\$ -	\$ 197.50		0	2	0			
Spring I	PHT 1124L	1	same	\$ -	\$ 98.75		0	1	0			
Spring I	PHT 1220	3	\$ 99.00	\$ -	\$ 296.25		0	3	0			
Spring I	PHT 1220L	2	\$ -	\$ 14.00	\$ 197.50		0	2	0			
Spring I	PHT 1131	1	\$ 234.00	\$ -	\$ 98.75		0	1	0			
Spring I	PHT 1131L	2	same	\$ -	\$ 197.50		0	2	0			
Spring I	POS 2041	3	\$ 94.00	\$ -	\$ 296.25		3	0	0			
2023	Total	18	\$ 480.00	\$ 41.00	\$ 1,777.50	\$ -	7	11	0			
Sem. 3	Course	Credits	Textbook	Lab Fees	Tuition	Prog. Fee	General	Technical	Clinical		*Program fees 3rd Semester	
Summer	ENC 1101	3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 296.25		3	0	0		Bk Ck 2	\$ 85.00
Summer	PSY 2012	3	\$ 51.00	\$ -	\$ 296.25		3	0	0		Drug Screen 2	\$ 40.00
Summer	PHT 2224	2	\$ 98.00	\$ -	\$ 197.50		0	2	0		Total	\$ 125.00
Summer	PHT 2224L	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 98.75		0	1	0			
Summer	HUM xxxx	3	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 296.25		3	0	0			
Summer	PHT 2211	2	\$ 95.00	\$ -	\$ 197.50		0	2	0			
Summer	PHT 2211L	2	\$ -	\$ 54.00	\$ 197.50		0	2	0			
2023	Total	16	\$ 404.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 1,580.00	\$ 125.00	9	7	0			
Sem. 4	Course	Credits	Textbook	Lab Fees	Tuition	Prog. Fee	General	Technical	Clinical		*Program fees 4th Semester	
Fall II	PHT 2801	2	\$ -	\$ 16.00	\$ 197.50	Flu shot	0	0	2		Flu shot	\$35.00
Fall II	PHT 2225	3	\$ 70.00	\$ -	\$ 296.25	\$ 35.00	0	3	0		Total	\$35.00
Fall II	PHT 2225L	2	\$ -	\$ 8.00	\$ 197.50		0	2	0			
Fall II	PHT 2226	3	\$ 105.00	\$ -	\$ 296.25		0	3	0			
Fall II	PHT 2226L	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 197.50		0	2	0			
2023	Total	12	\$ 175.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 1,185.00	\$35.00	0	10	2			
Sem. 5	Course	Credits	Textbook	Lab Fees	Tuition	Prog. Fee	General	Technical	Clinical			
Spring II	PHT 2810	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 395.00		0	0	4			
Spring II	PHT 2820	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 395.00		0	0	4			
Spring II	PHT 2931	2	\$ -	\$ 114.00	\$ 197.50		0	2	0			
2023	Total	10	\$ -	\$ 114.00	\$ 987.50	\$ -	0	2	8			
		Credits	Textbook	Lab Fees	Tuition	Prog. Fee	General	Technical	Clinical			
	Program Total	74	\$2,168.00	\$ 337.00	\$ 7,307.50	\$ 713.50	23	41	10			
Overall program cost including all program onboarding, textbooks, lab fees, and tuition (in-state):										\$10,526.00		

GCSC Physical Therapy Observation Form

MUST RECORD ALL HOURS ON 2024 FORMS! If attaching supplemental documentation (e.g., signature from an old form), be sure to record hours on a 2024 form and write “see attached” in the signature section of the 2024 form for credit.

A minimum of 10 observation or work hours is a requirement for the PTA Application.
Completed forms should be submitted by email to HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu or fax to (850) 747-3246, Attn: Academic Programs Specialist by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on May 9, 2024.

Extra points will be granted towards admission to those applicants who have documented more than 10 hours of observation/volunteer or work experience in physical therapy. If the applicant observes or works in more than one location/setting, additional points will also be awarded. A Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant must verify the observation or work experience by signing this form, which must be submitted by the deadline.

We do not accept other PT experience forms and this form may be duplicated if needed.
****Incomplete forms will not be considered by the admissions committee.****

STUDENT NAME: _____

OBSERVATION OR VOLUNTEER at a Physical Therapy Department:

<u>Facility Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Date (MM/YY)</u>	<u>PTA / PT Signature</u>	<u>License #</u>
TOTAL:				

-and/or-

PAID EMPLOYMENT with a Physical Therapy Department:

<u>Facility Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Date (MM/YY)</u>	<u>PTA / PT Signature</u>	<u>License #</u>
TOTAL:				

***Note: Must have at least a minimum of 10 hours to apply.** Additional points will be earned if an applicant has more than 10 hours of documented observation/work experience and/or lists more than one facility of any type.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS FORM - 2024
READ, SIGN BELOW, & SUBMIT!

A physical therapist assistant is a health care professional whose primary responsibility is to work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist and perform duties in a clinical setting. In addition to the duties of the profession, the physical therapist assistant must always be aware of the patient's condition and needs and be able to interact appropriately.

TECHNICAL STANDARD	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES (Not All Inclusive)
Cognitive Qualifications	Sufficient Reading, Language and Math Skills; Ability to collect and integrate information to make a decision for patient care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to comprehend and interpret written material • Follow and deliver written and oral direction • Able to comprehend & apply new knowledge within scope of work
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment; synthesize information from written material and apply knowledge to clinical situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations • Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, medical records and professional literature • Make rapid decisions under pressure • Handle multiple priorities in stressful situations • Assist with problem-solving
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, educational, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish rapport with individuals • Cope effectively with stress • Can exchange ideas in a group (work effectively as part of a team) • Cope with confrontation • Demonstrate a high degree of patience • Graciously admit mistakes and accept constructive criticism
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and non-verbal form (speech, reading, and writing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain treatment procedures • Give effective instructions to patients and families • Demonstrate active listening skills. Recognize, interpret and respond to non-verbal behavior of self and others • Keep accurate, ethical logs and records of treatment and charges with correct spelling and grammar
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room, to maneuver in small spaces and to perform procedures necessary for emergency intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain positions including sitting, standing, squatting, kneeling, reaching (above shoulder level), walking, stair climbing, and movement of trunk and neck in all directions for an extended amount of time. (up to 4 hours) • Able to push, pull, and/or lift a minimum of 50-70 lbs., and push/ pull, or move such weight a minimum of 50 feet. • Safely and effectively transfer a 200-300lb patient with assistance • Able to lift up to 10 lbs. above head • Able to endure and successfully complete a 40-hour work week during clinical education courses, while wearing appropriate PPE (mask, gloves, gowns) when applicable.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handle and use equipment • Position patients • Perform repetitive tasks • Able to grip
Hearing	Normal, corrected or aided - Auditory ability sufficient to interpret verbal communication from patients and health care team members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, and cries for help • Hear telephone interactions
Visual	Normal or corrected - Visual acuity sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for patient assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe patient responses • Identify and distinguish colors
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for gross and fine motor coordination necessary for manual assessment of tissues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform palpation, functions of physical examination, and/or those related to therapeutic intervention • Tactile abilities needed to palpate pulses, detect changes in texture, body contour, muscle tone, and joint movement
Professionalism	Ability to demonstrate professional behaviors and a strong work ethic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate respect, moral and ethical behaviors in all academic and professional settings • Demonstrate time management skills that promote punctual attendance to class, lab and clinical settings • Recognize personal limitations and request assistance as appropriate • Present professional appearance and maintain personal hygiene
Environmental	Ability to tolerate environmental stressors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with chemicals and detergents • Tolerate exposure to fumes and odors • Work in areas that are close and crowded • Tolerate shift work (up to 12 hours) while wearing personal protective equipment (mask, gloves, gown, goggles) as indicated.

**I have read the above technical standards. I feel it is within my ability to carry out the duties and qualifications of a PTA.
 If I become unable to meet these standards, I will inform the PTA Program Coordinator immediately.14**