LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

2021 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.
Students may begin the application process for the 2021 class in September 2020. 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 deadline is December 19, 2020. Application files must be complete by this date to be considered for the 2021 class. The PTA program staff will assess complete files and admit up to 28 students. Applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial by letter. *Applications may be accepted after December 19, 2020, if the program does not have a full class. Check with the Admissions Office for enrollment levels after the application deadline. 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 LAT 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 at the following web site: 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 health-care 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. PTA's 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 lecture, 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.

Physical Therapist Assistant Curriculum

First Year Fall Semester	**Credits**
ANAT 142 Anatomy	3
SPCM 101 Fundamentals of Speech	3
MATH 100 Applied General Math	3
MA 115 Medical Terminology	3
CSC 100 Computer Concepts	1
PTA 100 Intro to PTA	1
PTA 110 Fundamentals of PTA	3
PTA 116 Ethics & Issues in PT	2
SOC 118 Sociology in Healthcare	3
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First Year Spring Semester	
PHGY 210 Human Physiology	4
ENGL 101 Composition	3
CPR 112 Basic Life Support	.5
PTA 106 Kinesiology	3
PTA 120 Observation & Measurement	3
PTA 125 Physical Agents & Massage	4
PTA 136 Electrotherapy	2
	19.5

First Year Summer Session	
PTA 145 Theories of Therapeutic Exercise	1.5
PTA 150 Pathology for the PTA	2
PSYC General Psychology	3
	6.5

Second Year Fall Session	**Credits**
PTA 220 Musculoskeletal Disorders & Treatment	4
PTA 228 Neuroanatomy & Neurological Dysfunction	3
PTA 229 Human Dev & Pediatric Disorders	1.5
PTA 241 Clinical Affiliation 1 (4 wks)	3
PTA 242 Rehabilitation Procedures	4
	15.5

Second Year Spring Semester	
PTA 216 Applications in Therapeutic Exercise	2
PTA 231 Special Topics	1.5
PTA 245 Clinical Affiliation 11 (6 wks)	4
PTA 250 Clinical Affiliation 111 (6 wks)	4
CSS Career Search Strategies	.5
	12

Accreditation

Physical Therapy Assistant program at Lake Area Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email:accreditation@apta.org; website: http://www.capteonline.org. The program's current status is probationary accreditation; for more information see http://www.capteonline.org/WhatWeDo/RecentActions/PublicDisclosureNotices/. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call Chris Barrett at 605-882-5284 ext. 329 or barrettc@lakeareatech.edu.

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