

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING

GATEWAYCC.EDU/**PHYSICAL-THERAPIST-ASSISTING**

[INFORMATION PACKET]



HEALTH SCIENCES



**GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
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For the latest information on programs, graduation rates and other important consumer information, please visit our website at gatewaycc.edu



Physical Therapist Assisting

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assisting Program at GateWay Community College.

Please review the enclosed Information and Application Packet. If you decide to apply for admission into the program, complete all the required steps noted on the **INFORMATION SHEET** and **APPLICATION PROCESS** pages of the packet.

Please note the application periods for the hybrid weekend program and the day program. Applications to the programs will only be accepted during the designated application periods.

Please access one of the following resources or the program website if you have additional questions about the program:

College Website: <http://www.gatewaycc.edu>

PTA Program Website: <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/physical-therapist-assisting>

GateWay Healthcare Advising: 602-286-8600; healthcareadvising@gatewaycc.edu

Laura Safa, PTA, MS – Program Director / 602.286.8514 / E-mail: laura.safa@gatewaycc.edu

Please note that the curriculum and prerequisites for the program will be revised periodically. It is the applicant's responsibility to remain aware of any changes in admission requirements.

I wish you success in your educational and career pursuits.

Sincerely,

Laura Safa, PTA, MS
Director - Physical Therapist Assistant Program

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APPLICATION PROCESS

- STEP 1** – See a College Advisor or visit the college website (www.gatewaycc.edu) or the program website (<https://www.gatewaycc.edu/physical-therapist-assisting>)
- Receive a program information and application packet
- STEP 2** – Read the entire packet carefully
- Contact a college advisor to discuss questions
- STEP 3** – Complete the Student Information Form to the College
- Obtain form at the Admissions and Records office or at: <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/enrollment>
 - Submit form to Admissions and Records or enroll online.
- STEP 4** – Transcripts – Request official transcripts from colleges/universities to be sent to the Admissions and Records Office, GWCC, 108 N. 40th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034.
- Official transcripts must be sent from institution to institution. Allow 2-4 weeks for receipt. Please request the institution to include the current name and student ID number used at GateWay Community College.
- STEP 5** – Complete pre-requisites (see page 12). Review points system for admission to the program on page 9. See page 18-19 regarding the required work/observation experience. Pages 19-21 should be submitted to the Admissions and Records by the clinical site where the work/observation experience occurred upon completion of the experience.
- STEP 6** – Submit the **COMPLETED** application (page 23 and page 24) to the Admissions and Records Department. See the Selective Annual Admissions Process on page 9 for the application periods for the hybrid weekend program and the day program.

A completed application packet consists of:

1. Official college/university transcripts received by GWCC Admissions and Records.
2. Completed Student Information Form submitted to Admissions and Records
3. Documentation of completion of ENG101 or ENG102 and BIO160 or BIO201 with a 3.0 GPA and a minimum grade of B in each course.
4. Documentation of HESI PTA Program scores with 70% or higher on each section within the last 2 years.
5. Completed verification of work experience/observation of 40 hrs. **(SEE PAGES 19-21)**
6. Completed application to program **(SEE PAGE 23 and 24)**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CAREERS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

What is Physical Therapy?

Physical therapy (PT) is the art and science of providing care to patients suffering from injury or disease which has resulted in a loss of motion in the joints of the body, a loss of strength in muscles, increased pain, an inability to walk normally, as well any of several other examples of losses of physical function. Through physical therapy, patients work to regain the ability to function at their highest possible level. Patients may include infants, children, adults, and the elderly.

Who provides Physical Therapy?

Physical therapists (PTs) assess patients, determine what treatment is necessary, and perform skilled treatments. Physical therapists' assistants (PTAs) help the physical therapist by performing selected treatment interventions with patients. PTAs are always supervised by PTs.

I really want to become a physical therapist – do I need to become a physical therapist assistant first?

Individuals interested in becoming physical therapists do not need to complete education as a PTA to become a PT.

What Education is Necessary?

Individuals interested in becoming physical therapists complete a bachelor's degree prior to making an application to enter an educational program. Programs for the education of physical therapists are at the doctoral level and generally take three years to complete.

Physical therapist assistants attend community or technical colleges that offer an associate's degree. Programs can be completed in 3-5 semesters.

Where do PTs and PTAs work?

PTs and PTAs are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, schools, home health and outpatient practice settings.

How much money do PTs and PTAs make?

Information about wages and salaries for physical therapists can be found at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm>

Information about wages and salaries for physical therapist assistants can be found at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm>

What is the current job market for PTAs?

The United States Department of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statistics states, **“Overall employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 26 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy is expected to increase in response to the healthcare needs of an older population and individuals with chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity.”** Graduates of the PTA Program at GateWay Community College are currently in high demand.

Why should I consider a career in physical therapy?

A career in physical therapy is very rewarding. Each day physical therapists and physical therapist assistants work closely with their patients to help them recover from injuries or illnesses that have temporarily or permanently changed their lives. PTs and PTAs are important members of the rehabilitation team. Helping people to progress back towards optimal health is a wonderful experience.

PTs and PTAs work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, home health, schools, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient clinics and sports medicine centers. Work hours are generally during the daytime, Monday through Friday. Weekend work is generally available or required at hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

PTs and PTAs are men and women who enjoy challenging work, communicating with people, and working in a team to assist patients to achieve their fullest rehabilitation potential.

Do I need to pass an examination to be a PT or PTA?

To hold the title of physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in Arizona an individual must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for the respective level of education and training. The examination is administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). Costs associated with applying for licensure/certification and taking the examination are approximately \$650.

If I have a criminal record, will that prohibit me from being successful in this career?

Clinical agreements with healthcare facilities require that students possess a Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Additionally, a student must not be listed on the Federal Government's Office of the Inspector General's Exclusion List. Students that are unable to obtain either of these clearances will be prohibited from attending all healthcare education programs at GateWay Community College.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

How many students are admitted to the program?

A new class of 24 students is admitted each August to the traditional day program. The weekend/hybrid education program admits a new class of 20 students in May of each year. The number of students admitted may change depending on employment market conditions and the availability of clinical training sites.

What do I need to do to apply to the program?

It is recommended that interested students contact a college advisor to discuss the program (602-286-8600 or healthcareadvising@gatewaycc.edu). PTA faculty are also frequently available for consultation. Following these initial meetings, students should then work to complete the following:

- a) BIO160 (or BIO201) – minimum grade of B required
- b) ENG101 or ENG102 – minimum grade of B required
- c) HESI Exam PTA Program within last 2 years- minimum 70% on all sections
- d) 40 hours of work/observation experience in physical therapy with a minimum of 10 hours in an inpatient (hospital, skilled nursing care, etc.) facility. Interested applicants are encouraged to allow adequate time to complete this requirement. It may take some time to locate a site, establish a schedule, and complete the required hours.

The above requirements **MUST** be completed prior to applying to the program. A grade point average of 3.0 for BIO160/201 and ENG101/ENG102 must be achieved to be admitted into the program with a minimum grade of B in each course.

What happens to my application if I am not accepted into the program?

The prospective applicant will need to reapply for admission into the program during the next application cycle.

How long does it take to complete the program?

The day program can be completed in five semesters. Students admitted to the day program in August 2023 will graduate in May 2025, if all lecture, laboratory, and clinical courses are completed satisfactorily. Students admitted to the weekend/hybrid education program in May 2024 will graduate in September 2025, if all lecture, laboratory, and clinical courses are completed satisfactorily. Many students take a year prior to beginning program courses to complete program prerequisites and general education courses that are required for the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree.

Are the PTA Program courses transferable to colleges or universities if I decide to pursue a bachelor's degree?

Certain bachelor's degree programs will accept up to 90 credits from the program. Contact college advising (602-286-8600) for further information.

When are the classes scheduled?

For the day program, lecture and lab classes may be scheduled Monday through Friday. Classes may begin as early as 7:00 a.m. and end as late as 5:30 p.m. Depending on the semester, students may be in class for 3-6 hours per day, 3-4 days per week. For the weekend/hybrid education program lecture courses will be online with periodic on campus testing. Lab classes will be scheduled Friday (11:00-5:00 PM, mornings may be used for testing, review, etc.) and Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. All the lab classes are held on site at GateWay Community College. There are approximately 20 weekends of required on campus attendance for lab classes in the hybrid program.

Clinical practicum classes (PTA206, 280, and 290) for both the traditional day program and the hybrid weekend programs are Monday through Friday for eight (8) hours each day for six consecutive weeks. Extended hours and weekends are occasionally necessary during clinical experiences. These classes require attendance at clinical facilities that include hospitals, extended care facilities, and outpatient practices.

What facilities do I contact to complete my volunteer/work experience?

Applicants are encouraged to contact local hospitals, nursing homes, and private physical therapy offices to arrange for observation experience. The program requires that 40 hours of observation or work experience must be completed prior to entering the program. A minimum of 10 hours must be completed at an inpatient (hospital, skilled nursing care, etc.) facility. For volunteer experiences, this requirement will often involve observing physical therapy practice without any direct patient interaction. Receiving physical therapy for a personal injury or medical condition will not be considered as part of the observation experience requirement.

Can I work and go to school?

For the day and hybrid/weekend education programs, applicants are cautioned that the PTA Program is a rigorous course of study. The program faculty recommends that work hours be kept to a minimum. Each student must make an individual decision about the number of work hours that he/she can accept while continuing to make acceptable academic progress in the program.

Is financial aid available?

Financial assistance is available to eligible students in the form of grants, scholarships, employment, or loans. Students may receive aid from one funding source or aid may be offered in a package from multiple sources. Contact the Financial Aid office at 602.286.8300/finaid@gatewaycc.edu for additional information or visit their web site at <http://www.gatewaycc.edu/financial-aid>

Does the weekend/hybrid education program have special requirements?

Students in the weekend/hybrid education program will need regular access to a computer with internet capabilities (high speed service is preferred). Students must be computer literate and must be able to access documents that are presented in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Windows Media Player, or similar software, is also required. Students will be traveling to GateWay on alternating weekends and thus reliable motor vehicle transportation is essential. Students in this education program who travel from a distance will need to make their own lodging arrangements for the weekend lab classes. Every effort will be made to place students in their local communities for clinical education rotations. If this is not possible students may be required to drive many miles to the nearest available clinical site. Please note that only students who are considered residents of Arizona are eligible to take online classes in the weekend/hybrid program. Contact the Admissions and Records office regarding residency requirements.

Once I start the program, can I transfer from the hybrid program to the day program or from the day program to the hybrid program?

Requests to transfer from one program to the other will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Transfer may not be possible due to a variety of reasons.

Where can I get more information?

College Website: <http://www.gatewaycc.edu>

Program Website: <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/physical-therapist-assisting>

College Advising: 602-286-8600; healthcareadvising@gatewaycc.edu

Laura Safa, PTA, MS – Program Director; 602-286-8514; laura.safa@gatewaycc.edu

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT SELECTIVE ANNUAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applicants for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College will be ranked on a point-based system. The criteria listed below will be used in the ranking process. Applicants for the program will be selected based on the points earned.

Applications for the hybrid weekend program will be accepted from July 1 through September 30. Applicants will be notified of their status by November 15. Late applications may be considered for admission if additional spaces remain in the program after the initial acceptance process has been completed. The hybrid weekend program starts in mid-May.

Applications for the day program will be accepted from December 1 through March 1. Applicants will be notified of their status by May 1. Late applications may be considered for admission if additional spaces remain in the program after the initial acceptance process is completed. The traditional day program starts in mid-August.

Any applicant that is not accepted but remains interested in the program will be required to reapply for admission during the next application period.

1. Grade in BIO160 or BIO201 – must earn 2 points in this category and taken within the past 10 years
 - a. A = 4 points
 - b. B = 2 points
 - c. C, D or F = application will not be considered
2. Grade in ENG101 or ENG102 – must earn 1 point in this category
 - a. A = 2 points
 - b. B = 1 points
 - c. C, D or F = application will not be considered
3. Score on HESI for PTA Program within the last 2 years- must earn 21 points in this category
 - a. 10% of the score in each category is added as points
 - i. i.e. score 89.5% on math = 8.95 points, 70.1% on English composition= 7.01 points, and 75.3% on anatomy and physiology= 7.53 points.
 - b. HESI scores below 70% = application may be considered.
4. Work or observation experience in physical therapy – submit required verification form(s) – must earn 1 point from this category. (10 hours of work/observation experience must be from an inpatient facility)
 - a. Work experience as a physical therapy aide/technician - 2080+ hours = 3 points
 - b. Work experience as a physical therapy aide/technician – 1040 to 2079 hours = 2 points
 - c. 40 or more hours of observation experience in a physical therapy practice OR 40-1039 hours of work experience as a physical therapy aide/technician = 1 point
5. Completion of general education requirements (ENG102, MAT, COM, HCC146 or HCC 145, PSY101, Humanities, CRE) with a minimum grade of C in each course.
 - a. 7 courses completed = 3 points
 - b. 3-6 courses completed = 2 points
 - c. 1-2 courses completed = 1 point
6. Work/volunteer recommendation rating
 - a. Cumulative average of 9.5 to 10 = 3 points
 - b. Cumulative average of 8.5 to 9.49 = 2 points
 - c. Cumulative average of 7.5 to 8.49 = 1 point
 - d. Cumulative average of 0 to 7.49 = 0 points
7. AA degree or higher – 1 point
8. Medical credential with AA degree or higher in the field of study – 1 point

IMMUNIZATIONS, TESTING, AND BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS

IMMUNIZATION AND TB TESTING REQUIREMENTS

All health and safety documentation are submitted digitally. The health and safety requirements are subject to change based on the requirements of our clinical partners. Once a student has been accepted into a program for the start of an upcoming semester, clinical requirements will be sent out.

MCCCD BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Students seeking admission to an MCCC CD Allied Health or Nursing Program (Program) will be required to obtain a valid Level-One Arizona Department of Public Safety Fingerprint Clearance Card (FCC Card) AND a passing score on an MCCC CD background check. This policy precludes MCCC CD faculty or staff from assigning students to a clinical experience who cannot meet the new requirements.

Upon admission to the program, students are required to present a copy of the DPS card and apply for the MCCC CD Background Check. Students bear the financial costs for both the MCCC CD Background Check and the AZ Fingerprint Clearance Card. Students will receive Information regarding the MCCC CD Background Check after admission, but prior to the beginning of the program.

Students are encouraged to apply for the card early in the application process. Please allow a minimum of eight weeks processing time for the DPS Level-One Fingerprint Clearance card. The card is valid for six years from the date of issue.

DRUG SCREENING

Each student must go through a preclinical drug screen prior to beginning the first clinical rotation. Drug screening for all Physical Therapist Assisting students is mandatory. The cost for tests will be the responsibility of the student. The urine drug screen will test for alcoholic beverages; illegal drugs, or drugs that may impair judgment while in the clinical agency. If the drug test is positive for the illegal drugs or undocumented prescription drugs, the student will not be able to continue in the program. Readmission is at the discretion of the college and the program. Some clinical sites also require screening for nicotine. Students who test positive for nicotine are allowed to continue in the program but may be limited to clinical agencies that do not test for nicotine.

ESTIMATED PROGRAM COSTS

The estimated cost for the program is outlined in the chart below. The student is responsible for providing transportation, housing, and uniforms.

AAS Degree Program	
Tuition* (53 credit hrs. @ \$97 a credit hr.) ¹	\$ 5141
Program Prerequisite Tuition (9-17 credit hrs. @ \$97 a credit hr.) ¹	873 – 1,649
General Education Tuition (11-17 credit hrs. @ \$97 a credit hr.) ¹	1068 – 1,649
Registration fees (\$15 per semester)	75
Course / Lab Fees	710 – 780
Equipment / Supplies	83
Books ³	1,900 – 2,757
Other Program Costs: Health/Safety Requirements, etc. ²	817 – 1,482
Total Estimated Costs	\$ 10,584 – 13,616

Out-of-County residents pay \$518* / Out-of-State residents pay \$372 per credit hour¹**

* Rates are set according to Arizona Revised Statute. Applies only to counties with no community colleges.

** According to Arizona Revised Statute, 15-1802 F, "A person who is a member of an Indian tribe recognized by the US Department of the Interior whose reservation land lies in this state and extends into another state and who is a resident of the reservation is entitled to classification as an in-state student." Therefore, unclassified, and out of state surcharges do not apply to such students.

Students must also plan on the expense of driving to clinical locations across the metropolitan Phoenix and outlying areas. Several clinical affiliates are not on bus routes so one's own private transportation vehicle is necessary.

¹ Tuition and course fees are set by the Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board and are subject to change without notice. All other fees are also subject to change. All tuition and fees are the responsibility of the student. The calculated tuition is based on the maximum number of credits required for the AA degree.

² Other program costs may be less or more than listed based on a student's individual health record in respect to being in compliance with the immunization and safety requirements for the clinical experience.

³ Book costs may change without notice

IMPORTANT – Tuition/registration fees are all due 35 days prior to the start date of each course. If 34 days or less, all fees are due at the time of registration, or the student will be dropped from courses and lose their seat in the program for non-payment.

PREREQUISITES FOR PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING

Please read all pertinent information about the Physical Therapist Assisting Program contained in this

information and application packet. If you have any questions, please contact a College Advisor or the Program Director.

1. Submission of a completed Student Information Form. See a college advisor or the Admissions and Records Department or access the web at: <http://enroll.gatewaycc.edu/Enrollment/HowToEnroll/default.htm>
2. 40 or more hours of work/observation experience in a physical therapy practice setting with a minimum of 10 hours from an inpatient facility. See page 18 for additional information.
3. Submission of HESI PTA Program scores with 70% or higher on each section.
4. Successful completion of the following college courses:

	CREDITS
ENG101 First Year Composition OR	3.0
ENG102 First Year Composition	
BIO160 Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology OR	
BIO201 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4.0
TOTAL	7.0

NOTE: A minimum 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. in prerequisite courses is required to enter the program and a grade of "B" or higher is required in each course.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

A student must fulfill the requirements for an AAS degree (refer to the college catalog) to become a Physical Therapist Assistant. It is strongly recommended that as many General Education courses as possible be completed prior to beginning the program and during the first semester.

ENG101 OR ENG102	3.0	credits
Psychology101	3.0	credits
Mathematics Elective	3.0 – 5.0	credits
Communication Elective	3.0	credits
Humanities Elective	2.0 – 3.0	credits
CRE101/111 Critical Reading (Waiver by assessment offered)	0 – 3.0	credits
Total credits	14.0 – 20.0	credits

The above classes may be taken at any regionally accredited community college or university. For classes taken outside the Maricopa County Community College District, please contact a college advisor prior to taking the course to ensure transferability. Please see the GateWay Community College Catalog for a list of courses that satisfy requirements for the AAS degree.

Total Credits for an AAS in Physical Therapist Assisting

Program prerequisites	7.0	
Required program credits	54.0	
General Studies	14.0 – 20.0	
Total credits	75.0 – 81.0	

Additional Requirements

Prior to the first pre-clinical practicum (PTA204), a student must show proof of:

- Current American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR Certification card
- Completed Immunization and Health Declaration Form
- Current negative drug testing
- Fingerprint clearance card/criminal background check

American Heart Association HealthCare Provider CPR Certification may be completed at GateWay (RES109). **All costs** for CPR certification, TB testing, immunizations, fingerprint clearance and drug testing are the responsibility of the student.

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE - DAY PROGRAM

PTA Program Pre-requisites: 7 credits

	40 hours work/observation experience
	70% or better on each category of the HESI exam (taken within the last 2 years)
	BIO160 Intro to Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4) OR
	BIO201 Human Anatomy and Physiology I – 4 credits
	ENG101 OR ENG102 First Year Composition – 3 credits

PTA Courses First Fall (Aug- Dec) 9.5-10.5 credits

	PTA101 Survey of Physical Therapy - 1.5 credits
	PTA103 Kinesiology – 3 credits
	PTA104 Musculoskeletal Assessment Techniques - 1.5 credits
	PTA205 Communication in Physical Therapy - 1.5 credits
	HCC145 OR 146 Common Medical Terminology for Health Care Workers – 2-3 credits

PTA Courses First Spring (Jan-May) 12.5 credits

	PTA200 Patient Mobility Techniques (lecture and lab) – 4 credits
	PTA202 Therapeutic Modalities (lecture and lab) – 5 credits
	PTA204 Preclinical Practicum I- 0.5 credits
	PTA203 Clinical Pathology – 3 credits

PTA Course First Summer (May-June) 4.0 credits

	PTA206 Clinical Practicum I – 3 credits
	PTA207 Clinical Practicum I Seminar – 1 credit

PTA Courses Second Fall (Aug-Dec) 15 credits

	PTA 208 Rehab of Special Populations (lecture and lab) – 5 credits
	PTA279 Preclinical Practicum II- 0.5 credits
	PTA 210 Orthopedic Physical Therapy (lecture and lab) – 4 credits
	PTA 214 Electro modalities (lecture and lab) – 2.5 credits
	PTA 215 Wound Care Management* - 1 credit
	PTA 217 Clinical Neurology – 2 credits

PTA Courses Second Spring (Jan-May) 12.0 credits

	PTA230 Physical Therapy Seminar – 2 credits
	PTA280 Clinical Practicum II – 3 credits
	PTA281 Clinical Practicum Seminar II – 1 credit
	PTA290 Clinical Practicum III – 3 credits
	PTA292 Clinical Practicum Seminar III – 1 credit
	PTA295 PTA Exam Review – 2 credits

General Education Courses** 14.0 – 20.0 credits

	ENG101 or ENG102 First Year Comp.	3.0 credits
	PSY101	3.0 credits (Social & Behavioral Sciences elective)
	Math Elective (MAT103AA/103AB; 112; 120)	3.0 – 5.0 credits
	Communication Elective (COM100/110)	3.0 credits
	Humanities Elective	2.0 – 3.0 credits
	Critical Reading (CRE101/111)	0 – 3.0 credits (May exempt through examination)

** General Education courses may be taken at any Maricopa County Community College or regionally accredited college or university. If taken outside of the MCCC system, consult an advisor to ensure transferability. General education courses must be completed in order to graduate. See the college catalog for a list of courses that meet general education requirements. HCC courses may be taken prior to the start of the program.

*All course dates subject to change

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE – HYBRID WEEKEND PROGRAM

PTA Program Prerequisites		Credits
BIO160/201	Human Anatomy and Physiology	4.0
ENG101/102	Freshman Composition	3.0
	40 hours work/observation experience	
	70% or better on each category of the HESI exam (taken within the last 2 years)	
Block I (May – August 2024*)		
PTA101	Survey of Physical Therapy	1.5
PTA103	Kinesiology	3.0
PTA104	Musculoskeletal Assessment Techniques	1.5
PTA203	Clinical Pathology	3.0
HCC146 or HCC 145	Common Medical Terminology for Health Care Workers	2.0-3.0
Block II (August – October 2024*)		
PTA200	Patient Mobility Techniques	4.0
PTA204	PTA204 Preclinical Practicum I	0.5
PTA205	Communication in Physical Therapy	1.5
Block III (October – December 2024*)		
PTA202	Therapeutic Modalities	5.0
PTA217	Clinical Neurology	2.0
Block IV (January – February 2025*)		
PTA206	Clinical Practicum I	3.0
PTA207	Clinical Practicum Seminar I	1.0
PTA208	Rehabilitation of Special Populations	5.0
Block VI (March 2025*)		
PTA210	Orthopedics	4.0
PTA279	Preclinical Practicum II	0.5
Block VII (April – May 2025*)		
PTA214	Electro modalities	2.5
PTA215	Wound Care for the Physical Therapist Assistant	1.0
PTA295	PTA Examination Review	2.0
Block VIII (May – June 2025*)		
PTA280	Clinical Practicum II	3.0
PTA281	Clinical Practicum Seminar II	1.0
Block IX (July – August 2025*)		
PTA290	Clinical Practicum III	3.0
PTA292	Clinical Practicum Seminar III	1.0
PTA230	PT Seminar	2.0

<i>Additional required courses:</i>		
ENG101/102	First Year Composition	3.0
PSY101	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3.0
MAT+	See college catalog for a list of courses that meet this requirement.	3.0
+COM++	See college catalog for a list of courses that meet this requirement.	3.0
HUM	See college catalog for a list of courses that meet this requirement.	2.0 – 3.0
CRE101+ CRE111+	See college catalog for a list of courses that meet this requirement. Requirement can also be met through assessment.	0 – 3.0

LEGAL PROCEDURES

Fingerprinting: The program requires fingerprinting and background checks prior to admission to the program. Students are responsible for any costs associated with fingerprinting. To obtain a DPS Level I Finger Print Clearance Card call 602.223.2279 and request a finger print clearance card packet or you can visit them in person at 2102 W. Encanto Blvd. in Phoenix and pick up the packet. <http://www.azdps.gov/reports/fingerprint/faq/default.asp>

Felonies: Commission of a felony must be disclosed to the Arizona Board of Physical Therapy upon application for Physical Therapist Assistant Certification. It is the decision of the Board whether to grant certification after commission of a felony. For further information contact: Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy at 602.274.0236 or visit their web site at www.ptboard.state.az.us

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

Students enrolled in the program will have learning experiences in a health care setting where they will have access to confidential information. Prior to beginning any clinical studies, the students will be required to sign an agreement to adhere to the requirements of those clinical sites and applicable laws, including the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

ACCREDITATION(S)

GateWay Community College is a Maricopa Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. For the latest information on programs, graduation rates and consumer information, visit gatewaycc.edu.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community 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>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 602-286-8514 or email laura.safa@gatewaycc.edu.

POLICIES, RULES, REQUIREMENTS, AND REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE

- ❖ Policies, courses, programs, fees, and requirements may be suspended, deleted, restricted, supplemented, or changed through action of the Governing Board of the Maricopa Community Colleges.
- ❖ The Maricopa Community Colleges reserves the right to change, without notice, any materials, information, curriculum, requirements, and regulations.
- ❖ Admission or graduation from any Allied Health program at GateWay Community College does not guarantee the student's professional certification, licensure, or employability. The student must comply with legal requirements of the profession. This may include provisions from Arizona Revised Statutes 41-1758.03 (sections B and C) regarding the denial of a fingerprint clearance card or being listed on the US government's Office of Inspector General's Exclusion List.
- ❖ Students with related health care experiences not listed in the Program (Health Core Curriculum courses) Prerequisites/Co-requisite options, may request an evaluation for course competency equivalence by contacting GateWay's Health Core Curriculum Coordinator Tawny DeLeon at tawny.deleon@gatewaycc.edu
- ❖ The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.
- ❖ The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: [\(480\) 731-8499](tel:4807318499). For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit <http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>.

COLLEGE COMMUNICATION

The following information is very important, so you do not miss any notices:

Communication with students is strictly through Maricopa Colleges email, not a personal email account.

GateWay Community College uses a district-wide Google powered email system. This system is the way all official College communications concerning selective admissions, class enrollment, financial aid, tuition due dates and other important student information are sent.

All students need to check their new student e-mail regularly or forward the new student e-mail to a personal e-mail to ensure that all official college communication is received.

Students may access their new e-mail accounts directly from their Student Center once they log in at my.maricopa.edu. First section "Student Communication Center".

The benefits to the student include:

- Quicker response
- Convenience. You can receive & read email even if out-of-town
- Saves trees!

Go to my.maricopa.edu and log in to your account. Click on 'create an account' in the paragraph above the picture of the students to set up your student account. You may edit your information, such as address, phone, etc. here also if you need to. This is a self-service for students, which includes registering for classes, adding/dropping classes, making payments, printing your class schedules, viewing financial aid & viewing your grades. If you have any technical issues, please call 1-888-994-4433.

STUDENT SERVICES

The following are some of the services available to students.

Advising – The Healthcare Academic Advisors are available virtually and appointments can be made at the following link: <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/advisement> for **current** students. If you are currently not enrolled in one of GateWay Community College's Healthcare Programs you are required to attend one of the Healthcare Programs Information Sessions before meeting with an advisor. Please visit <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/advisement/healthcare-nursing> to attend a session.

Bookstore – Available are textbooks and supplies for classes, call 602.286.8400. You may visit their website at: www.efollett.com and selecting "College Textbooks".

Counseling – Academic, personal, or career counseling available. Call 602.286.8900.

Employment – Upon completion of the Physical Therapist Assisting Program, contact the Career & Re-Entry Services, at 602.286.8500 for assistance.

Financial Aid – Available for qualified students. Contact the Financial Aid Office at 602.286.8300 or visit website: <http://www.gatewaycc.edu/financial-aid>

Student Assessment Center – Services include instructor makeup exams, the English, Math, and Reading COMPASS placement tests, and selected instruments required for acceptance into the Health Science or Nursing programs. Call 602.286.8160 for specific days and times tests are available.

Tutoring Assistance – Available through the Learning Center, 602.286.8800.

For a complete listing of student services, please refer to the college catalog, or visit GateWay's website: www.gatewaycc.edu or call college information at 602.286.8000.

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ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The following is a list of physical/mental requirements that are expected of students in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

1. Demonstrate visual acuity and auditory ability to assess the condition of a patient and administer effective patient care.
2. Demonstrate manual dexterity, eye-hand coordination, fine and gross motor skills, and tactile abilities to perform functions as directed by the physical therapist and in accordance with skills outlined in section three of the Evaluative Criteria for the Accreditation of Physical Therapist Assistant Education Programs (see attachment).
3. Demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills for effective patient management and implementation of selected treatment interventions.
4. Maneuver equipment in a patient's room or in the physical therapy department in a time efficient manner.
5. Work in stressful situations that require quick thinking and the simultaneous coordination of a variety of activities.
6. Demonstrate physical agility to respond to patient and family needs, including unexpected changes in the patient's status.
7. Demonstrate the physical ability to assist patients in ambulating, positioning in bed, and transferring from the bed/mat, wheelchair, or car in a time efficient manner.
8. Demonstrate proper body mechanics for lifting.
9. Lift objects more than 100 pounds with assistance with frequent lifting and/or carrying objects weighing 50 pounds or more.
10. Tolerate prolonged standing, stooping, squatting, bending, pushing, and pulling.
11. Demonstrate ability to read, write, understand, and speak English.
12. Demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills with internal and external customers.

Students who are unable to perform these functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, may be unsafe in the clinical environment and thus will likely be unsuccessful in the program.

WORK / OBSERVATION HOURS

Forty (40) hours of work/observation in physical therapy practice settings are a prerequisite to application for admission into the PTA Program. A minimum of 10 hours in an inpatient (hospital, skilled nursing facility, rehabilitation hospital) setting is required. The work/observation experience requirement has a two-fold purpose. First, it assures that the applicant has completed career exploration in the field. The applicant should be aware of the job duties and responsibilities of the PTA through the work/observation and thus be able to make an intelligent decision about the appropriateness of pursuing this career goal. Second, the program wants to be reasonably certain that students entering the program are committed to this career goal. The work/observation requirement is used to assure that applicants have had first-hand experience with the job duties that a PTA is required to perform. **The applicant should expect that most facilities only allow volunteers to observe physical therapy practice. "Hands on" experience is not allowed in most facilities.**

Work/observation hours can be gained at several facilities which provide physical therapy services. These facilities include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing units/facilities, rehabilitation units/hospitals, private practices, business owned practices, schools, and private agencies.

It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for work/observation hours or to certify work experience gained in the field. Work/observation can be arranged by contacting the physical therapy departments of the types of facilities noted above. Phone numbers and locations of facilities may be found in the Yellow Pages under the headings "Hospitals," "Physical Therapy," and "Nursing Homes." Facilities may have a waiting list for individuals wanting to complete observation hours and may have limited hours in which observation hours can be accommodated. Applicants often achieve the required observation hours through attendance at multiple facilities. It is common to contact several facilities before observation can be arranged. Some orientation may be required. Allow several weeks to find a facility or

facilities to complete the 40 hours. Receiving physical therapy services for a personal injury or medical condition does not count toward the work/observation hour requirement.

The work/observation hours must be certified by a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant. Please see the Work/Observation Hours Verification and Assessment Form included in this packet. One form is required from each facility at which work/observation experience was completed.

WORK / OBSERVATION HOURS VERIFICATION & ASSESSMENT FORM

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE APPLICANT - On the attached form PRINT your name in the indicated spaces. Give this form and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to each Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist Assistant who has observed your performance during your volunteer/work/observation in PHYSICAL THERAPY. Only DIRECT work/observation in PHYSICAL THERAPY will satisfy the prerequisite requirement. Work/observation must have occurred within the past two years. Make additional copies of this form if your work/observation have been performed in more than one facility. A separate form must be provided to each facility.

Applicants must submit the Work/Observation Verification and Assessment form(s) with their application to the program.

WORK / OBSERVATION HOURS - VERIFICATION & ASSESSMENT FORM

(Page 1 of 3)

Applicant's Name		Social Security # or GateWay ID #
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The above-named applicant is applying for admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College. A provision of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 allows students to review the Volunteer/Work/Observation Verification and Assessment form unless the student waives the right in writing.

I waive the right to review this Volunteer/Work/Observation Verification and Assessment Form.

Applicant's Signature		Date
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY WORK/OBSERVATION SUPERVISOR

Please complete the form below. Forty hours (40) of work/observation hours are required for admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College. The rating and comments sections of this form are used for student advisement purposes.

Please mail the completed form to the address provided below. To assure confidentiality, please sign your name across the back flap of the envelope. If you prefer to email the form, the supervisor may email to selectiveadmissions@gatewaycc.edu.

GateWay Community College
 Admissions and Records
 108 N 40th Street
 Phoenix, AZ 85034-1704

I,	(SUPERVISOR'S NAME - PLEASE PRINT)	, do hereby verify that
(APPLICANT'S NAME PLEASE PRINT)		has completed
hours of work/volunteer experience in physical therapy at		

(FACILITY NAME)		
Supervisor's Signature		Date
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Work Phone Number	PT/PTA License or Certificate #	State

The physical therapy work/observation certified on this form can best be described as occurring in the following setting:

* **NOTE:** If several types of experiences were provided at one facility, please specify the number of hours spent in each type of experience.

HOURS

	Acute Care Hospital
	Rehabilitation Unit - Hospital based
	Rehabilitation Unit - Free standing
	Outpatient Services - Hospital based
	Private Practice
	Sports Medicine
	Extended Care Facility
	Industrial injury rehabilitation clinic
	Home care
	Pediatric care
	School based physical therapy
	Cardiac Rehabilitation
	Other (please specify)

Submit to:

GateWay Community College
Admissions & Records
108 N 40th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034-1704

Or email from the supervisor to selectiveadmissions@gatewaycc.edu

PROGRAM APPLICATION – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

- Starting August 2024 Day Program – Applications accepted from December 1, 2023 to March 1, 2024
- Starting May 2024 Hybrid Weekend Program – Applications accepted from July 1 to September 30, 2023

NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to assure that the information on this application remains current. The applicant must inform GateWay Community College of any changes in the information provided below. Failure to provide current information may result in the applicant forfeiting their program space.

Please print clearly:

LEGAL NAME – LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE
FORMER NAME(S) which may appear on transcript(s)		
ADDRESS STREET		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHONE NUMBER HOME	PHONE NUMBER WORK	PHONE NUMBER CELL
STUDENT ID NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	

ADMISSION APPLICATION DISCLAIMER:

Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Gateway Community College does not guarantee that a student will receive an Associate in Applied Science Degree from the college. Additionally, completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is not the sole criterion for obtaining a license/certificate to work as a physical therapist assistant. Licensing/certification requirements, if required, are the exclusive responsibility of the individual State Board of Physical Therapy or similar agency, and an individual must satisfy specific requirements of those agencies independent of graduation from an accredited PTA education program.

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the above answers are true, correct, and complete. I understand that any falsification or intentional misrepresentation of information on this application may be cause for dismissal from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program and from the college.

Applicant's Name (PRINT)

Signature Date

Submit to:
GateWay Community College
Admissions and Records Office
108 N 40th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034-1704

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Student ID _____

Date _____

The following requirements must be completed prior to submitting your application. If you have questions about this application prior to submitting please reach out to the advising team at healthcareadvising@gatewaycc.edu.

_____ Forty (40) hours of work/observation experience in a physical therapy setting supervised by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant with a minimum of 10 hours completed in an inpatient setting.

70% or better on each section of the HESI exam for PTA (math, English composition, and anatomy and physiology)

_____ English Composition Score

_____ Math Score

_____ Anatomy and Physiology Score

	Course	Course Title	Credits Required	College	Semester Completed or Enrolled	Circle Grade
	BIO160 + BIO201	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology – Lecture/Lab OR Human Anatomy & Physiology I – Lecture/Lab	4			A or B
	+ ENG101/ + ENG107 OR + ENG 102/ + ENG 108	First Year Composition OR First Year Composition for ESL OR First Year Composition OR First Year Composition for ESL OR	3			A or B

ENG 101/107 and ENG 102/108 are both required to graduate from this program, however, only one course with a B or higher is required at the time of application.

BIO 160 or BIO 201 must be completed with a minimum letter grade of an A or B

MCCCD Policy Background Check
Acknowledgement (copy attached)



Student Signature _____

Student Name (printed) _____

Date _____



**Allied Health and Nursing Programs
Maricopa County Community College District
Summary of Criminal Background Check Requirement**

(Student Copy)

Overview of the Requirements

In order for students to be admitted to or maintain enrollment in good standing in Maricopa County Community College District's ("MCCCD") Allied Health and Nursing programs ("Programs"), students must provide with their application to a Program all of the following:

- A copy of an Arizona Department of Public Safety Level-One Fingerprint Clearance Card ("Card"). Students are required to pay the cost of applying for the Card. Cards that are NOT Level-One status will not be accepted.
- An original version of the "**Criminal Background Check Disclosure Acknowledgement**" form attached to this Summary signed by the student.

At all times during enrollment in a Program, students must obtain and maintain BOTH a valid Level-One Fingerprint Clearance Card and passing disposition on supplemental background check performed by MCCCD authorized vendor. Admission requirements related to background checks are subject to change as mandated by clinical experience partners

Implementation of the Requirements

1. Students that are denied issuance of a Card may be eligible for a good cause exception through the Arizona Department of Public Safety. It is the student's responsibility to seek that exception directly with the department. Until the student obtains a Card and meets the other requirements for admission, he or she will not be admitted to a Program.
2. Students admitted to a Program whose Card is revoked or suspended must notify the Program Director immediately and the student will be removed from the Program in which they have been admitted or are enrolled. Any refund of funds would be made per MCCCD policy.
3. The **Criminal Background Check Disclosure Acknowledgement** directs students to disclose on the data collection form of the MCCCD authorized background check vendor all of the requested information as well as any information that the background check may discover. Honesty is important as it demonstrates character. Lack of honesty will be the basis for denial of admission or removal from a Program if the information that should have been disclosed but was not would have resulted in denial of admission. Failure to disclose other types of information constitutes a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and may be subject to sanctions under that Code. Students have a duty to update the information requested on the [background check vendor] data collection form promptly during enrollment in a Program. The [background check vendor] data collection form may ask for the following information but the form may change from time to time:
 - Legal Name
 - Maiden Name
 - Other names used
 - Social Security Number
 - Date of Birth
 - Arrests, charges or convictions of any criminal offenses, even if dismissed or expunged, including dates and details.
 - Pending criminal charges that have been filed against you including dates and details.
 - Participation in a first offender, deferred adjudication or pretrial diversion or other probation program or arrangement where judgment or conviction has been withheld.

The authorized MCCCD background check vendor will be asked to pass or fail each student based on the standards of MCCCD's clinical experience partners that have established the most stringent requirements. The sole recourse of any student who fails the background check and believes that failure may have been in error is with the background check vendor and not MCCCD.



**Allied Health and Nursing Programs
Maricopa County Community College District
Summary of Criminal Background Check Requirement**

(Student Copy)

(Student: Sign and Attach to Application)

All allied health and nursing students who seek to enroll in MCCCCD healthcare programs must complete a Criminal Background Check. The outlined criteria have been created based on MCCCCD's largest clinical experience hospital partners. These partners have stringent background check standards that preclude MCCCCD from assigning students to their sites who cannot meet those standards. In order for MCCCCD students to be able to continue to complete clinical experiences at local hospitals, students must meet these standards.

For persons wishing to enroll in a Program the person must meet the following standards:

- Possession of a valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Level One Fingerprint Clearance Card. Students who currently possess a DPS Card that is another level will not be allowed entrance into a health care program. Students are required to pay the cost of obtaining this background check. If the Level-One Fingerprint Clearance Card is revoked or suspended at any time during the admission process or while enrolled in a MCCCCD healthcare program a student must notify the Program Director immediately and he or she will be removed from the Program. Please see the "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet for details regarding the DPS Card.
- Each student must provide documentation that he or she has completed and "passed" a MCCCCD-supplemental background check through the approved vendor **American DataBank**. Students are required to pay the cost of obtaining this background check. Students whose background checks are more than six months old on the date of beginning a healthcare program must obtain an updated background check. Students who have been in a Program for more than 12 months may be requested to obtain an updated background check. Please see the attached "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet for more details regarding the MCCCCD supplemental-background check.
- The MCCCCD supplemental or the clinical agency background check may include but are not limited to the following:
 - Nationwide Federal Healthcare Fraud and Abuse Databases
 - Social Security Verification
 - Residency History
 - Arizona Statewide Criminal Records
 - Nationwide Criminal Database
 - Nationwide Sexual Offender Registry
 - Homeland Security Search
- By virtue of the MCCCCD supplemental background check, students will be disqualified for admission to a program or continued enrollment in a program based on their criminal offenses, the inability to verify their Social Security number, or their being listed in an exclusionary database of a Federal Agency or on a sex offender registry. Offenses that will lead to a "fail" on the supplemental background check may include but are not limited to:
 - Social Security Search-Social Security number does not belong to applicant
 - Any inclusion on any registered sex offender database
 - Any inclusion on any of the Federal exclusion lists or Homeland Security watch list
 - Any conviction of Felony no matter what the age of the conviction
 - Any warrant in any state

- Any misdemeanor conviction for the following-No matter age of crime
 - violent crimes
 - sex crime of any kind including non consensual sexual crimes and sexual assault
 - murder, attempted murder
 - abduction
 - assault
 - robbery
 - arson
 - extortion
 - burglary
 - pandering
 - any crime against minors, children, vulnerable adults including abuse, neglect, exploitation
 - any abuse or neglect
 - any fraud
 - illegal drugs
 - aggravated DUI
 - Any misdemeanor controlled substance conviction last 7 years
 - Any other misdemeanor convictions within last 3 years
 - Exceptions: Any misdemeanor traffic (DUI is not considered Traffic)
- At all times students are in a program they must maintain BOTH a valid Level-One Fingerprint Clearance Card and passing disposition on the MCCCDC supplemental background check performed by the MCCCDC-authorized vendor.
 - Admission requirements related to background checks are subject to change without notice.
 - Some clinical agencies may require additional components of a criminal background check, other than those required by MCCCDC, as well as a drug screening. Students are required to pay for any and all criminal background checks and drug screens required by a clinical agency to which they are assigned
 - Even though a student possesses a valid DPS Level One Fingerprint Clearance Card and has passed the MCCCDC supplemental background check, a clinical agency may decline to place a student due to information the clinical agency obtains in a background check it requires.
 - If a clinical agency to which a student has been assigned does not accept the student based on his or her criminal background check, the student may not be able to complete the program.
 - MCCCDC may, within its discretion, disclose to a clinical agency that a student has been rejected by another clinical agency.
 - MCCCDC has no obligation to make attempts to place a student when the reasons for lack of placement are criminal background check issues. Since clinical agency assignments are critical requirements for completion of the program, inability to complete required clinical experience due to a student's criminal background check will result in removal from the program.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Student ID Number

Desired Health Care Program