PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Fall 2017

School of Health Sciences
**Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

**College Admission Information**

Students who wish to apply for the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Anne Arundel Community College should indicate the Physical Therapist Assistant Field of Study (AA.GEN.PTA) and the goal as “Degree Seeking” on the College Admission Application or Student Academic Program Change Form available in Counseling, Advising and Retention Services (CARS). To facilitate enrollment, bring a copy of ACT, SAT, or advanced placement scores and unofficial college transcripts to CARS. Students who transfer should follow the usual procedures for sending official transcripts to the college Records office. Application to the Physical Therapist Assistant program is a separate process. Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum does not assure students of selection into the Physical Therapist Assistant course sequence.

**Advising**

New students should contact Counseling, Advising and Retention Services at 410-777-2307 for advising.

In order to take courses for this program, students must be eligible for ENG 111, 115 or 121 and eligible for MAT 141. This will be explained in an advising session.

Students who are transferring general education requirements should have official transcripts sent directly to the college Records office. In order to facilitate evaluation of transfer credits to meet academic requirements, official transcripts from ALL previously attended institutions of higher education must be submitted in a timely manner.

**Admission/Academic Requirements**

**Application Deadline**

- Application deadline is March 15th. If the application deadline falls on a weekend, then applications will be accepted until the close of business on the next business day.

**PTA Information Sessions and the PTA Pre-Selection Meeting**

- Attendance at a PTA Program Information Session is strongly recommended. Please call 410-777-7310 for dates and times or you may view the schedule by visiting the CACHE PTA program website at [www.aacc.edu/cache/pta](http://www.aacc.edu/cache/pta). All applicants must attend the mandatory PTA Pre-selection Meeting in April.

**High School Diploma or Associate Degree or higher**

- Official high school transcript or official GED equivalency certificate, to verify high school graduation, GED, and SAT/ACT scores if applicable.
  
  **OR**

- Official transcript verifying an associate degree or higher from a nationally recognized institution.

**NOTE:** Official transcripts must be submitted to the Health Sciences Admissions/Advisement Office, FLRS 100, by May 1. You will not be selected if requirement is not met by the specified deadline.
International Students

- Foreign educated students must have their college and high school transcripts evaluated by one of the following credential evaluators:
  - ECE (Educational Credential Evaluators) at [www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org)
  - WES (World Education Services) at [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

This evaluation must be done prior to evaluation by the Records office at Anne Arundel Community College. Please be advised that this process may take several weeks.

- **ALL** foreign educated students must successfully pass the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) with a minimum score of 550 (213 is the equivalent computer score and 79 is the equivalent Internet based score) **OR** must have completed the ENG 111/112 or ENG 115/116 or ENG 121 course sequence with grades of “C” or better prior to applying to the Physical Therapist Assistant program. Anne Arundel Community College’s code for TOEFL is **5019**. See the college catalog for additional information and visit [www.ets.org/toefl/](http://www.ets.org/toefl/).

### English

Students must demonstrate eligibility for ENG 111, 115 or 121 as evidenced by one of the following:

- Satisfactory ACT or SAT scores according to the college standard. If available, please submit a copy of the scores to the Records office. **OR**
- Satisfactory scores on the *English Placement Test.* **OR**
- Successful completion of noncredit developmental English requirements as determined by ACT, SAT or *English Placement Test scores.* **OR**
- Transfer of credits for ENG 111 from other institutions or credits awarded on basis of CLEP, advanced placement exam or honors English course.*

### Mathematics

Students must demonstrate eligibility for MAT 141 by one of the following:

- Satisfactory ACT or SAT scores according to the college standard. If available, please submit a copy of the scores to the Records office. **OR**
- Satisfactory scores on the *Mathematics Placement Test.* **OR**
- Successful completion of noncredit developmental math courses on the *Mathematics Placement Test scores.* **OR**
- Transfer of credits for MAT 141 from other institutions.
- Students who previously took MAT 121 or 131 can use that course to satisfy the MAT 141 requirement.

* *English and Math Placement Tests may be taken in the Testing Center (For times and location, call 410-777-2495.) Information on CLEP is available in the Testing Center.*
Chemistry

Students must present evidence of successful completion with a grade of “C” or better of a chemistry course as demonstrated by one of the following by the end of the spring semester to be eligible for May selection:

- U.S. high school general chemistry (1 credit) OR
- Noncredit (CHE 011) or credit chemistry (CHE 111 or CHE 103) OR
- Transfer of credits for a credit chemistry course from regionally accredited institutions.
- If home schooled, the high school curriculum must be under a recognized umbrella organization with the supervision of a state-approved curriculum. AACC may require a course syllabus so that our chemistry department chair can review and approve the curriculum.

NOTE: CHE 011, CHE 111 or CHE 103 is eligible for Health Manpower Shortage Tuition Waiver.

### Required Courses

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<th>First Year</th>
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<td>MAT 141***</td>
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|                  |      |        |        |
| Total credit hours | 16  | 16     | 11     |

*BIO 101 is a prerequisite for BIO 233.

*** MAT 142 College Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry, MAT 151 Introductory Analysis (Pre-Calculus), MAT 191 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1 will satisfy the MAT 141 requirement. (Student who previously took MAT 121 or 131 can use that course to satisfy MAT 141 requirement.)
All general education courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better and completed no later than what is listed in the required course sequence.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Curriculum

The Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum includes the prerequisite courses, general education courses, and the physical therapist assistant courses: PTA 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206 and 207. Students who complete this 70-credit program will be awarded an Associate of Applied Science degree. Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum (AA.GEN.PTA) does not assure students of selection into the program.

Program Mission and Philosophy, Goals, Terminal Objectives/Expected Program Outcomes

The CACHE PTA Program Mission and Philosophy, Goals, and Terminal Objectives and Expected Program Outcomes are described on the CACHE PTA Program website: www.aacc.edu/cache/pta

Satisfactory Academic Standing

Students must have a minimum adjusted grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 at this college to be considered for selection to the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

Important Information

- It is strongly recommended that new students attend a scheduled physical therapist assistant information session. Call 410-777-7310 or visit www.aacc.edu/healthsciences/infosessions for dates and times.
- Students must be admitted into the college before taking placement tests. Placement tests must be taken before registering for scheduled classes.
- Advisers in the Counseling, Advising and Retention Services (CARS) office should sign all Schedule Request Forms to ensure meeting the academic requirements. For an appointment, call 410-777-2307.
• Students eligible to submit applications for the fall class are those who have completed, or will have completed, all of the academic requirements pertaining to English, reading, mathematics and chemistry by the end of the spring term.

• The Anne Arundel Community College Physical Therapist Assistant department reserves the right to revise the admission requirements, the selection criteria and procedures, and the PTA curriculum as deemed necessary without prior notification.

• Students are responsible for obtaining updated admission and academic requirements while preparing for application to the PTA program.

**Technical Standard Requirement**

1. Students conditionally accepted to the Physical Therapist Assistant program will be required to complete the *Health Examination Record*. Once a physician certifies that the candidate meets the technical standard requirement (defined in #2 below) as established by the department within the scope of practice of the profession, and the department receives and concurs with the physician’s certification, the candidate will be considered as having met the technical standard requirement.

2. Qualification: Good physical and mental health.

   Admission Criteria (Technical Standards): Student must be free of contagion and possess sufficient stamina with or without reasonable accommodations, as may be required by law, and mental stability to fulfill the requirements of the program and the customary requirements of the profession:
   - Work for 8-12 hours performing physical tasks requiring sufficient strength and motor coordination without jeopardy to patient and student safety as, for example, bending, lifting, turning and ambulating patients.
   - Perform fine movements and be able to manipulate instruments and wide variety of equipment according to established procedure and standards of speed and accuracy.
   - Establish and work toward goals in a consistently responsible, realistic manner.
   - Have auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs (for example: communicate verbally, in an effective manner, with patients and other personnel).
   - Have visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for patient care (for example: read and process patient-related information like patient charts and requisitions).

**Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screening**

All health sciences students who are offered admission and/or clinical placement will be required to submit to a complete criminal background check and urine drug screen. All student applicants’ final acceptance in the program shall be contingent upon satisfactory completion of a criminal background check and of a urine drug screen.*

All letters of acceptance shall state that the acceptance is conditional and contingent on submission to a criminal background check and urine drug screen—as may be required by the program—that results in satisfactory reports. If an accepted student tests positive for an illegal or un-prescribed drug, the student shall be denied admission or terminated from any health sciences program.

Separate, additional criminal background checks and urine drug screens may be required by clinical sites prior to placements. Students with an unsuccessful background check or urine screening who are denied by a clinical site that is required to meet program competencies shall be dismissed from the program and their registrations shall be withdrawn from courses related to the program of study. If the student tests positive for an illegal or un-prescribed drug, the student shall be denied admission or terminated from any health sciences program even if a denied placement was not required to meet program competencies. Successful reports of criminal background checks and urine drug screens do not assure eligibility for specific clinical site placement, program completion, and/or eligibility to sit for professional licensure/board examinations.

Students are reminded that licensing boards for certain health care occupations and professions may deny, suspend, or revoke a license or may deny the individual the opportunity to sit for an examination
even if the individual has completed all program course work if it is determined that an applicant has a
criminal history or has been convicted of, or pleads guilty, or pleads nolo contendere or the like to a felony
or other serious crime.

Successful completion of a health sciences program of study at Anne Arundel Community College does
not guarantee licensure, the opportunity to sit for a licensure examination, certification or employment in
the relevant health care occupation.

Students may be automatically denied admission or, if enrolled, dismissed from the program if they have
not been truthful or have provided inaccurate information on the application or on any other form or
submission. Students who have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Health Sciences
Admissions Office at healthprofessions@aacc.edu.

* Notwithstanding the statements herein regarding urine drug screens, as of September 2010, only
certain programs will be requiring drug screening. AACC shall inform students which programs presently
require them. However, AACC, at any time, has the right, upon notice, to require any and all students in
any and all programs to comply with drug screening. *At this time, the CACHE PTA Program does not
require drug screening for admission.

NOTE: Licensing boards for certain health care occupations, including PTA, may deny, suspend, or
revoke a license or may deny the individual the opportunity to sit for an examination even if the individual
has completed all program course work, if it is determined that an applicant has a criminal history or is
convicted or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or other serious crime. If applicable, it is
recommended to contact the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy for clarification at 410-764-4752.

PLEASE NOTE: AACC will only accept criminal background checks performed by a college
approved vendor. Criminal background checks are completed online and must be paid for by the
student. Information and instructions are given to applicants once accepted into the program.

CPR Certification

Conditionally accepted students must successfully complete the American Heart Association Basic
Life Support CPR for Health Care Providers course. CPR certification must be valid through
graduation.

Photo Identification

Applicants are required to submit a photocopy of their driver’s license or a photocopy of a government-
issued photo I.D. attached to their application to the program.

Application/Selection Process

• Physical Therapist Assistant applications are available on the AACC main campus in the Thomas
  E. Florestano Building, Rm. 100 and on the PTA program website www.aacc.edu/cache/pta. Eligible
  students desiring entry must return the completed application to the School of Health Sciences office
  in the Thomas E. Florestano Building, Rm. 100 by the March 15th application deadline. Late
  applications will be rank ordered according to the date received and reviewed on a space-available
  basis.

• Students will be responsible for obtaining an application from the college.

• Students eligible to submit applications for selection are those who have completed all of the
  academic requirements pertaining to English, reading, mathematics and chemistry by the end of the
  spring term.

• The applications will be reviewed and students will receive a letter regarding the status of their
  applications.
• All applicants must attend a mandatory meeting the 4th Wednesday in April at 2:00 pm. **Applicants who do not attend this meeting may not be considered for selection.**

• Initial selection to the fall class (PTA 101) will be made according to the criteria listed in the section “Selection Criteria” following evaluation of spring term grades.

• Eligible applicants will receive a letter after the spring selection assigning them to one of the following categories: **Conditional Acceptance or Wait List Status.**

**Conditional Acceptance:** Applicants who have met the academic and admission requirements and have been selected for PTA 101, the first course in the Physical Therapist Assistant sequence. Final acceptance into the program shall be contingent upon satisfactory completion of a criminal background check and satisfactory completion of a health examination record. With the letter, conditionally accepted students will receive the **Health Examination Record with Instructions and Criminal Background Check Instructions** to be completed by a designated deadline. **Conditional Acceptance** candidates who do not meet this deadline will not be considered for admission and the next person on the wait list will be contacted.

**Wait List:** In the event that there are more qualified applicants than seats available, qualified applicants not initially chosen for conditional acceptance will be placed on a wait list in rank order and notified of selection if and when a seat becomes available.

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## Selection Criteria

The criteria used to select **Conditional Acceptance** and **Wait List** candidates will be applied in the following order:

1. Applicants who meet the March 15th application deadline.

2. First consideration for selection will be given to candidates whose resident address is in Anne Arundel County for at least three months prior to the application deadline. The Address Verification Form is part of the application packet and must be completed in its entirety with two supporting documents. **Applications received without this form and documentation will be considered incomplete and will be returned to the applicant.** Questions pertaining to this form can be addressed to Melissa Mumma in the Records Office at 410-777-2721.

3. Satisfactory completion of the academic/admission requirements.

4. Highest number of points attained in the **General Education Course Point System.** The total score will be calculated as follows:

   - Each General Education course required for the program completed with a grade of “C” or better will be counted towards the final score.
   - The score for each course is the product of the number of credits for the course, times a numerical score for the final letter grade achieved in the course. Courses passed by CLEP Exam will be awarded the maximum number of points.

   1. “A” is worth 4 points
   2. “B” is worth 3 points
   3. “C” is worth 2 points

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<tr>
<th>Required Gen Ed Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<td>MAT 141</td>
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<td>BIO 233 or BIO 231</td>
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<td>PSY 111</td>
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<td>PSY 211</td>
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<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
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<td><strong>Maximum Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
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<td><strong>/ 92</strong></td>
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For Example: This student has taken English, Math, A/P 1, Intro to Psychology and an Arts and Humanities

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<tr>
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<th>Score</th>
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<td>MAT 141</td>
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<td>C (2)</td>
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<td>PSY 111</td>
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<td>B (3)</td>
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<td><strong>Maximum Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
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<td><strong>51 / 92</strong></td>
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5. The highest overall adjusted GPA for General Education courses required in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program (including AP scores and transfer grades).

6. The highest GPA in math and science courses required in the program or high school math and science courses.

7. The longest continuous enrollment at the college (spring and fall semesters continuously).

8. The date and time the application is submitted.

**Final acceptance into the program shall be contingent upon satisfactory completion of a criminal background check and satisfactory completion of a health examination record.**

In the event that applicants are not accepted by the end of the summer and wish to be considered for the next selection, they must submit a **new application by the following March 15 deadline**. A new application will void all prior applications and ranking.

**General Education Course Point System: Applicant worksheet:**
(Note: official transcripts of transferred credits are required at admission)

**Instructions:** To calculate your total score, multiply column 2 (# of credits) by the numerical grade and enter your score. Add all the scores in column 4 for your total score.

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<td><strong>Maximum Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>/ 92</strong></td>
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Registration for Physical Therapist Assistant Program

The PTA program will provide registration forms to accepted students for PTA 101.

Health Manpower Shortage Program

This program may be designated as a Health Manpower Shortage Program; therefore, some residents of Maryland (see college catalog) enrolled in this program of study on the first day of the term may be eligible for in-county tuition rates for courses required for the program completion.

Diversity Requirement

Students who complete the Physical Therapist Assistant course sequence will meet the AACC Diversity Requirement for graduation.

Basic Computing and Information Technology Competency

Students who complete the Physical Therapist Assistant course sequence will meet the AACC Computer Competency Requirement for graduation.

Clinical Site Placement Requirements

Students may be required to provide proof of health care insurance coverage, complete a physical exam and/or other health-related requirements, complete a drug screen and/or fingerprinting, or undergo a criminal background check at the request of the clinical site prior to placement. This will be at the student’s expense.

Articulation Agreements

Students who are considering transferring to a four-year college should inform their advisers at the earliest opportunity so that their course selection can be planned. For details, see Transfer Agreements in the college catalog.

CACHE-Chesapeake Area Consortium for Higher Education

Anne Arundel Community College is one of three Maryland community colleges that have formed a consortium. The Chesapeake Area Consortium for Higher Education (CACHE) includes Anne Arundel Community College, Chesapeake College and College of Southern Maryland.
Accreditation Statement

The CACHE Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org, website: www.capteonline.org.

April 2016

Anne Arundel Community College and/or the School of Health Sciences reserves the right to revise requirements for admission into the Health Sciences programs, the selection criteria and procedures, and the required courses for programs of study as deemed necessary without prior notification.

School of Health Sciences
The Thomas E. Florestano Building ● Room 100 ● 410-777-7310

Notice of Nondiscrimination: AACC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action, Title IX, ADA Title 504 compliant institution. Call Disability Support Services, 410-777-2306 or Maryland Relay 711, 72 hours in advance to request most accommodations. Requests for sign language interpreters, alternative format books or assistive technology require 30 days’ notice. For information on AACC’s compliance and complaints concerning sexual assault, sexual misconduct, discrimination or harassment, contact the federal compliance officer and Title IX coordinator at 410-777-1239, complianceofficer@aacc.edu or Maryland Relay 711.