Physical Therapist Assistant

DEGREE PROGRAM

www.aacc.edu

ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
School of Health Sciences

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT 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: http://webapps.aacc.edu/cache/pta/.

College Admission

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 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, select Option 1.

Current students should follow the instructions below:
• Log into MyAACC https://portal.aacc.edu.
• Click on MENU.
• Select SELF SERVICES.
• Locate and click on OASIS in the Self Services Resource Links section, and follow directions provided.

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.
Address Verification

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 date the application is submitted (address verification is required). Out-of-county applicants will be reviewed only when space is available.

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. Applications are available in November of each year.

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 http://webapps.aacc.edu/cache/pta/. All applicants must attend the mandatory PTA Pre-selection Meeting in April.
- No registration, no cost.

Photo Identification

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

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.

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.
- 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. *
Mathematics

Students must demonstrate eligibility for MAT 137 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.
- Satisfactory scores on the Mathematics Placement Test.*
- Successful completion of noncredit developmental math courses on the Mathematics Placement Test scores.*
- Transfer of credits for MAT 012, MAT 037, or MAT 045 from an institution of high learning.
- Transfer of credits for MAT 137 from other institutions.
- Students who previously took MAT 121, 131, 141, 142, 151, 191, or 230 can use that course to satisfy the MAT 137 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.

High School Graduate or Equivalency/College Degree

- Official high school transcript or official GED equivalency certificate to verify high school graduation or equivalency.
  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 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
  - WES (World Education Services) at 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** international students whose native language is not English 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, ENG 115/116, or ENG 121 course sequence with grades of “C” or better prior to applying to the program. Anne Arundel Community College’s code for TOEFL is 5019.

- Valid Immigration Documentation for Non-U.S. Citizens
  - Non-U.S. Citizen applicants must submit valid immigration documentation to the AACC Admissions and Enrollment Development Office in order to complete the required College Application. For assistance regarding immigration documentation needed, please call 410-777-2152. Incomplete college applications may result in non-selection of a health sciences program.

  - Please note: Students without a Social Security number may not be permitted at some clinical rotation sites; site availability may delay or inhibit progression in the program. An International Student Admission Specialist in the AACC Admissions and Enrollment Development Office may be able to assist international Students with F-1 visa status to obtain a Social Security number through Practical Training; please contact them at 410-777-2677. For detailed information please refer to the college catalog (available on campus or online at http://catalog.aacc.edu/).

Additional Information

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.
# 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 does not assure students of selection into the program.

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>MAT 137**</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 111</td>
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<td>PTA 106</td>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total credit hours</strong></td>
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*BIO 101 is a prerequisite for BIO 233.

** Previously taken MAT 121, 131, 141, 142, 151, 191, or 230 will satisfy the MAT 137 mathematics requirements.
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.

### APPLICATION/SELECTION PROCESS

- **Physical Therapist Assistant** applications are available on the AACC main campus in the Florestano Building, Rm. 100 and on the PTA program website [http://webapps.aacc.edu/cache/pta/](http://webapps.aacc.edu/cache/pta/). Eligible students desiring entry must return the completed application to the School of Health Sciences Admissions office in the Florestano Building, Room 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 eligible to submit applications for selection are those who have completed all of the academic requirements 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 an acceptance packet 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, health examination record, and submission of current American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification. With the acceptance packet, conditionally accepted students will receive the Health Examination Record, Criminal Background Check and CPR 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.

Technical Standards

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 healthsciencesadmissions@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

Conditionally accepted students must successfully complete the American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR course. CPR certification must be valid through graduation.

**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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Gen Ed Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 111</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 137</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 233 or BIO 231</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 234 or BIO 232</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 111</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 211</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Total</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>51 / 92</td>
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</table>

*For Example: This student has taken English, Math, A/P 1, Intro to Psychology and an Arts and Humanities*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Gen Ed Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 234 or BIO 232</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 111</td>
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<td>B (3)</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>A (4)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Total</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>51 / 92</td>
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</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Gen Ed Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<td>MAT 137</td>
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<td>B = 3</td>
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<td>BIO 233 or BIO 231</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>/ 92</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.

May 2018

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.
Testing and Assessment Services

Course and Certification Testing
The testing office administers classroom, distance learning courses, and national certificate exams such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Pearson Vue and many more.

Academic exams are given at all AACC testing locations. To take a certification exam or CLEP exam, please review scheduling procedures at http://www.aacc.edu/resources/academic-services/testing/. Or, contact us at 410-777-2375.

*Exams will not be administered to students without picture identification.

*Students taking a certification test may be required to provide additional identification, please review instructions with certification vendor (Pearson Vue, CLEP, Certiport, Castle Worldwide, and Teas).

Testing Center Hours
Arnold – Room SUN 240
Mon – Thur 8:30am to 8:00pm
Fri 8:30am to 4pm and Sat 9:00am to 1:00pm
Phone: 410-777-2375
Email Testing-arnold@aacc.edu

GBTC – Room 208
Mon 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm
Tu – Thur 12pm to 4pm and 5pm to 8pm
Sat 9am to 1pm
Phone: 410-777-2908
Email testing-gbto@aacc.edu

AMI – Room 112
Mon – Thur 10am to 8pm
Fri 10am to 2pm and Sat 9am to 1pm
Phone: 410-777-1915
Email testing-amil@aacc.edu

Other School Test Proctoring
The testing center offers students from other institutions the ability to have their exams proctored. Please review our testing fee schedule http://www.aacc.edu/media/content-assets/testing/documents/testingfees.pdf for other school testing.

Accommodation Testing
The Testing Center works with the Disability Support Services Office and your instructor to assist you in completing your exams in the Testing Center. If you feel you need an accommodation please contact the DSS office at 410-777-2307, option 1.

*If you experience any difficulty opening website links for the Testing Center, please contact us at 410-777-1334.
Testing and Assessment Services

New Students

Students that are seeking either an AACC Certificate or an associates degree must be assessed in reading, English and math (if math is a program requirement) through ACCUPLACER or provide SAT/ACT scores. The purpose of ACCUPLACER is to provide students with useful information about their academic skills in math, English, and reading. The results of the assessment in conjunction with students’ academic background, goals, and interests are used by academic advisors and counselors to help determine course selection.

Students cannot “pass” or “fail” the placement tests, but it is very important for students to realize they must take these tests seriously so there will be an accurate measure of your academic skills.

Prior to taking the ACCUPLACER placement test for AACC, students are required to watch the ACCUPLACER Preparation Guide video.

To view the ACCUPLACER Prep Guide video please visit: http://www.aacc.edu/apply-and-register/credit-application/step-3-take-a-placement-test/

The AACC Placement Prep Guide is a free resource that offers general information on college admissions, testing and retesting options. The guide also provides sample questions for the ACCUPLACER English, reading, math, ESL/LOEP and arithmetic placement test.

For additional resources and to download the AACC Prep Guide visit: http://www.aacc.edu/resources/academic-services/testing/

SAT and ACT Cut Scores

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<th>Test</th>
<th>Score (Tested before 3/1/2016)</th>
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<th>Score (Tested after 3/4/2016)</th>
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<td>MAT 100, MAT 130, MAT 135, MAT 221, and MAT 222</td>
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