

Physical Therapist Assistant (A45640):

Curriculum Checklist 2025 -2026 Catalog Year - Present

Minimum application eligibility criteria for Physical Therapist Assistant Program:

Table 1: Overview of Eligibility Requirements

Eligible to enroll in ENG 111 and MAT 171
An overall grade point average of 2.0 or higher

1st Semester (Fall)

Table 2: Overview of 1st semester courses (18 credit hours)

✓	Course:	Course Name:	Credit Hour(s):	Prerequisite:	Corequisite:	Notes:
	ACA 115 ACA 122	Success Study Skills OR College Transfer Success	1			Choose one
	BIO 168	Anatomy & Physiology I	4			
	CIS 110	Intro to Computers	3			
	ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3	DRE 098 or ENG 025		
	MAT 171	Precalculus Algebra	4	DMA 080 or MAT 035		
	PSY 150	General Psychology	3			

2nd Semester (Spring - Technical Term 1)

Table 3: Overview of 2nd semester courses (18 credit hours)

✓	Course:	Course Name:	Credit Hour(s):	Prerequisite:	Corequisite:	Notes:
	BIO 169	Anatomy & Physiology II	4	BIO 168		
		Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3	Course Dependent		Choose from one of the following: ART 111, ART 114, ART 115, DRA 111, ENG 231, ENG 232, ENG 233, ENG 241, ENG 242, ENG 261, ENG 262, HUM 110, HUM 115, HUM 120, HUM 130, HUM 150, HUM 160, HUM 211, HUM 212, MUS 110, MUS 112, PHI 215, PHI 220, PHI 230, PHI 240, REL 110, REL 211, REL 212
	COM 231	Public Speaking	3	DRE 097 or ENG 025		
	PTA 110	Intro to Physical Therapy	3	ACA 122, MAT 171, ENG 111, PSY 150, CIS 110		PTA Program Admission ACA 115 or ACA 122
	PTA 125	Gross & Functional Anatomy	5	ACA 122, MAT 171, ENG 111, PSY 150, CIS 110		PTA Program Admission ACA 115 or ACA 122

3rd Semester (Summer - Technical Term 2)

Table 4: Overview of 3rd semester courses (10 credit hours)

✓	Course:	Course Name:	Credit Hour(s):	Prerequisite:	Corequisite:	Notes:
	PTA 135	Pathology	4			PTA 110, PTA125, BIO 169, HUM/FA, COM 231
	PTA 222	Professional Interactions	2			PTA 110, PTA125, BIO 169, HUM/FA, COM 231
	PTA 225	Intro to Rehabilitation	4			PTA 110, PTA125, BIO 169, HUM/FA, COM 231

4th Semester (Fall - Technical Term 3)

Table 5: Overview of 4th semester courses (14 credit hours)

✓	Course:	Course Name:	Credit Hour(s):	Prerequisite:	Corequisite:	Notes:
	* PTA 155	PTA Clinical I	2	PTA 215, PTA 235		Combined with PTA 245 into one clinical experience for the final 7.5 weeks (288 hrs) of the semester
	PTA 215	Therapeutic Exercise	3	PTA 135, PTA 222 PTA 225		
	PTA 235	Neurological Rehab	5	PTA 135, PTA 222 PTA 225		
	*PTA 245	PTA Clinical III	4	PTA 215, PTA 235		Combined with PTA 155 into one clinical experience for the final 7.5 weeks (288 hrs) of the semester

5th Semester (Spring - Technical Term 4)

Table 6: Overview of 5th semester courses (13 credit hours)

✓	Course:	Course Name:	Credit Hour(s):	Prerequisite:	Corequisite:	Notes:
	PTA 145	Therapeutic Procedures	4	PTA 155, PTA 245		
	*PTA 185	PTA Clinical II	3	PTA 145, PTA 212		Combined with PTA 255 into one clinical experience for the final 8.5 weeks (336 hrs) of the semester
	PTA 212	Health Care Resources	2	PTA 155, PTA 245		
	*PTA 255	PTA Clinical IV	4	PTA 145, PTA 212		Combined with PTA 185 into one clinical experience for the final 8.5 weeks (336 hrs) of the semester

Total Credit Hours Required for Degree: 73

This program has special admissions requirements.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Questions? Contact: Health Sciences Admissions Coordinator healthsciencesadmissions@nashcc.edu or (252) 451-8390

PTA prefix technical courses completed in North Carolina may be considered for transfer credits on an individual basis based on course title, prefix, description, earned grade, completion date, and transfer from a CAPTE-accredited program at the time the courses were completed. Students are required to demonstrate retention of knowledge and skills in PTA technical courses by passing both a written proficiency examination and a laboratory competency examination for each approved PTA transfer course.

Program Description:

The Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum prepares graduates to work in direct patient care settings under the supervision of a physical therapist. Assistants work to improve or restore function by alleviating or preventing physical impairment and perform other essential activities in a physical therapy department.

Graduates may be eligible to take the licensure examination administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Employment is available in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, extended care facilities, specialty hospitals, home health agencies, private clinical settings, and public school systems.

Application Information for PTA:

The PTA program has a selective admissions process. A grade of C or higher is required in all general education courses (non-PTA), and a grade of B or higher is required in all PTA prefix courses to count towards completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant degree.

Application Dates: September 1 to June 2

Start Date: Fall semester

Program Length: 5 semesters

Clinical Education Expectations:

The PTA program requires two separate clinical learning experiences (totaling 16 weeks) in the second year of the program. Clinical facilities are located throughout central, northern, southern, and eastern NC and require approximately 40 contact hours per week. Students can expect to incur additional costs for uniforms, meals, travel (up to 60 miles one way), and housing to complete the clinical components of the PTA curriculum. Students will follow the schedule of their assigned clinical instructor, which may range from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm and may include weekends, college-recognized holidays, or student breaks. Reliable transportation is critical!

Clinical Eligibility:

Students are assigned to facilities that have a current clinical education agreement with the PTA program at Nash Community College. If an assigned clinical facility prohibits a student in the PTA program from participating in or completing the clinical learning experience due to reasons related to the student, no alternative clinical experience will be arranged on the student's behalf. This will prevent the student from meeting the PTA program's curriculum requirements and, ultimately, result in dismissal from the program. Examples (not inclusive) of situations that may lead to a clinical facility's decision to prohibit or terminate a student's clinical experience are:

1. Results of a background check or drug screen (including all forms listed in the Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen procedure).
2. Inability to demonstrate the current American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider CPR certification, physical examination, health insurance, and required immunizations/ vaccines (including but not limited to annual influenza).
3. Issues surrounding a student's previous employment at the facility.
4. Significant concerns or issues identified by representatives of the clinical facility relating to the unsafe, unethical, illegal, or generally unprofessional conduct of a student.
5. Non-adherence to the facility's personnel and dress code policies, which include the appearance or visibility of body art and piercings.