Physical Therapist Assistant Program Information Packet

All applicants are expected to view the **Online PTA Information Session** available on the PTA website:

www.AnokaRamsey.edu/PTA

Industry Description

A Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is a health care provider who, with the guidance of a Physical Therapist, performs a wide variety of functions as part of the health care team. These duties include: providing physical therapy services as specified in the plan of care developed by the Physical Therapist, preparing the patient, treatment area and equipment, implementing the treatment program, and modifying treatment techniques, the administration of therapeutic exercise, manual therapy techniques and the application of external bandages, dressings and support.

Physical Therapist Assistants may teach other health care providers, patients, and families to perform selected treatment procedures and functional activities. Graduates will interact with patients and families in a manner which provides the desired psychosocial support by recognizing the patient's and family's reactions to illness and disability and responding in an appropriate manner.

Careers

This field has been expanding in recent years and the employment outlook continues to be strong in hospitals, clinics, skilled nursing facilities, and outpatient facilities. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development statistics website has current wage and outlook data: http://www.careerwise.minnstate.edu.

Program Description

Students will complete coursework in psychology, medical terminology, therapeutic exercise, modalities and massage, neuroanatomy and physiology, instrumentation and kinesiology for physical therapy, and advanced physical therapy techniques. In addition to classroom instruction, students will gain hands-on experience through clinical practice at health facilities.

The PTA program is a 69-credit Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree that contains a mixture of general education courses and professional/technical courses. The PTA program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) through 2023. For more information go to http://www.capteonline.org.

Licensing Exam

After graduation, students are required to take and pass the National PTA Licensing Exam (NPTE) to be able to work as a clinician. For more information go to https://mn.gov/boards/physical-therapy/applicants/applicationforptalicensure.jsp.

Program Essentials

Estimated Costs
(Based on Fall 2018 Coon Rapids in-house course rate: $169.07 per credit)
Tuition & Fees: $11,665.83 (including required general education credits)
Books & Supplies: $2,200.00

Length of Program Once Admitted: Five Semesters/Two Years with Two 8-Week Clinicals.
Start: Fall Semester/August. PTA courses are daytime at the Coon Rapids campus only. General education courses may have evening, online, or Cambridge campus offerings.
There are 32 spots and approximately 100 to 150 applicants every year.

Course Sequence for PTAC Courses

Year 1					
Fall		**Spring**		**Summer**	
PTAC 1020	4 credits	PTAC 1050	3 credits	PTAC 1010	4 credits
PTAC 1030	2 credits	PTAC 1060	3 credits		
PTAC 1040	2 credits	PTAC 1070	2 credits		
PTAC 1100	1 credit	PTAC 1080	3 credits		
		PTAC 1110	1 credit		
	9 credits		*12 credits*		*4 credits*

Year 2			
Fall		***Spring**	
PTAC 2000	4 credits	PTAC 2040	2 credits
PTAC 2010	4 credits	PTAC 2050	3 credits
PTAC 2015	2 credits	PTAC 2060	5 credits
	10 credits		*10 credits*

* PTAC 2040 and 2050 are the first 8 weeks of the semester. PTAC 2060 is the last 8 weeks.

Required general education courses not taken before the start of the program will need to be taken with the PTAC courses and will add more credits to each semester.

Minimum Qualifications to Apply

- Applicants must apply and be accepted to ARCC before submitting a PTA application. You must list your ARCC student ID number on your application. http://www.anokaramsey.edu/apply
- BIOL 1106 Principles of Biology I **OR** BIOL 2113 Anatomy and Physiology I completed within 7 years at time of application with a C or above.
- ATI TEAS scores, ACT scores, **OR** previous Bachelor's Degree (any discipline; must be complete at time of application to PTA program - cannot be in-progress).
  - ATI TEAS: http://www.atitesting.com. Can be taken unlimited times, highest score may be submitted. ATI TEAS for Allied Health (with math) is still accepted. Must take TEAS at approved site. If not taken at an approved site the applicant will need to have the transcript transferred for an additional fee.
    - *Approved ATI TEAS Testing Sites:* Anoka-Ramsey Community College (Cambridge, Coon Rapids), Century College (White Bear Lake), Inver Hills Community College (Inver Grove Heights), Metropolitan State University (St. Paul), Normandale Community College (Bloomington), North Hennepin Community College (Brooklyn Park), Ridgewater College (Hutchinson, Willmar), Riverland Community College (Albert Lea)
  - ACT: http://www.act.org. Can be taken unlimited times, highest score may be submitted. Scores do not expire.
- Qualify to take ENGL 1121 College Writing and Critical Reading (via ACT or Accuplacer) **OR** successfully completed ENGL 1120 Crosscurrent College Writing and Critical Reading.
- Submission of official and final transcripts from all colleges attended (Anoka-Ramsey transcripts do not need to be submitted).
- Viewing the online PTA Information Session before submitting an application is highly encouraged. http://www.anokaramsey.edu/pta.
- Filled out PTA application with all required documentation submitted before application deadline (applications accepted **February 1 through 28** for the following Fall - no Spring start). Your application will not be considered if it is submitted late or any items are missing. Items such as letters of recommendation, résumés, and personal interviews are not considered. Applications will be available online in December: http://www.anokaramsey.edu/pta.

General Education Requirements

All courses must be passed with a grade of C or higher; C- grades are not allowed. These do **NOT** have to be completed before you start the program, but having as many of these complete as possible before you apply will make you a more competitive applicant.

- BIOL 2113 Anatomy and Physiology 1 (within 7 years of application)
- BIOL 2114 Anatomy and Physiology 2 (within 7 years of application)
- ENGL 1121 College Writing and Critical Reading OR ENGL 1120 Crosscurrent College Writing and Critical Reading
- CMST 1110 Intro to Communication OR CMST 2215 Public Speaking OR CMST 2220 Interpersonal Communication
- PSYC 1110 General Psychology
- Humanities/Fine Arts elective (minimum of 3 credits from MnTC Goal Area 6)
- BIOL 1102 Medical Terminology (within 7 years of application)

Check http://www.transferology.com for unofficial course equivalency information.

Clinical Requirements
(only to be completed upon acceptance to the program)

- Physical exam indicating good physical and mental health, including titers and immunizations showing immunity to specific diseases
- Background Check
- CPR Certification - Healthcare Provider Level

Application Status Notification

The Records & Registration Office will notify all applicants by mail of acceptance or denial of admission no later than **April 15**. Students offered admission must respond within 14 days of notice to accept their seat in the program. Admitted students will be notified of the date and time for the required PTA student orientation, typically held in early May.

Applicants who meet the requirements but were not admitted because the program was full will be placed on a ranked alternate list. Students placed on this list will be eligible for admission to the program if spaces open prior to the beginning of the fall semester. **ALL** students who wish to gain admission to the PTA Program in the future must reapply, including those who were on the previous year's alternate list.

If an applicant is accepted and declines to be admitted into the program, no preference will be given to the applicant should he or she choose to apply in any subsequent year. In order to be considered for admission in any subsequent year, such students will need to go through the entire application process again.

Questions? Please contact an Academic Advisor:

To make an appointment, please call 763-433-1230. Please apply to the college and submit your official transcripts before setting up an appointment. http://www.anokaramsey.edu/apply

For general questions, please submit a question through AskUs. http://www.anokaramsey.edu/askus

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What are the different types of settings in which a PTA can work?**
   Settings include hospitals, nursing homes, out-patient clinics, home care, sub-acute, neurological rehab, school systems, pediatrics, burn therapy, aquatic therapy and industrial rehab.

2. **What is the difference between a Physical Therapist (PT) and a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)?**
   PTs perform all the evaluations and prescribe what physical therapy treatments are appropriate for the patient. PTAs carry out the treatment plan prescribed by the PT under the supervision of a PT. A PTA often has more patient contact and less paperwork than the PT. Please note that none of the Physical Therapist schools in Minnesota accept PTA classes to take the place of PT classes. However, a PTA degree can be advantageous when applying to a PT school. General education courses required by the PTA program may be transferrable.

3. **What is the difference between Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy?**
   Occupational therapy focuses more on activities of daily living (dressing, grooming, bathing) and treatment of the upper extremities. Physical therapy focuses on the whole body; improving independence with functional mobility, ambulation training, using modalities and massage to treat pain, and development of individualized exercise programs.

4. **How many people apply to ARCC's PTA program? What is the average rubric score of an accepted applicant?**
   ARCC typically receives 100 to 150 applications each year for the 32 spots available in the PTA program. The average accepted score for the Fall 2019 application cycle was 39.85 points out of 47 total points. The range of accepted scores was 36 to 46.

5. **Do you have to take Anatomy & Physiology before starting the program?**
   No, but it is highly recommended. It is to your advantage to have the Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 2113/2114) knowledge prior to starting the program core requirements. However, students can take these courses during their first year in the program.

6. **Can you take the required PTA classes out of sequence or online?**
   No. PTA classes must be taken in a specific sequence. BIOL 1102 Medical Terminology is the only core course that is offered online.

7. **Once in the PTA program, what do the hours look like?**
   Courses are during weekdays (Mondays through Fridays) typically running anywhere from 8am to 3pm. There are two 8-week clinicals that are full-time (40 hours/week). It is not recommended that students work more than 20 hours a week while in the program.

8. **Do you have to have experience working in a medical setting in order to be successful in the PTA program?**
   No, but it can be very helpful and is an excellent way to understand what the physical therapy profession is all about.

9. **Where will I go for the clinicals?**
   There are two clinical experiences included in the two-year PTA program. The goal of the clinical internships is to expose the student to a variety of clinical settings. You will be placed both in an out-patient setting, which could be a hospital-based clinic or private practice, and an in-patient setting, which could be a long-term care setting with a focus on geriatrics or an acute hospital setting. There are also opportunities to work in specialty settings such as sports medicine, pediatrics and multi-discipline clinics.

Sample PTA Scoring Rubric

Academic Advisors will not calculate rubric scores or GPAs for applicants. This rubric is for informational purposes only. The average accepted score for the Fall 2019 application cycle was 39.85 points out of 47 total points. The range of accepted scores was 36 to 46.

						Applicant Score	Possible Score
BIOL 1106 or 2113 Complete Within 7 Years (required) Yes ☐ No ☐							
Technical GPA (Based on BIOL and Gen Ed courses listed below): _____							**10**
Scale: 2.0=1 2.25=2 2.5=3 2.75=4 3.0=5 3.25=6 3.4=7 3.5=8 3.75=9 4.0=10 Comments:							
BIOL Courses	A(4)	B(3)	C(2)	Taking SPR____(1)	D/F/not taken(0)		**12**
BIOL 2113	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
BIOL 2114	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
BIOL 1102	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
BIOL courses must have been taken within the last 7 years at time of application.							
One point awarded for each BIOL course completed with a grade of "C" or better							**3**
Gen Ed Courses	A(3)	B(2)	C(1)	D/F/not taken(0)			**12**
ENGL 1120/1121	☐	☐	☐	☐			
CMST 1110/2215/2220	☐	☐	☐	☐			
PSYC 1110	☐	☐	☐	☐			
Fine Arts/Hum *(MnTC Goal 6)*	☐	☐	☐	☐			
ATI TEAS, ACT, OR Bachelor's Degree							**10**
ATI TEAS Scale: 60 or below=1 61-62=2 63-64=3 65-66=4 67-68=5 69-71=6 72-74=7 75-77=8 78-80=9 81 or above=10 Comments: **ACT** Scale: 19 or below=1 20=2 21=3 22=4 23=5 24=6 25=7 26=8 27=9 28 or above=10 Comments: **Bachelor's Degree (any discipline)** =8							
					Total Score:		**47**

Shaded grades are taken into account on the rubric.

If scores for both the ATI TEAS and ACT are submitted, the higher scoring test will be used in the scoring rubric. If the applicant has a previous bachelor's degree (any discipline), a score of 8 will be awarded in this section and the applicant does not need to take the ATI TEAS or ACT.