

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET

All applicants are expected to view the
Online PTA Information Video
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 2021 Coon Rapids in-house course rate: \$181.72 per credit)

- *Tuition & Fees:* \$12,538.68 (including required general education credits)
- *Books & Supplies:* \$2,200.00

Length of Program Once Admitted: Five Semesters/Two Years with Two 8-Week Clinicals.

Program Start: Fall Semester/August

Program Capacity and Applicant Pool: 32 available spots each year with approximately 90 to 100 applicants every year

Course Delivery Method:

- PTA courses are daytime at the Coon Rapids campus only. General education courses may have evening, online, or Cambridge campus offerings.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS TO APPLY

- Applicants must apply and be accepted to Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC) before submitting a PTA application.
 - You must list your ARCC StarID and student ID number on your application.
- BIOL 1106 Principles of Biology I (or transfer equivalent) **OR** BIOL 2113 Anatomy and Physiology I (or transfer equivalent) completed within 7 years at time of application with a C or above
- Submission of **ONE** of the following test scores or a transcript noting completion of a bachelor's degree:
 - ATI TEAS-Allied Health: <http://www.atitesting.com>.
 - Can be taken unlimited times, highest score may be submitted. When registering for the ATI TEAS, make sure to register and take the ATI TEAS for Allied Health version
 - Ideally, the ATI TEAS-Allied Health test should be taken through one of the approved sites listed below. This waives the requirement that the applicant is required to order and pay for a score transcript to be sent to ARCC. If not taken at one of the approved sites, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their ATI TEAS-Allied Health score transcript is received at Anoka-Ramsey before the application deadline (Feb 28th).
 - 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.
 - Proof of completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college
 - Can be any discipline
 - Must be completed at the time of application to the PTA program (contributing courses cannot be in-progress)
- Qualify to take ENGL 1121 College Writing and Critical Reading (via ACT or Accuplacer) **OR** have successfully completed ENGL 0990 & ENGL 1120 Crosscurrent College Writing and Critical Reading through ARCC or have submitted a transfer equivalent of ENGL 1121 or ENGL 0990 & ENGL 1120
- Submission of official and final transcripts from all higher education institutions attended
 - ARCC transcripts do not need to be submitted.
 - Even if an applicant is enrolled at an institution but did not complete credits there (dropped coursework prior to the start of the term, withdrew from all courses, or gained all F grades in all courses), the applicant must order a transcript from the institution or gain a letter of non-attendance from the institution to send to the ARCC Records Office for documentation.
- Review of the Online PTA Information Video prior to program application:
 - Found under "Important Links" section on: <http://www.anokaramsey.edu/pta>.
- Completed PTA program application with all required documentation submitted prior to application deadline:
 - The PTA application cycle occurs yearly from **February 1 through 28** for the following fall start.
 - An application will not be considered if it is submitted late or if any items are missing.
 - Items such as letters of recommendation, résumés, and personal interviews are not considered.
 - The application is located on the PTA Program webpage: <http://www.anokaramsey.edu/pta>.

APPLICATION STATUS NOTIFICATION

The Anoka-Ramsey Community College Records Office will notify all applicants by mail of acceptance or denial of admission no later than **April 15**.

Admitted students

Students who are offered admission to the program must respond within 14 days of their admission 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.

Alternate list

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.

Reapplication after first application

ALL students who wish to gain admission to the PTA Program in the future must apply, including those who were on the previous year's alternate list or who were denied previously. To be considered for admission in any subsequent year, applicants must go through the entire application process again.

If an applicant is accepted and declines to be admitted into the program, no preference will be given to the applicant should they choose to apply in any subsequent year. They will need to go through the entire application process again.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PTA PROGRAM

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

COURSE	TITLE	CREDITS
BIOL 2113	Anatomy & Physiology I (Must be completed within 7 years of the application)	4 credits
BIOL 2114	Anatomy & Physiology II (Must be completed within 7 year of the application)	4 credits
ENGL 1121 or ENGL 0990 & ENGL 1120	College Writing & Critical Reading or Crosscurrent College Writing & Critical Reading	4 credits
CMST 1110 or CMST 2215 or CMST 2220 (Choose 1)	Introduction to Communication Public Speaking Interpersonal Communication	3 credits
PSYC 1110	General Psychology	4 credits
Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal 6 Humanities/Fine Arts course		at least 3 credits
BIOL 1102	Medical Terminology (Must be completed within 7 years of the application)	2 credits

Above courses may be transferred in from other accredited institutions, but courses must be equivalent to ARCC course. Transfer applicants can use <http://www.transferology.com> for unofficial course equivalency information.

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		
<i>9 credits</i>		<i>12 credits</i>		<i>4 credits</i>	

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
<i>10 credits</i>		<i>10 credits</i>	

* 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.

CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS

(Will only to be completed upon acceptance to the program)

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

QUESTIONS?

If you are a current student, call 763-433-1230 to make an appointment with your assigned academic advisor. If you are a prospective student, first apply to the college, submit all official transcripts from prior colleges and universities, and complete the new student online orientation so you can be assigned an academic advisor.

<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 90 to 100 applications each year for the 32 spots available in the PTA program. The average accepted score for the Fall 2021 application cycle was 37.54 points out of 47 total points. The range of accepted scores was 30 to 47.
- 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 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 201 application cycle was 37.54 points out of 47 total points. The range of accepted scores was 30 to 47.

						Applicant Score	Possible Score
BIOL 1106 or 2113 Complete Within 7 Years (required)						Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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							
BIOL Courses	A(4)	B(3)	C(2)	Taking SPR _____ (1)	D/F/not taken(0)		12
BIOL 2113	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
BIOL 2114	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
BIOL 1102	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>BIOL courses must have been taken within the last 7 years at time of application.</i>							
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
CMST 1110/2215/2220	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
PSYC 1110	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Fine Arts/Hum <i>(MnTC Goal 6)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
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							
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							
Bachelor's Degree (any discipline) = 8							
Total Score:							47

The admissions committee does take shaded grades 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.