

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET

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: <https://mn.gov/boards/physical-therapy/applicants/applications/pta-license/pta-ng.jsp>.

PROGRAM ESSENTIALS

Estimated Costs: <https://www.anokaramsey.edu/pta#student-cost-to-complete-pta-program>

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 60 to 80 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

1. General admission to Anoka-Ramsey Community College (must be completed prior PTA application submission)
 - Anoka-Ramsey StarID and student ID number must be included on PTA application.
2. Completion of BIOL 1106 (Principles of Biology I) or transfer equivalent with a C or higher within 7 years at the time of application
 - **OR** completion of BIOL 2113 transfer equivalent with a C or higher completed within 7 years at the time of application
3. Placement in ENGL 1121 (College Writing and Critical Reading) or submission of ENGL 1121 transfer equivalent
 - **OR** successful completion of ENGL 1120 (Crosscurrent College Writing and Critical Reading – which is paired with taking ENGL 0990 at the same time)
4. Submission of **ONE** of the following:
 - ATI TEAS official score transcript: <http://www.atitesting.com>
 - Can be taken unlimited times, highest score may be submitted. Allied Health version should be chosen over Nursing version of test.
 - If the applicant completes the TEAS test at the Anoka-Ramsey Testing Center, they do not need to order a transcript.
 - For links and additional help creating an account and registering for the TEAS test, go to the following webpage: <https://www.anokaramsey.edu/teas>
 - ACT official score transcript: <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 institution
 - Can be any discipline
 - Must be completed at the time of application to the PTA program (contributing courses cannot be in-progress)
5. Submission of official and final transcripts from all higher education institutions attended
 - Anoka-Ramsey 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 Anoka-Ramsey Records Office for documentation.
6. Completed PTA program application with all required documentation submitted prior to application deadline (as noted in the next section)

APPLICATION CYCLE INFORMATION

- 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.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all official documentation of score and college transcripts are received by [Anoka-Ramsey's Record Office](#) before the application deadline.
- 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	Options for these courses at Anoka-Ramsey can be found at: https://www.anokaramsey.edu/resources/transfer/mntc/	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 Anoka-Ramsey course. Transfer applicants can use <http://www.transferology.com> for unofficial course equivalency info.

COURSE SEQUENCE FOR PTAC COURSES (AFTER PROGRAM ADMISSION)

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>*PTAC 2130</i>	<i>1 credit</i>		
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
<i>*PTAC 2110</i>	<i>1 credit</i>	<i>*PTAC 2170</i>	<i>1 credit</i>
<i>*PTAC 2130</i>	<i>1 credit</i>	<i>*PTAC 2130</i>	<i>1 credit</i>
10 credits		10 credits	

**Courses that are in italics are optional elective courses available to PTA students.*

****** 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.

BIOL 2113 & 2114 must be completed by the end of the first spring semester in the program (if not completed before program entry) as BIOL 2114 is a prerequisite for the Summer PTAC 1010 Clinical Practice I course.

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 Anoka-Ramsey's PTA program? What is the average rubric score of an accepted applicant?**

Anoka-Ramsey typically receives 60-80 applications each year for the 32 spots available in the PTA program. The average accepted score for the Fall 2022 application cycle was 35.5 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. Students can take these courses during their first year in the program, but this adds to their course load, and both courses must be completed successfully by the end of the first year in the program to be allowed to take the summer Clinical Practice I course (PTAC 1010).
- 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 more about the PTA profession.
- 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 2022 application cycle was 35.5 points out of 47 total points. The range of accepted scores was 30 to 47.

							Applicant Score	Max Poss. Score	
BIOL 1106 (or transfer equivalent) with C or higher within 7 years at the time of application or BIOL 2113 transfer equivalent with a C or higher within 7 years at the time of application									
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>									
Placement into ENGL 1121, transfer equivalent, or completion of ENGL 0990 & 1120 with C or higher									
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>									
BIOL Courses	A(4)	B(3)	C(2)	In Progress (1)	D/F/not taken(0)		12		
<i>BIOL courses must have been taken within the last 7 years at time of application. The admissions committee does take shaded grades into account on the rubric.</i>									
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"/>				
One point awarded for each BIOL course completed with a grade of "C" or better								3	
General Ed Courses	A(3)	B(2)	C(1)	D/F/not taken(0)			12		
<i>The admissions committee does take shaded grades into account on the rubric.</i>									
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"/>					
MnTC Goal 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<i>Fine Arts/Humanities</i>									
Technical GPA (Average of BIOL and General Ed courses listed above):								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
ATI TEAS, ACT, OR Bachelor's Degree								10	
<i>If scores for both the ATI TEAS and ACT or multiple attempts are submitted, the highest scoring test/attempt will be used.</i>									
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									
<i>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.</i>									
Total Score:								47	