



**ANOKA-RAMSEY**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

— PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT —

# Physical Therapist Assistant Information Packet

## 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, home health, 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 2033. 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:** up to 32 students can be accepted each 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 to PTA application submission)
  - Anoka-Ramsey StarID and student ID number must be included on PTA application.
2. 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)
3. Submission of **ONE** of the following:
  - Health Science Reasoning Test (HSRT) official score transcript
    - *More information on the HSRT and test registration available here:*  
<https://www.anokaramsey.edu/resources/testing-services/hsrt-testing/>
  - Proof of completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
    - Can be any discipline.
    - Must be completed at the time of application (contributing courses cannot be in-progress).
4. 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.
5. Completed PTA program application with all required documentation submitted prior to application deadline.

## APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

**Meeting the above minimum application eligibility requirements does not guarantee program admission.** If applicants meet minimum application eligibility requirements, they will then be given an applicant score based on how many of the program-specific biology courses and general education courses they have completed, their grades in these courses, and their score on the standardized test or proof of bachelor's degree documentation they submit. These applicant scores are ranked and used to determine the top scores which will be offered places in the program. A sample of the scoring rubric used to score an applicant is available on the last page of this packet.

**The average accepted scores for the last three application cycles were (out of a total score of 47):**

<b>Fall 2024: 30.87</b>	<b>Fall 2025: 33.45</b>	<b>Fall 2026: 33.02</b>
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## APPLICATION DETAILS & DEADLINES

- The PTA application cycle occurs yearly from **February 1 through February 28, 2027** for the following fall start. An application will not be considered if it is submitted late or if any items are missing.
- A complete PTA application must be submitted by **February 28, 2027; 11:59 p.m.**
  - 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.
  - All eligibility requirements must be met for the student's application to move forward for scoring.
- 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>
- If students are petitioning for special application exemptions/non-equivalent transfer coursework to meet program requirements/etc. **All Academic Standards Petitions related to the student's coursework for the program must be submitted by February 15<sup>th</sup>** to have enough time for review before the application deadline.

## APPLICATION STATUS NOTIFICATION

The Anoka-Ramsey Community College Records Office will notify all applicants by email 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 who confirm their spot in the program will be notified of the date and time for the required PTA student orientation, typically held in May.

### 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 AND ADDITIONAL COURSES REQUIRED 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 <b>(Choose 1)</b>	Introduction to Communication or Public Speaking or Interpersonal Communication	3 credits
PSYC 1110 or PSYC 2235	General Psychology Lifespan Psychology	4 credits
Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal 6 Humanities/Fine Arts course	Options for these courses at Anoka-Ramsey can be found at: <a href="https://www.anokaramsey.edu/resources/transfer/mntc/">https://www.anokaramsey.edu/resources/transfer/mntc/</a>	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.

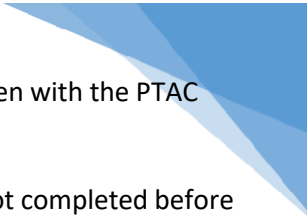
### COURSE SEQUENCE FOR PTAC COURSES (AFTER PROGRAM ADMISSION)

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>		
<b>9 credits</b>		<b>12 credits</b>		<b>4 credits</b>	

Year 2			
Fall		<b>**Spring</b>	
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>
<b>10 credits</b>		<b>10 credits</b>	

*\*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 763-433-1100 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 to: [advising@anokaramsey.edu](mailto:advising@anokaramsey.edu)

## 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. Gen ed. courses in the PTA program may be transferable.
- 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 can receive anywhere from 40-90 applications each year. Up to 32 students can be accepted each year. Refer to the "Application Review Process" on page 2 of this packet to see past average applicant scores.
- 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. In addition, if students have more of these courses completed or in progress during their application cycle, student will gain more points for their applicant score and be more competitive overall. 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

This rubric is for informational purposes only. Refer to the "Application Review Process" section on page 2 of this packet for more information about average admitted scores in past application cycles.

Applicant Score      Max Poss. Score

Meets Application Eligibility Requirements?						Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>BIOL Courses</b>	A(4)	B(3)	C(2)	In Progress (1)	D/F/not taken(0)				<b>12</b>
<i>BIOL courses must have been taken within the last 7 years at time of application.</i>									
<i>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"/>				
<b>One point awarded for each BIOL course completed with a grade of "C" or better</b>									<b>3</b>
<b>General Ed Courses</b>	A(3)	B(2)	C(1)	D/F/not taken(0)					<b>12</b>
<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
CMST 1110/2215/2220	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
PSYC 1110/PSYC 2235	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
MnTC Goal 6: <i>Fine Arts/Humanities</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Technical GPA (Average of BIOL and General Ed courses listed above):</b>									<b>10</b>
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
<b>Health Science Reasoning Test (HSRT) OR Bachelors Degree</b>									<b>10</b>
<b>HEALTH SCIENCE REASONING TEST</b>									
<i>The HSRT score is needed to apply to the PTA Program. Testing will be offered November – February. Students must complete testing at Anoka Ramsey Community College and will be open for scheduling November – February. Previous scores from other institutions will not be accepted. Students may attempt the test one time per application period.</i>									
<i>Registration and testing information will be posted on the PTA Advising website at <a href="http://www.anokaramsey.edu/pta">www.anokaramsey.edu/pta</a>.</i>									
Scale:									
59 or below=1	60-63=2	64-67=3	68-71=4	72-75=5	76-79=6	80-83=7	84-87=8	88-90=9	91 or above=10
<b>Bachelor's Degree (any discipline) = 8</b>									
<i>If the applicant has a previous bachelor's degree (any discipline), a score of 8 will be awarded in this section.</i>									
<b>Total Score:</b>									<b>47</b>