

## **Roane State Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admission Information**

Overview: The physical therapist assistant (PTA) works under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist (PT) to apply interventions that restore optimal function to individuals impaired by disease or injury. Common interventions include therapeutic exercise, patient education, physical agents and functional training. PTAs work with patients that have impairments due to stroke, brain injury, fracture, amputation, and recent surgery. Becoming a PTA is not an efficient pathway to becoming a DPT (physical therapist).

Program Sequence: The Roane State PTA Program is a “1+ 1” curriculum leading to an Associate of Applied Science Degree. Prerequisite (first year) courses can be completed at any pace. Second year/technical phase courses can only be taken by those who have completed first year courses, completed the Health Science and Nursing Application (through RaiderNet), and have been accepted into the PTA program. Admission is competitive. Students should maintain a minimum of a 3.5 GPA to be considered. Students are selected using the PTA Admission Criteria Point System based on ranked points accumulated. Generally, the top forty students receive interviews and the top twenty students are accepted into the program.

The second year is full-time and students attend class for a full calendar year from August to August. Classes during the second year occur only on the Oak Ridge Branch Campus and meet in-person each day of the week. The second year of the program is academically demanding. During the second year, the students will attend classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences. During fall and spring semesters, students spend a total of 32 hours per semester in an assigned clinical setting. The final semester takes place during the summer when students attend two six-week-long, full-time clinicals at assigned locations. Clinical sites require students to have all common vaccinations including Covid. Roane State is affiliated with a variety of health care facilities within and around the greater Knoxville area. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to these facilities.

Licensure: Students must pass the PTA-NPTE (National Physical Therapy Examination) to be licensed as a physical therapist assistant and eligible to practice. Tennessee licensure also requires a fingerprinted background check.

### **Admission Requirements/Application Steps**

The following items are all required for admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program, but meeting these requirements does not guarantee admission.

1. Complete application to Roane State including submission of high school and college transcripts and be successfully admitted.
2. Complete online Health Science and Nursing Application (on RaiderNet page) selecting “PTA” as desired program of application. Applications received after the

May 15th deadline will NOT be considered. The student must reapply every year that they seek to be an eligible applicant. Applications close after May 15 and reopen during the Fall semester.

3. Complete prerequisite “first-year” required courses (24 credit hours) of the PTA curriculum.

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Notes
ENGL 1010	Composition I	3	
BIOL 2010	Anatomy/Physiology I	4	Must be taken within 5 years of application deadline <sup>3</sup>
BIOL 2020	Anatomy/Physiology II	4	Must be taken within 5 years of application deadline <sup>3</sup>
MATH 1530	Introductory Statistics	3	No alternate math courses allowed (i.e algebra) for this course
Humanities Elective <sup>1</sup>	Introduction to Ethics Preferred (PHIL 1040)	3	See catalog for eligible classes in art, music, theater and philosophy. If more than one is taken, the highest grade is applied to admission points
ALHS 1211	Terminology for Medical Communication	2	Offered online at Roane State
PTAT 2200	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2	Offered online at Roane State Clinical observation completed as a course requirement
PSYC 1030 <b>OR</b> PSYC 2130	Introduction to Psychology <b>OR</b> Lifespan Developmental Psychology	3	No alternate psych courses (i.e abnormal psych) allowed for this course
	<b>Prerequisite Total</b>	<b>24</b> <sup>2</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> Electives to be selected from: ART 1035, ART 2000, ART 2020, ENGL 2110, ENGL 2120, ENGL 2220, ENGL 2310, ENGL 2320, HUM 1010, MUS 1030, PHIL 1030, PHIL 2200 and THEA 1030.

<sup>2</sup> All courses must be completed before the student is eligible for PTA admission.

<sup>3</sup> The Program Director may approve an exception on an individual basis with appropriate justification.

4. Attend a PTA Group Advising session or see a PTA faculty advisor-This should occur during your first semester. Dates for PTA group advising sessions are posted on the PTA webpage. General advising through an advising center or through a success coach may not adequately prepare students for the PTA admission process.

**Eligibility:** To be considered “eligible,” applicants must achieve a minimum 2.5 GPA after taking ALL of the prerequisite courses and a grade of "C" or better is required in each course. GPA is calculated based only on required prerequisite courses. (Applicants should maintain at least a 3.5 GPA in order to be a competitive applicant). **Science courses must be taken within 5 years of the May 15<sup>th</sup> application deadline.** All applicants must complete 12 hours of observation under the supervision of a licensed PT or PTA. Observation is generally completed during PTAT 2200 *Introduction to Physical Therapy*. During PTAT 2200, forms are provided to students for documentation of the observation hours and performance. Forms for transfer students are available upon request from the Program Director. A work verification/ performance

evaluation form is provided for those applicants that have worked as a physical therapy aid or technician for at least one year in lieu of the required observation hours (available on the PTA web area). All forms should be submitted to the Program Director by May 15<sup>th</sup> of the year of application. Forms for observation or work verification are valid for 3 years from the date of signature.

Transfer Students: Complete the Roane State application process /submit official high school and college transcripts to the College. College admission and completion of the Health Science Nursing Application must be accomplished by May 15th in order to be eligible. Students transferring credit for the spring semester are also advised to forward transcripts to the PTA program director via email prior to the May 15 deadline.

### Admission and Acceptance Timeline

#### September 15-May 15th

1. Submit the online Nursing and Health Science Application
2. Complete all 1st year prerequisite courses and observation experience.
3. Attend PTA group advising session or see a PTA faculty member for advisement
4. Transfer of credit from other institutions-deadline is May 15

#### May 15 -June 15

5. Admission points are assigned based on PTA Admission Point System
6. Highest ranking applicants invited to interview via Raider Net email by May 20.
7. Applicants must respond to interview invitation within 5 days to be considered.
8. Interviews /PTA Admissions Test points applied
9. Top 20 applicants and up to 4 alternates selected as PTA candidates
10. Candidates are approved by Allied Health Admissions Committee
11. Final candidate status notification delivered via RaiderNet email within 5 days of interview
12. Information Meeting scheduled for selected PTA class

### PTA Program Second Year Approximate Non-Tuition Costs

Semester		Spring Semester	Summer Semester
Fall	Books	\$600.00	Books \$350.00
	Liability Insurance	\$15.00	NPTE fee
	APTA Membership	\$80.00	Test service fee
	Supplies	\$70.00	Background check
	Hepatitis B other vaccines	\$100.00	License Fee
	Background check and drug screen	\$75.00	Study Guide
	CPR and First Aid	\$50.00	
	<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>\$990.00</b>	<b>\$835.00</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$2275.00</b>

## **Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admission Point System**

Acceptance into the PTA Program is very competitive. A point system is used to rank each applicant based on the following criteria in order that the most qualified candidates are selected. This Point System is subject to change without notice. Points are accumulated as follows:

1. G.P.A: Between 1 and 15 points are assigned based on the candidates GPA in the prerequisite course work.
2. An "A" or "B" grade in either Anatomy or Physiology I or II is awarded an additional 1 point per class if it was achieved the first time the course was taken. Both Anatomy and Physiology I and II must be taken within 5 years of the application deadline.
3. One additional point is awarded to students who do not retake any required course for the purpose of making a better grade in the course.
4. A maximum of 6 points can be earned from the Observation Evaluation form associated with the observation experience (course requirements for PTAT 2200 -Introduction to Physical Therapy). Observation forms are valid for 3 years from date of signature.
5. A maximum of 1 point is added for at least one year of work experience as a physical therapy technician documented on the Work Verification/ Recommendation form. Work experience is NOT a requirement for admission.
6. If invited for an interview, additional points are added after the interview and score results on the optional PTA Admissions Test. Interviews are scheduled during the first two weeks of June. The PTA Admissions Test is optional, and is primarily based on knowledge of anatomy and physiology. Information about the PTA Admission Test is provided in the interview invitation email.
7. Candidates will be notified of their applicant status by Raider Net email within one week of the interviews. Interviewees are advised to monitor their email and make sure their RaiderNet account is active. Applicants must respond promptly by accepting their position in the program. Failure to respond by the assigned deadline will result in forfeiture of PTA admission.

## PTA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA POINT SYSTEM

The admission point system is used to select eligible candidates for interviews (criteria A-D) and final annual PTA class placement (criteria A-E). The maximum points that may be accumulated is 40 and based on the following categories:

**A. \*GPA of prerequisite courses -Cumulative point range 1-16/ maximum points 16/40 (based on best grade achieved if course retaken)**

2.50-2.599	1	3.20-3.299	8
2.60-2.699	2	3.30-3.399	9
2.70-2.799	3	3.40-3.499	10
2.80-2.899	4	3.50-3.599	11
2.90-2.999	5	3.60-3.699	12
3.00-3.099	6	3.70-3.799	13
3.10-3.199	7	3.80-3.899	14
		3.90-4.00	15

\*One additional point is provided to students who do not repeat any of the prerequisite courses for the purpose of improving their grade 1

**B. FIRST ACHIEVED SCIENCE GRADE Cumulative point range 0-2/ maximum points 2/40 (if the course is taken more than once, these points only apply to the assigned grade the first time taken)**

BIOL 2010 grade of A or B first time taken	1
BIOL 2020 grade of A or B first time taken	1

**C. OBSERVATION HOURS/WORK PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SCORE Cumulative point range 0-6/max points 6/40**

*Applies only to a physical therapy setting. The supervising PT or PTA assigns the raw points and recommendation score during the observation or work experience (Grid score + Recommended score = Performance evaluation score)*

<u>Grid Score Total:</u>	
10-12 raw points	2
06-09 raw points	1
00-05 raw points	0
<u>Recommended Score:</u>	
Strongly Recommend	4
Recommend	3
Recommend with reservation	1
Do not recommend	0

**D. PHYSICAL THERAPY WORK EXPERIENCE-Cumulative point range 1 /40 max points**

1 year or more	1
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**E. INTERVIEWS Cumulative point range 0-13/max points 15/40**

13 (face to face interview)	
1 (over 70% on PTA Admission Test)	
2 (over 85% on PTA Admission Test)	