

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 to apply interventions designed to restore optimal function to those 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 courses can be completed at any pace. Second year/technical phase courses can only be taken by those who have completed the Allied Health and Nursing Application and have been accepted into the program. Admission is competitive. Students should maintain a minimum of a 3.5 GPA to be considered. Students are evaluated using the PTA Admission Criteria Point System and are ranked according to the points accumulated. Generally, the top forty students receive interviews and the top twenty students are accepted into the program.

The second year is a full-time cohort of students that attend class for a full calendar year from August to August. The second year of the program is academically demanding. During the second year, the students will attend classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences. During the fall and spring semesters of the second year, 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 an assigned clinic location.

Location: All classes offered during the second year are taught on the Oak Ridge Branch Campus. Roane State is affiliated with a variety of health care facilities in the area that serve as sites for clinical experiences. Most of these sites are located within and around the greater Knoxville area. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to these facilities.

License: After completion of the summer clinicals, the student is eligible to take the PTA- NPTE (National Physical Therapy Examination) and become licensed as a physical therapist assistant. All PTAs must have a license to practice, and Tennessee licensure requires a fingerprinted background check. Tennessee licensure information can be accessed through:

State of TN Department of Health
Health Related Boards
227 French Landing, Suite 300
Heritage Place Metro Center
Nashville, TN 37243
Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy
(615) 532-5132

Admission Requirements/Application Information

Please read the following information carefully. The following items are all required for admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program. *Meeting these requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program.*

Application to Roane State:

Prior to completing the Allied Health and Nursing Application, all applicants must first apply to Roane State, submit all required admissions documents and transcripts, and be admitted into the college.

Complete Prerequisite Courses:

Register and complete the following prerequisite required courses 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 ³
BIOL 2020	Anatomy/Physiology II	4	Must be taken within 5 years of application deadline ³
MATH 1530	Introductory Statistics	3	No alternate math courses allowed (i.e algebra) for this course
Humanities Elective ¹	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 (formerly ALH 118)	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 OR PSYC 2130	Introduction to Psychology OR Lifespan Developmental Psychology	3	No alternate psych courses (i.e abnormal psych) for this course
	Prerequisite Total	24²	

¹ 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.

² All courses must be completed before the student is eligible for PTA admission. Read the admission packet for additional eligibility requirements.

³ The Program Director may approve an exception on an individual basis with appropriate justification.

Transfer Students:

Complete the Roane State application process and submit your official transcripts to the College. Official high school and college transcripts must be submitted and evaluated by the Registrar, and the Allied Health /Nursing Application must be completed by May 15th of the year you are applying. Students transferring credit from other colleges for the spring semester are also strongly advised to forward transcripts to the PTA program director via email prior to the deadline.

See a PTA Advisor

During your first semester, talk with one of the PTA program faculty OR attend one of the PTA group advising sessions at a date 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.

Complete Application for Allied Health Science/Nursing Program and select "PTA":

Students should complete the Allied Health Science/Nursing application online through his/her Raider Net account as soon as the student is admitted to the college.

Applications remain active until the May 15th deadline. 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 reopen during the Fall semester. To be eligible for admission to the program, students must meet all requirements for Allied Health Program admission and:

Grades: Each applicant must achieve at least a 2.5 or better GPA after taking ALL of the prerequisite courses and a grade of "C" or better is required in each course. GPA is calculated based on these prerequisite courses /required credit hours ONLY. Courses taken in the spring of the year you are applying will be accepted toward meeting these criteria as long as transcripts reflecting these grades are received by the May 15th deadline. **Science courses must be taken within 5 years of the May 15th deadline. Science courses must be taken within 5 years of the program's application deadline.** The Program Director may approve an exception on an individual basis with appropriate justification.

Observation Hours/Work Verification:

Students are required to complete 12 hours of observation under the supervision of a licensed PT or PTA. This is generally completed during PTAT 2200; *Introduction to Physical Therapy*. During PTAT 2200, forms are provided to students for documentation of the observation hours as well as a performance evaluation that is completed by the supervising therapist. Forms for transfer students are also 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 or in addition to the required observation hours. All forms should be submitted to the Program Director by May 15th of the year you are applying. Forms for observation or work verification are valid for 3 years.

Admission and Acceptance Sequence

September-May 15th

1. Complete online RSCC general application process
2. Submit the online Nursing and Health Science Application via RaiderNet account and select PTA
3. Complete all 1st year prerequisite courses and observation experience.
4. Attend at least one optional group advising session (Dates TBA) or see a PTA faculty member for advisement
5. If transferring college credit, submit any eligible transcripts for transfer and have them evaluated by the Registrar and send to the Program Director by May 15

May

6. Admission points are assigned based on PTA Admission Point System
7. Top 40 applicants invited to interview via Raider Net email

June

8. Interviews /PTA Admissions Test conducted in early June and interview points applied
9. Top 20 applicants ranked (up to 4 applicants identified as program alternates) selected as PTA candidates
10. Candidates are voted on by Allied Health Admissions Committee
11. Final candidate status notification delivered via RaiderNet email
12. Information Meeting scheduled for selected PTA class

PTA Program Second Year Approximate Non-Tuition Costs

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	Summer Semester	
Books	\$600.00	Books \$350.00	NPTE fee	\$485.00
Liability Insurance	\$15.00		Prometric Fee	\$85.00
APTA Membership	\$80.00		Background check	\$50.00
Student supplies	\$70.00		State License Fee	\$125.00
Hep. B Vaccination	\$100.00		Study Guide	\$90.00
Background Check	/Drug			
Screen	\$75.00			
CPR and First Aid	\$50.00			
Subtotals	\$990.00	\$350.00		\$835.00
Grand Total				\$2275.00

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admission Point System

Acceptance into the PTA Program is very competitive. A maximum of twenty students are accepted annually. A point system is used to rank each applicant based on the following criteria in order that the most qualified candidates are selected. The maximum points that can be accumulated using the current point system are 40 points. 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 evaluation form associated with the observation experience that is part of the course requirements for PTAT 2200 -Introduction to Physical Therapy (*observation forms are valid for 3 years*).
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 Verification Forms are valid for 3 years and should be sent to the program director by the May 15 deadline*). Work experience is not a requirement for admission.
6. The top applicants (up to 40) are invited to an interview based on the highest number of points accumulated from the first four admissions criteria. A maximum of 13 points are added to each candidate's point score after the interview, and an additional 2 points may be added for high scores on the optional PTA Admission 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. Students are instructed to take this optional test at any Roane State testing center during the interview week. Information about the PTA Admission Test is provided in the interview invitation email. Applicants not invited for an interview may reapply the following year.
7. Once interviews are completed, candidates are notified by Raider Net email within one week. 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)	