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 lasts 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
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 (Effective for students enrolled under the 2017-18 catalog 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
<td>Composition 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2010</td>
<td>Anatomy/Physiology I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Must be taken within 5 years of application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2020</td>
<td>Anatomy/Physiology II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Must be taken within 5 years of application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1530</td>
<td>Probability and Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No substitutions allowed for this course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Elementary Ethics Preferred (PHIL 121)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>See catalog for eligible classes in art, music, theater and philosophy. If more than one is taken, the highest grade applied to admission points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective 2</td>
<td>Preferred (PHIL 121)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education Elective</td>
<td>No preferred class</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Any class under physical education acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALH 118</td>
<td>Terminology for Medical Communication</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Taught only online at Roane State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTAT 2210</td>
<td>Introduction to Physical Therapy (Previously ALH 102)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Taught only online at Roane State Clinical observation completed as a course requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 1030 OR</td>
<td>General Psychology OR Lifespan Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No other substitutions allowed for PSYC courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2130</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Prerequisite course requirements have changed effective fall 2017. Students enrolled under any previous catalog should follow ONLY those specific catalog requirements under which they were originally enrolled.

2 Electives to be selected from: ARTH 1030, ARTH 2010, ARTH 2020, ENGL 2110, ENGL 2120, ENGL 2220, ENGL 2310, ENGL 2320, HUM 262, MUS 1030, PHIL 1030, PHIL 201 and THEA 1030).

3 All courses must be completed before the student is eligible for PTA admission. Read the admission packet for additional eligibility requirements.
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 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 done during the completion of PTAT 2210 Introduction to Physical Therapy. During PTAT 2210, 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 RaiderNet email

**June**

8. Interviews conducted in early June and points recalculated
9. Top 20 applicants ranked by points and identified for admission opportunity with up to 5 applicants identified for alternate opportunity
10. Both applicant groups are voted on by Health Science Admissions Committee
11. Final candidate status notification delivered via RaiderNet email
12. Information Meeting for accepted students

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
<th>Summer Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books $600.00</td>
<td>Books $350.00</td>
<td>NPTE fee $485.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liability Insurance $15.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prometrix Fee $70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APTA Membership $80.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Background check $50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student supplies $70.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>State License Fee $125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hep. B Vaccination $100.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Study Guide $90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background Check/Drug Screen $75.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR and First Aid $50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotals</strong> $990.00</td>
<td><strong>$350.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$800.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$2140.00</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admission Point System

Acceptance into the PTA Program is very competitive. A maximum of twenty students will be accepted. 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 42 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 2 points 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 award 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 PTA 102 - Introduction to Physical Therapy (*observation forms are valid for 3 years*).
5. Work experience as a physical therapy technician documented on the Work Verification/Recommendation form is also assigned one point per year of employment up to 3 total points. (*Work Verification Forms and 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) will receive an interview on the basis of the highest number of points accumulated from the first four admissions criteria. A maximum of 13 pts will be awarded for the interview. Interviews are scheduled during the first two weeks of June. Applicants not making the interview pool will not be accepted may reapply for next year.
7. Once the interviews are completed, notification of candidate status is sent out within one week via Raider Net email. Applicants must respond accepting their position in the program within ten days of the notifications. Failure to respond will result in losing the position.
PTA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA POINT SYSTEM

The admission point system uses a cumulative approach to the selection of the top 20 applicants. All eligible applicants are ranked (based on criteria A-D) prior to the interview and the top 40 are given the opportunity to interview. Applicant rankings are realigned with the addition of criterion E. **MAXIMUM POINTS TOWARD ADMISSION ARE 42.**

A. *GPA -Cumulative point range 1-16/ maximum points 16/42 (based on best grade achieved if course retaken)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA Range</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.50-2.599</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.60-2.699</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.70-2.799</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.80-2.899</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.90-2.999</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00-3.099</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10-3.199</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.20-3.299</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30-3.399</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.40-3.499</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.50-3.599</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.60-3.699</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.70-3.799</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.80-3.899</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.90-4.00</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*One additional point is awarded to students who do not retake any of the required courses for the purpose of improving their grade.*

B. FIRST ACHIEVED SCIENCE GRADE **Cumulative point range 0-4/maximum points 4/42** (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: 2 points
- BIOL 2020 grade of A or B first time taken: 2 points

C. OBSERVATION HOURS/WORK PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SCORE

**Cumulative point range 0-6/max points 6/42**

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grid Score Total:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-12 raw points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06-09 raw points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00-05 raw points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recommended Score:**
- Strongly Recommend: 4 points
- Recommend: 3 points
- Recommend with reservation: 1 point
- Do not recommend: 0 points

D. PHYSICAL THERAPY WORK EXPERIENCE **Cumulative point range 0-3 /max points 3/42**

- 1 year: 1 point
- 2 years: 2 points
- 3 or more years: 3 points

E. INTERVIEWS **Cumulative point range 0-13/max points 13/42**

Total Points: 42
Academic and Technical Standard for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program

The Physical Therapist Assistant program has a responsibility to educate competent practitioners to care for their patients with critical judgment, broadly based knowledge, and well-developed technical skills. The Physical Therapist Assistant program has academic as well as technical standards that must be met by students in order to successfully progress in and graduate from its programs.

**Academic and Technical Standards:** The Physical Therapist Assistant Program (PTA) provides the following general descriptions/examples to inform prospective and enrolled students of the academic and technical standards required in completing the program curriculum.

1. The academic and technical standards include examples of the performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the PTA program. These standards are not requirements of admission into the programs and the examples are not all-inclusive.

2. Individuals interested in applying for admission to the PTA program should review these standards to develop a better understanding of the skills, abilities and behavioral characteristics required to successfully complete the programs. Key areas for academic and technical standards include:
   (1) Acquiring fundamental knowledge;
   (2) Developing communication skills;
   (3) Interpreting data;
   (4) Integrating knowledge to establish clinical judgment;
   (5) Performance of skills associated with physical therapy practice, and
   (6) Incorporating appropriate professional attitudes and behaviors into clinical practice capabilities.

Roane State Community College requires that access to its facilities, programs and services is available to all students; including students with disabilities (as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008) and all students can study with or without reasonable accommodation. The PTA program provides reasonable accommodations to all students on a nondiscriminatory basis consistent with legal requirements as outlined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. A reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment to an instructional activity, equipment, facility, program or service that enables a qualified student with a disability to have an equal opportunity to fulfill the requirements necessary for graduation from the program. To be eligible for accommodations, a student must have a documented disability of (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (b) a record of such impairment; or, (c) be regarded as having such a condition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Acquiring fundamental knowledge</td>
<td>1. Ability to learn in classroom and educational settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Ability to find sources of knowledge and acquire the knowledge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Examples**

- Acquire, conceptualize, and apply evidence-based information from demonstrations and experiences in the basic and applied sciences, including
### Requirements
2. Developing communication skills

### Standards
1. Communication abilities for sensitive and effective interactions with patients (persons, families and/or communities)
2. Communication abilities for effective interaction with the health care team (patients, their supports, other professional and non-professional team members)
3. Sense-making of information gathered from communication
4. Social intelligence

### Examples
- Accurately elicit or interpret information: medical history and other info to adequately and effectively evaluate a client or patient's condition
- Accurately convey information and interpretation of information using one or more means of communication (verbal, written, assisted (such as TTY) and/or electronic) to patients and the health care team
- Effectively communicate in teams
- Determine a deeper meaning or significance in what is being expressed
- Connect with others to sense and stimulate reactions and desired interactions

### Interpreting data
1. Ability to observe patient conditions and responses to health and illness
2. Ability to assess and monitor health needs
3. Computational thinking
4. Cognitive load management

- Obtain and interpret information from assessment maneuvers such as assessing respiratory and cardiac function, blood pressure, blood sugar, neurological status, etc.
- Obtain and interpret information from diagnostic representations of physiologic phenomena during a comprehensive assessment of patients

3. Ability to be a life-long learner
4. Demonstrate novel and adaptive thinking

but not limited to information conveyed through online coursework, lecture, group seminar, small group activities and physical demonstrations
- Develop health care solutions beyond that which is rote or protocol-based
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Integrating knowledge to establish clinical judgment</td>
<td>1. Critical thinking, problem-solving and decision making ability needed to care for patients and/or communities across the health continuum 2. Intellectual and conceptual abilities to master the required knowledge and competencies of the program</td>
<td>• Accomplish, direct or interpret assessment of patients and/or communities and implement plans of care or direct the implementation of care • Critically assess and develop content that uses new media forms, and to leverage these media for persuasive communication • Literacy in and ability to understand concepts across disciplines • Represent and develop tasks and work processes for desired outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Performance of skills associated with physical therapy practice</td>
<td>1. Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective physical therapy skills 2. Ability to lift and move patients and simulated patients using an appropriate level of assistance without risk of injury to self or others</td>
<td>• Maintain and use patient care equipment • Bend, stoop, squat and lift numerous times per day up to 60 lbs • Move around in small workspaces</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Incorporating appropriate professional attitudes and behaviors into physical therapy practice

1. Demonstrate concern for others, integrity, ethical conduct, accountability, interest and motivation
2. Acquire Interpersonal skills for professional interactions with a diverse population of individuals, families and communities
3. Acquire Interpersonal skills for professional interactions with members of the health care team including patients, their supports, other health care professionals and team members
4. Acquire the skills necessary for promoting change for necessary quality health care
5. Cross-cultural competency
6. Virtual collaboration

7. Apply healthy stress management techniques

- Maintain effective, mature, and sensitive relationships with clients/patients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals under all circumstances
- Make proper judgments regarding safe and quality care
- Function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical practice
- Demonstrate professional role in interactions with patients, intra and inter professional teams
- Operate in different cultural settings (including disability culture)
- Work productively, drive engagement, and demonstrate presence as a member of a virtual team
- Use appropriate judgment in stressful situations
Mental and Physical Qualifications for Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) practitioners
(also called Essential Standards and Functions)

Introduction: Professional PTA practice requires specific qualifications, abilities, knowledge, and skills. Typically, PTA employers specify these as “minimal essential standards and functions” for employment as a PTA practitioner. Although qualifications may vary among employers, the following list is provided to enable applicants and accepted students to informally assess their own capabilities for the physical therapy profession prior to entering the PTA program.

Essential Standards and Functions:
1. Work in a standing position and do frequent walking for twelve hours.
2. Frequently lift and transfer adult and child patients up to six inches from a stooped position, and push or pull the weight of an adult up to three feet.
3. Frequently lift and transfer adult and child patients from a stooped to an upright position to accomplish bed to-chair and chair-to-bed transfers.
4. Frequently bend, stoop and squat in a variety of situations including small or awkward spaces.
5. Use hands, wrists, and arms to physically apply up to ten pounds of pressure in the performance of specific procedures (e.g., to perform tests of muscle strength or prevent a patient fall).
6. Respond and react immediately to verbal instructions and requests, auditory sounds from monitoring equipment, and perform auditory assessments of patients.
7. Be able to move freely and physically maneuver in small spaces.
8. Possess sufficient visual acuity to perform close and distant visual activities involving objects, persons, and paperwork, as well as the ability to discriminate depth and color perception.
9. Read calibrated scales of one-hundredth increments in not more than a three-inch space.
10. Possess sufficient fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination to use small instruments and equipment.
11. Possess tactile ability sufficient to assess patient status through palpation including muscle tone, joint end-feel and muscle spasm.
12. Discriminate between sharp and dull, hot and cold.
14. Communicate effectively in the English language, both orally and in writing, using appropriate grammar, spelling, vocabulary and word usage.
15. Comprehend verbal and written directions and make appropriate notations.
16. Access patient/client information from written or electronic record and be able to document care provided using legible handwriting, a desktop computer or a portable device.
17. Develop the ability to make appropriate and timely decisions under stressful situations.
18. Demonstrate sufficient endurance to complete up to a twelve hour clinical rotation.
19. Use critical thinking abilities to apply clinical judgement and implement individual patient care decisions within the physical therapy plan of care.
20. Use interpersonal skills to interact with individuals from a variety of social, economic, religious, racial, ethnic, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.