Physical Therapist Assistant Program
## How to Apply

> **APPLICATIONS TO BEGIN THE PROGRAM FALL SEMESTER 2024 WILL BE ACCEPTED**
> **JANUARY 8 - APRIL 25, 2024 AT 3:00 PM**

### Minimal Admission Requirements

PTA program applicants must minimally:

1. Meet all admission requirements of CCC
2. An unofficial CCC transcript documenting all coursework taken at CCC or accepted in transfer
3. An ACT reading score of 18 or > or a NextGen ACCUPLACER reading score of 250 or > from a test taken in the past 3 years
4. Documentation of 24 hours of physical therapy observation
5. Submission of a 2024 PTA Program Application by the deadline

Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance.  A new class of PTA students begins once a year in the fall semester Admission to the program is selective as a limited number of students can be enrolled each year.  An application point system (below) is used to evaluate each application.

- There is no minimum GPA required to apply to the PTA program.
- There is no prerequisite coursework required for PTA program application.

HOWEVER, the application point system heavily weights the completion of general education classes and the grades earned because students who have taken foundational courses are best poised for success in the PTA program.  Points are also awarded based on the submitted reading score, for attending a PTA Information Session, and for documentation of physical therapy observation.

### PTA Application

The 2024 application is available on the webpage to download and print.  It contains all steps and lists the items needed to apply.  If you are unable to download / print the application, you may pick up a copy on the 3rd floor of the Health Sciences Building, Decatur Campus between the hours of 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

You are advised to:

- Begin the application process well in advance of the April submission deadline
- Follow all application instructions
- Be aware that when submitted, an application packet must include an unofficial CCC transcript, a current reading score, and  a record of PT observation for the application to be considered
- Know that applicants are not contacted by the PTA program if the application is missing required documentation
- Make certain all components of the application include your name and are legible

## Application Points System

| Physical Therapist Assistant Program | |
|---|---|
| **General Education Coursework Completion** | **Application Points (grades on submitted CCC transcript)** |
| BIO 201 Human Anatomy & Physiology I (within last 10 years) | A= 14    B = 12    C = 7 |
| BIO 202 Human Anatomy & Physiology II (within last 10 years) | A= 14    B = 12    C = 7 |
| ENG 101 English Composition I | A = 8      B = 5    C = 3 |
| Mathematics Elective - MTH 100, MTH 110, MTH 112, MTH 113, MTH 120, MTH 125, MTH 126, MTH 227, MTH 237, MTH 238, or MTH 265  (MTH 098, 099, 103, & 116 are not eligible) | A = 8      B = 5      C = 3 |
| PSY 200 General Psychology | A = 8      B = 5      C = 3 |
| PSY 210 Human Growth & Development | A = 8      B = 5      C = 3 |
| Speech Elective – SPH 106 or SPH 107  (SPH 116 not eligible) | A = 8      B = 5      C = 3 |
| Humanities Elective: Art, Music, Literature, Philosophy, Religion, Theatre (A foreign language is not eligible.) | A = 8      B = 5      C = 3 |
| EMS 106 Medical Terminology for Health Professions | A = 4      B = 3      C = 3 |
| **In order for the application to be considered, a reading score from a test taken in the past three (3) years must be submitted.  An ACT reading score or a Next-Gen ACCUPLACER reading placement test is accepted.  A reading score is required regardless of applicant age, the score, or prior educational accomplishment.** | See grid below for reading score points.  Up to 5 points |
| **Additional application points** | |
| Submit documentation of physical therapy observation in the requested format.  Form found in application packet. | Up to 10 points |
| Attend a PTA Program Information Session | Up to 5 points |
| **Maximum Application Point Total =** | **100** |

| Reading Score | ACCUPLACER NEXT-GEN Reading Score | PTA Application Points |
|---|---|---|
| **< 18** | **< 250** | **Ineligible for Admission** |
| 18 - 19 | 250 - 256 | 0 |
| 20 - 23 | 257 - 266 | 1 |
| 24 - 26 | 267 - 276 | 2 |
| 27 - 30 | 277 - 285 | 3 |
| 31 - 33 | 286 - 293 | 4 |
| 34 - 36 | 294 - 300 | 5 |
| **A reading score must be submitted even if the score is < 257 or < 20** | | |

- AP Courses
    - If a student has taken Advanced Placement classes in high school and they have been accepted by CCC Admissions and Records, the student's transcript will document completion by "TP" for transferred/passed. For purposes of PTA application points:
        - -An AP test grade 4 or 5 = letter grade of A for points
        - -An AP test grade of 3    = letter grade of B for points

- CLEP Credit
  - o If a student's CCC transcript documents CLEP credit for applicable general education courses, PTA application points are assigned by averaging the letter grades obtained in other completed general education courses.

## CCC Transcript - Required
- If you have attended other colleges, request that official transcripts are sent to the CCC Office of Admissions and Records. This should be done at least 4-6 weeks before the application deadline of April 25th.

- An unofficial copy of a Calhoun Community College transcript verifying all completed coursework applicable to the PTA degree taken at CCC and/or other colleges must be submitted with your PTA application for the application to be considered.

- Log into the MyCalhoun portal to print a copy of your transcript. It will be labeled **Academic Transcript** at the top and **include your name**. Do not submit a copy of information from Degree Works.

- Transcripts from other colleges should not be included with your PTA application. PTA faculty are not able to evaluate or advise applicants regarding coursework taken elsewhere.

## Spring Semester Classes & Application Points
- Points for general education classes taken spring semester will be added to an application score if an unofficial transcript showing course completion and the grade earned is submitted to the program no later than 3:00 PM Monday, May 20, 2024.

- Because of the short interval between the end of spring semester and the deadline of May 20th, applicants who are attending other colleges may submit an unofficial transcript from that college to show course completion of spring 2024 classes (**only**). The originally submitted PTA application packet must have included a CCC transcript.

## Reading Score - Required
- All applicants to the PTA program must submit either an ACT Reading Score or Next-Gen ACCUPLACER Reading Score from a test date in the past three years (2021, 2021, 2023, 2024).
- The reading score results should display your first and last name and the date of testing.
- A PTA application that does not include a reading score will not be considered. If your score is less than the minimum, you may be eligible to re-take the ACCUPLACER. Check with the testing center.

| Minimum for PTA Program Admission | |
| --- | --- |
| ACT Reading Score | 18 or > |
| Next-Gen ACCUPLACER Reading Score | 250 or > |

CCC offers the Next-Gen ACCUPLACER test on both campuses Monday - Thursday. Schedule an appointment with the Testing Center online at calhoun.edu/testing-center/. Select the "Proctored Exams" button at the bottom of the webpage.

- PTA applicants with ACT test results from the past 3 years should consider taking the Next-Gen ACCUPLACER reading test in the hope that it may help your application score.

More information about taking the ACCUPLACER and study guides can be found at: **https://www.accuplacerpracticetest.com/accuplacer-reading-comprehension-practice-test/**

## Physical Therapy Observation Hours

Detailed directions can be found in the application about how to acquire and document physical therapy observation hours. Be aware that health care organizations and physical therapy clinics are not obligated to allow visitors for the purpose of observation.  Their willingness to offer opportunities demonstrates a commitment to the physical therapy profession and an investment in future clinicians.  Clinics are only able to accommodate a limited number of prospective students, so plan accordingly.

## Information Sessions

- PTA faculty host three one hour program information sessions each year.
-  Sessions provide an overview of the program and review the application process.
- The dates and times of sessions are posted on the PTA website.  All interested persons are invited to attend.  Registration is not required.
- Applicants who sign the attendance roster receive application points.
- If you live out of the area or have other hindrances to attending an information session, contact the program (256/260-2491) for an alternative opportunity to earn application credit.

## PTA Eligibility Criteria

Prior to submitting an application, it is necessary to read the **PTA Eligibility Criteria** posted on the PTA website. The Alabama Community College System endorses the Americans' with Disabilities Act.  If an individual has a disability that might require special materials, services, or assistance, the student should contact the CCC Disability Services Office.

## Notification

Each application is evaluated including the verification of transcripts and observation hours.  Final decisions will be made in late May and letters mailed in early June to all applicants at the address provided on the application.  Contact the program if you have an address change.

Twenty-four students will receive an acceptance letter.  A small number of students receive a letter stating they are on a waiting list.  Wait listed applicants will be notified of openings until the beginning of fall semester. Waiting list individuals are not "carried over" to the next year.   If you are not accepted into the program, you must reapply the following year.