

GERMANNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
<http://www.germannacollege.edu/physical-therapist-assistant/>

Students interested in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program should select “ALLIED HEALTHCARE PREPARATION” as their major while applying for admission into the clinical part of the PTA program. You must complete your prerequisites before applying to the program. A new class is admitted each fall semester. Applications will be accepted online each spring; check the PTA program web page for exact dates. Please see the GCC Catalog for additional information at <http://www.germannacollege.edu/programs/physical-therapist-assistant.asp>. The PTA Program office is in Room 407A of the Locust Grove Campus; phone (540) 423-9849; email PTAssistant@germannacollege.edu.

THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET PRIOR TO APPLYING TO THE PTA PROGRAM:

Planning is critical. Do not leave these requirements to the last minute. Please visit the Welcome Center for guidance on transfer transcript review. Note that **the following may require prior coursework** (i.e. MTE, ITE).

- ___ Student is at least 18 years of age and has been accepted to the college; Transcripts on file with GCC Admissions and Records (High School, GED or College)
- ___ Transcript Evaluation Request Form on file with Admissions and Records for transfer of courses at any other college (incl. VCCS)
- ___ Complete required **40 volunteer hours (20 hours in each of 2 settings, one of which must be in an inpatient setting) within 2 years.**
- ___ **Math Competency: MTE 1-5** as a pre-admission qualification within 3 years **or** proof of math course equivalent (MTH 150 or above) within 5 years. If MTH course is greater than 5 years old, MTE competency test should be taken.
- ___ **Computer Competency:** Successful completion of the IC-3 Computer Competency Exam or **ITE 115** within five years.
- ___ Must **attend a PTA program Information Session**, offered monthly; application requirements will be discussed in detail at this meeting.
- ___ **Criminal History Report/Drug Screen** through CastleBranch.com within 6 months of application (positive background check may prevent acceptance into program)
- ___ Acknowledge ability to meet **Essential Functions** of the PTA Student, or discuss appropriate accommodations with Disabilities Services.

PREREQUISITE COURSES: A grade of “C” or better is required; priority admission points earned for “A” or “B” in starred courses. These courses must be completed or in process at the time of application.

- ___ **SDV 100** (1cr.) Student Development or **SDV 101** Orientation class (or completion of bachelor’s degree)
- ___ **BIO 141*** (4cr.) Anatomy & Physiology I (within five years of applying to the PTA program)
- ___ **ENG 111** (3cr.) College Composition I
- ___ **PSY 230*** (3cr.) Developmental Psychology (Intro to Psych does not meet this requirement)
- ___ **1 Humanities Elective** (3cr.) Any course from ART, ENG LIT, HUM, MUS, PHI, REL, or Foreign Language

ADDITIONAL COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE AAS IN PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT:

*These classes are required for graduation from the program, and may be completed **prior to or during** the technical portion of the program, with a grade of “C” or better required. Please note that financial aid may not be available for these course prior to acceptance into the PTA program.*

- ___ **BIO 142** (4cr.) Anatomy and Physiology II
- ___ **SOC 200** (3cr.) Introduction to Sociology
- ___ **HLT 105** (1cr.) Amer. Heart Assn. BLS Certification; **will be taken during the first semester of PTA study**

ADMISSIONS PROCESS PRIORITY: (see Application Packet document and student worksheet for details)

- ___ Germanna GPA at least 2.5, with a “C” earned in all required general education courses in the Associate Degree
- ___ Points earned for A or B in BIO 141, PSY 230 and ENG 111 (68 possible points – see worksheet)
- ___ Supervisor rating forms for two volunteer experiences received by PTA Program Director by application deadline (completed by two different supervisors) (25 points)
- ___ Personal Statement Essay Response (12 possible points)
- ___ Resident of Service Area (Culpeper, Madison, Orange, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Fredericksburg, Caroline, King George) may be considered in the event of ties.
- ___ Phase II: Interview Process, top 20 applicants from Phase I. Final selection made based on interview and Phase I points.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Germanna Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 540-423-9821 or email ptassistant@germannacollege.edu.

I understand the above-listed information required for admission and considered in the selective admissions process. I also understand that to meet graduation requirements, I must have completed all requirements listed in the catalog in effect at date of admission into the physical therapist assistant program.

Signature _____

PTA PROGRAM APPLICANT WORKSHEET TO CALCULATE PRIORITY POINTS IN PHASE I – FOR STUDENT USE ONLY

In addition to the points earned in the sections below for selective admissions, YOU MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES OR COMPETENCIES PRIOR TO APPLYING TO THE PTA PROGRAM. THESE COMPETENCIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED EARLY IN THE PREPARATION STAGE.

_____ VPT Math Placement Test (testing out of MTE-1-5), or MTE 1-5 within 5 years, or qualifying math coursework (MTH 150 or above) within 5 years

_____ English Placement Test

_____ Confirmation of qualifications to enroll in BIO 141 (2 years of High School biology, or college-level Introductory Biology within 5 years)

_____ ITE 115 or successful IC-3 Competency Testing* (passing with 700 or above, per GCC policy)

*Please note, the program will be dropping this requirement for admission

_____ SDV 101 or 100 (or completion of bachelor’s degree per GCC advanced standing policy)

I. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS				
Points awarded for grades as follows:	Grade	Points	Total Earned	Total Possible
ENG 111 A = 12 points, B = 9 points				
PSY 230 A = 24 points, B = 18 points				
BIO 141 A = 32 points, B = 24 pts				
				68
II. VOLUNTEER/OBSERVATION RATINGS				
Rated by PT or PTA supervisor, 5 points each for listening skills, verbal skills, interest, behavior, and professionalism. The two scores are averaged for a final possible total of 25 points. Each experience must be a minimum of 20 hours. The Observation Evaluation Form is available on the PTA website. Completed forms, provided by two different supervisors, must be received by the application deadline. See form for instructions.				25
III. PERSONAL STATEMENT ESSAY				
Rated equally in the following 4 areas, 3 points possible per area: (1) Content/Specificity; (2) Organization/ Development; (3) Following Instructions (see Application Packet); (4) Mechanics, Vocabulary; and Language Use. The essay contents will be uploaded to the application.				12
IV. RESIDENCY IN GERMANNA SERVICE AREA		May be considered in the event of ties for admission points.		
TOTAL POSSIBLE PHASE I PRIORITY POINTS:				105
PHASE II: INTERVIEW				
Applicants invited to interview will earn up to 100 points for the interview and a writing sample, which will be added to items I, II and III above for the total final ranking score.				

For general information on the PTA Program, please contact PTAssistant@germanna.edu.

Laurie Daigle, Program Director and department faculty: ldaigle@germanna.edu (540) 423-9849

Tracey Williams, Director of Clinical Education and department faculty: twilliams@germanna.edu (540) 423-9844

FAQ's - Physical Therapist Assistant Program

This document is designed to assist staff and faculty at GCC in providing information to students interested in the PTA program. If you encounter additional questions not answered here, please contact Laurie Daigle to have those questions added to this list. Thank you!

Please note that as of August 2017, due to Allied Health Preparation Certificate requirements, changes have been made to pre-admission requirements to prevent students from having financial aid issues for courses such as SOC 200 and HLT 105. Students are now required to take their Humanities Elective prior to acceptance to the program, as that will be covered by financial aid when the student is in the Allied Health Preparation program of study.

Q: Where can I find information on the PTA program?

A: Information is available on the Germanna website at <http://www.germannna.edu/physical-therapist-assistant/>. In addition, **attendance at a student information session is required** prior to applying to the program. Sessions are held monthly, alternating between Locust Grove and Fredericksburg. Dates are posted on the Germanna calendar, with a link on the PTA website at

Q: Is the PTA program accredited?

A: Yes. The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Germanna Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Q: How long is the program?

A: The technical portion of the program (PTH courses) is four semesters in length. There are no summer PTH classes; students may use the summer semester for SOC 200 and/or BIO 142 if not completed prior. Three full-time clinical experiences, from 4 to 6 weeks each, are embedded into the four semesters.

Q: Is the program offered at Fredericksburg, Locust Grove, or Stafford?

A: Locust Grove only for the core PTH courses. Prerequisites may be completed at any campus, or at other colleges and universities.

Q: I selected PTA as my program of study, but it shows up as Allied Health Preparation. What is wrong?

A: Nothing is wrong. Students are identified in the Physical Therapist Assistant program of study when they are accepted to the program. Until then, your program of study will be identified as Allied Health Preparation.

Q: I have a job during the week. Will I be able to work and participate in the program?

A: There is only one section of each PTH class, and courses are taken in a prescribed sequence. Students are not able to choose a class schedule around work responsibilities. Because the clinical experiences are full-time M-F, working elsewhere during the day is impossible during those times. Students are expected to be available all weekdays during normal workday hours for class, lab, open lab, clinical experiences, or group/individual study. The PTA program requires a significant time commitment, and cannot be done on a part-time basis. This investment of time will pay off for the successful graduate.

Q: How do I get into the PTA Program?

A: Students need to complete the basic requirements and prerequisites outlined in the information available on the PTA website. A link to the Application Information Packet may be found on the Program Requirements page of the website at <https://www.germannna.edu/physical-therapist-assistant/program-requirements/>.

Applications are accepted online between April 15 and May 15 of each year. The process is described in detail in the application packet, and is competitive, based on prerequisite grades and other factors. Currently, **12 students** are admitted to the PTA program every fall.

Q: What courses do I need to complete before applying?

A: Applicants must have completed, tested out of, or received transfer/advanced standing credit for MTE 1-5, ITE 115, SDV 100, ENG 111, PSY 230, BIO 141, and the Humanities elective prior to or during the semester in which a student applies to the program (Spring semester). Math, science and technology requirements must be completed within the time frames outlined on the advising document.

SOC 200, BIO 142 and HLT 105 are required for graduation, but may be taken after acceptance into the program (summer semester enrollment is recommended, especially for BIO 142). At present, receiving financial aid for SOC 200 is only possible after acceptance to the program. HLT 105 will be taken prior to the end of the first semester the student is enrolled in the program. If BIO 142 is completed prior to the admissions decision, the grade must be a B or higher.

Q: Does the department have a list of facilities at which to do the required volunteer/observation hours?

A: No, students are expected to locate these opportunities on their own. Applicants must complete 20 hours in each of two physical therapy settings. The student is expected to find these placements on their own. Hospitals, nursing homes, and inpatient rehab are acceptable for the "inpatient" setting. Students may find nursing homes or rehab hospitals more accommodating than medical hospitals. A background check and immunizations may be required for observing in a hospital. The other setting may be outpatient or any other clinical setting that employs a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to serve as supervisor. Both experiences require supervision and evaluation by a PT/PTA, and the two supervisors must be different individuals. Evaluation forms are available on the PTA program website and at information sessions.

Q: How are the observation evaluation forms returned to the PTA program?

A: The preferred method of return is to have the facility scan and email the completed form to PTAssistant@germanna.edu. Specific important instructions are on the form itself.

Q: I completed observation hours for an application to another program. May I use that documentation?

A: The facilities/supervisors must complete the form specific to the GCC program and return it as specified on the form. Observation experiences must be completed within the two years preceding the application deadline.

Q: I have taken General Psychology. Does this meet the PSY 230 prerequisite?

A: No, only courses that cover the content of Developmental Psychology meet this prerequisite.

Q: I am enrolling (or enrolled) in one or more of the prerequisites in the Spring semester, and applications are due before the semester is over. Will those courses count for priority admission points?

A: Yes. The applicants' transcripts will be reviewed after the end of the semester in which they apply. **All prerequisites and program requirements completed by spring semester of the application year will be considered in the admissions process.** For example, applications for the class beginning in Fall 2019 are due in May of 2019. If the student completes a general education program requirement in Spring 2019, that course will count toward requirements and academic achievement points.

Q: I completed a background check and/or drug test for another program, or in a previous year. May I use those results?

A: No, students must use CastleBranch.com for background check and drug test **within 6 months** prior to applying to the program. Students will set up their CastleBranch.com account at <https://www.castlebranch.com/>, using the code **GD28bgdt**. This code is specific to Germanna Community College.

Q: Do all my requirements have to be completed before I schedule a final advising meeting with faculty?

A: No. Please do not wait until the last minute. We will review what has been completed and what has yet to be completed, to help guide you toward a successful application. Final advising must be done between **November 15 and May 1** of the application year.

Q: I have a question that is not covered on this FAQ sheet. Where should I go for assistance?

A: First, see the Welcome Center or Counseling staff at your campus, and attend a PTA Information Session. Check out the PTA program website, where you will find links to all important information. If you still need assistance, contact the department at PTAssistant@germanna.edu. The program faculty offices are at the Locust Grove campus in Rooms 407A (Professor Daigle) and 407I (Professor Williams).

Additional Information

Background check information: <http://www.germanna.edu/physical-therapist-assistant/certified-background-check.asp>

PTA Program Information Sessions: link to the Germanna Calendar found at <https://www.germanna.edu/physical-therapist-assistant/program-requirements/>

Accreditation information: <http://www.germanna.edu/physical-therapist-assistant/accreditation.asp>

Curricular pathway for PTA Program: <https://www.germanna.edu/pathways/health-science/physical-therapist-assistant/>

PTA Program Documents: On the main PTA program webpage at <https://www.germanna.edu/physical-therapist-assistant/>, scroll down to the section "Program Information and Details." Open up each section to find information and links to all the documents available online.

On-line Application (open April 15-May 15 each year): access to the application portal will be found on any page of the PTA website