



CLARKSON COLLEGE

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Application Information Packet and Forms

Application Deadline: March 1

Start date – Fall 2010

Dear Potential Physical Therapist Assistant Student:

We are pleased to hear of your interest in pursuing a degree and career as a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA). To gain acceptance into our program, you will need to become familiar with the information in this application package. Clarkson College is selective and meeting all criteria for admission does not guarantee admission to the program.

Clarkson College accepts students into the PTA program beginning in the fall semester. Applicants must first meet all basic admissions criteria for Clarkson College to have your file reviewed by the committee:

- 2.5 Cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale
- 2.5 Cumulative GPA for math and science courses
- Minimum ACT composite score of 20 or SAT score of 950 within two years of high school graduation.

A maximum of 24 applicants will begin in the Fall 2010 semester for the traditional program and 24 applicants for the transfer program. However, the PTA program reserves the right to vary this number.

The deadline is March 1, 2010 to be considered for admission. All admission materials must be postmarked **no later** than March 1. It is the applicant’s responsibility to see that all application materials have been received. Applicants are urged to contact the Office of Enrollment Services for advisement and/or assistance prior to or during the application process. Only complete files meeting the application deadline will be reviewed. Applications that are received late may be reviewed at the discretion of the PTA Program Review Committee. All transcripts from high school and post-secondary institutions will be evaluated for “Ds,” “Fs,” no pass, withdrawals and withdrawal fails. Applicants must be in good standing at all previous institution/s attended.

Selection Criteria		
A	⇒ 2 points (maximum) ⇒	Awarded for either a Campus Visit/Preview Day
B	⇒ 16 points (maximum) ⇒	Cumulative College GPA or High School GPA
C	⇒ 4 points (maximum) ⇒	Math and Science GPA
D	⇒ 5 points (maximum) ⇒	Physical Therapist Assistant Application Questions
E	⇒ 2 points (maximum) ⇒	Observation Hours
F	⇒ 2 points (maximum) ⇒	Number of Transferable College Credit Hours

**Please Note: Deductions from the selection criteria may be received based on transcripts receiving incompletes, no pass, withdrawals and withdrawal fails.*

Scheduling a Campus Visit or Preview Day Reservation

To schedule a campus visit call 1.800.647.5500 or 552.3100. During a campus visit you will meet one-on-one with Admissions, Student Financial Services and tour the campus including our apartment-style Residence Hall. Preview Days will be held on **Nov. 14, 2009** and **Feb. 13, 2010**. Preview Days start at 9:30 a.m. and are held on Saturdays to accommodate to your busy lifestyle. The Preview Day agenda includes information about Admissions, Student Financial Services, Housing, online campus and a session with program directors and faculty. Reserve your spot for a Preview Day by calling 1.800.647.5500 or 552.3100.

Selection Notification

Written notification of acceptance or denial to the PTA program will be mailed to all students in the applicant pool. The review and selection of the applicant pool may take one month to complete. Applicants may fall into two categories:

- 1) Selected for the Fall 2010 PTA Class.
- 2) Selected on a wait list. Students on the wait list will be notified if space becomes available for the Fall 2010 PTA class.

Applicants not selected for admission may re-apply for the following academic year. All application materials must be re-submitted. In addition, re-application will be subject to comply with the requirements for the current admission period including updating application fees.

Academic Information

Students selected for the Fall PTA class must be aware of the Clarkson College Progression Policy for the PTA program. Students must maintain a grade of "C" or higher in each major course. Major courses include the PTA course work only. Students receiving a "D," "F," "WF" or "NP" in the PTA major and support course work will be dismissed from the PTA program. Support courses follow the progression policy as outlined in the College catalog. Support courses include the following General Education courses: Anatomy, Physiology, English Composition, Introduction to Psychology, College Algebra, Health Care Communications and Issues in Health Care.

Applicant Inquiries

Please direct inquiries for the PTA program to the Office of Enrollment Services at 1.800.647.5500 or 402.552.3100. Information is also available online at www.clarksoncollege.edu. For questions pertaining to the education or career in PTA, please contact Dr. Andreia Nebel, Director of the PTA program, at 402.552.6178 or nebel@clarksoncollege.edu.

Accreditation Information

The Clarkson College PTA Program is accredited by:
The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
1111 North Fairfax Street | Alexandria, VA 22314
703.706.3245 | www.apta.org

Clarkson College is accredited by:
The Higher Learning Commission
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400 | Chicago, IL 68062-2504
213.261.0456

This application information should not be considered a contract between Clarkson College and a potential applicant. Clarkson College reserves the right to make changes in deadline dates and admission criteria specific to the PTA program. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the enclosed information, its contents are subject to change without prior notice.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Clarkson College complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws relating to discrimination and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, age, national origin, ethnicity, sex, veteran's status, or marital status in the administration of its educational programs and policies, financial aid, activities or other school administered programs. The following designated position coordinates the Clarkson College effort to comply with the regulations implementing Title IX, Section 504 and the Age Act:

Vice President of Operations
Clarkson College
101 South 42 Street | Omaha, NE 68131-2739
402.552.6109



CLARKSON COLLEGE

A Higher Degree of Excellence

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
101 South 42 Street
Omaha, NE 68131
402.552.3100

Greetings from Clarkson College!

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Clarkson College. I am excited that you are considering the dynamic profession of physical therapy (PT). As a PTA, you will have the chance to work in an interactive profession with many other health care professionals and under the direction of a physical therapist. The goal of physical therapy is to help patients achieve maximum function and wellness in their life.

Clarkson College offers two program options for an Associate of Science degree in PTA. The enclosed curriculums outline the courses of study required to achieve this degree based on the 2009-2010 Academic catalog. The PTA programs both include didactic and clinical training. Upon completion of the Associate of Science in PTA degree, as a graduate you are eligible to sit for the National Board examination in any state.

Another option available while in the PTA program is to pursue a Baccalaureate degree in Health Care Business by enrolling in the Dual Degree program at Clarkson College. This option makes you more marketable within the health care field, allowing you to achieve your highest earning potential.

Clarkson College has outstanding students who have achieved a 94 percent pass rate on the National Board exam during the past few years. Also, we consistently have national scholarship winners recognized by the American Physical Therapy Association. I would encourage you to visit our Web site at www.clarksoncollege.edu to checkout program highlights, faculty bios, student comments and photos regarding our program. You have chosen to pursue education in a health area that continues to see growth, as this profession is the sixth most in demand health care profession in Nebraska and tenth nationwide (The Nebraska Economic Trends, 2007).

If you are interested in an exciting career in health care and want a challenging yet rewarding experience, I encourage you to investigate this opportunity. There are a variety of settings that PTAs work in including outpatient clinics, hospitals, nursing homes and specialty areas. If you have further questions about this program, please contact the Office of Enrollment Services for more information. I look forward to working with you throughout the admissions process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Nebel, PT, DPT
Director/Assistant Professor
Clarkson College PTA program
www.clarksoncollege.edu/Programs/Physical_Therapist_Assistant/

Clarkson College

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Required Application Materials

*It is each applicant's responsibility to see that all application materials have been received. All application materials must be postmarked no later than March 1. Incomplete and late applications will **NOT** be processed by the PTA program admissions committee. Applicants are urged to contact the Office of Enrollment Services for advisement and/or assistance prior to or during the application process. Applications that are received late may be reviewed at the discretion of the PTA program review committee.*

Submit the following information:

- Undergraduate Application for admission to Clarkson College with the non-refundable application fee.
- PTA application questions.
- Completed observation hours form and documentation.
- Official high school transcript or certification of successful completion of the General Education Diploma (GED). Official transcripts are sent directly from the high school to Clarkson College.
- Official transcript from each post-secondary institution attended. It is vital that you include your **most current** transcript to complete your application. Official transcripts are sent directly from the institution(s) to Clarkson College.
- ACT and/or SAT scores sent to Clarkson College (Required within two years of high school graduation.)
- Sign and return technical standards form.

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information furnished is true and complete without evasion or misrepresentation. I understand that, if it is found to be otherwise, it is sufficient cause for rejection or dismissal. Further, I have read the requirements for program admission and program cost information. If I am admitted and I accept the offer of admission, I understand that I am responsible for any financial and academic obligations associated with the program.

Once you have signed and dated this form return it with your application materials to the Office of Enrollment Services at Clarkson College.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed Name of Applicant

Date

Clarkson College

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Observation Hours

Please complete the observation hours and questions below to complete your application process for up to 2 points toward admission into the PTA program. This must be completed independently and your responses for the questions below need to be **typed** on a separate piece of paper. You may choose any physical therapy facility to do your observations, and you may observe a PT, PTA or both. Observations can be completed through clinics, hospitals, nursing home settings, etc.

Observation Questions for Pre-Admission Applicant

Due to HIPAA regulations, scheduling observation hours may be difficult and you will need to allow scheduling time. We urge applicants to schedule observation hours well in advance of the application deadline. **You must complete 8 hours of observation.**

Please discuss the following questions with the therapist you are observing:

1. What are the most rewarding aspects of your job?
2. What are the most challenging aspects of your job?
3. Explain the differences between the physical therapist assistant (PTA) and the physical therapist (PT) and how one might know which career is best for them in terms of the following:
 - Educational criteria
 - Clinical practice
 - Legal obligations
 - Professional roles
4. How did you learn/become aware of the physical therapy profession?
5. What other careers did you consider and why did you finally choose physical therapy?

Hours of Observation _____ Facility _____

Clinician's Signature

Date

Applicant's Signature

Date

Clarkson College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Application Questions

Please provide a typed written response to the following questions. Your responses should be no more than three pages in length. These questions replace the Statement of Motivation on the Undergraduate Application for admission.

Your responses will be judged on use of language, relevance of your response and your knowledge of the career of a physical therapist assistant and field of physical therapy.

1. In your own words, what is the role of a physical therapist assistant (PTA)?

2. Explain the differences in the clinical roles between the PTA and physical therapist (PT).

3. What are your two greatest strengths and weaknesses and how would each enhance or detract from your ability to perform the job duties of a PTA?

4. What distinguishes a PTA from other helping professions you might consider?

5. Given the differences you identified above, why did you decide to pursue being a PTA?

Clarkson College

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Technical Standards of Physical Therapy Education:

Admission, Retention and Graduation Standards Essential Requirements for candidates to the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant Program

The candidate for the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant program should consider the following essential requirements. The physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a paraprofessional in physical therapy, providing physical therapy interventions after a physical therapist has evaluated the patient and established a treatment plan. The following standards reflect reasonable expectations of the PTA student for the performance of common physical therapy functions. These standards do not reflect what may be required for employment of the graduate PTA. The PTA curriculum provides the general, technical and clinical education required to enable the student to independently deliver entry-level clinical services in an array of health settings. All students must meet the minimum criteria established by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and the PTA program at Clarkson College without regard to student preference or choice for specialty care delivery in the future.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ensures qualified applicants to public institutions the ability to pursue program admissions, however, the applicant must meet essential requirements. All students admitted to the PTA program will be held to the same standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

In adopting these standards, the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant program is mindful of the patient's right to safe and quality health care by our students and graduates. The PTA student must be able to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a broad variety of clinical situations while providing the spectrum of physical therapy treatments. The following functions are considered essential requirements for admission, retention and graduation in the Clarkson College PTA program. The purpose of these functions is to ensure PTA students provide safe, competent and timely care to patients receiving physical therapy services. Each candidate in this program must have the ability to learn and perform the following requirements:

Motor Skills

Candidate must have sufficient motor capabilities and strength to execute the movements and skills required to provide safe and effective physical therapy interventions. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Coordination, speed and agility to assist and safely guard (protect) patients who are walking exercising or performing other rehabilitation activities.
2. Ability to move or position patients and equipment, which involves lifting, carrying and pulling.
3. Ability to guide, resist and assist patients, or to provide emergency care, which involves any combination of bending, standing, kneeling, sitting, walking or crawling for 90 minutes without rest.
4. Ability to perform, with safe and proper body mechanics, the transfer and gait training techniques used during physical therapy interventions with patients.
5. Ability and dexterity to manipulate devices and treat patients in physical therapy, which may involve adjusting gauges, dials, small nuts/bolts, equipment settings, etc.
6. Ability to administer CPR.

Student initials _____

Sensory Skills

Candidate must possess the ability to observe and participate in demonstrations and in physical measures applied to patients. This includes the ability to obtain information in classroom, laboratory or clinical settings through observation, auscultation, palpation and other measures, including but not limited to:

1. Visual ability (corrected as necessary) to recognize patients physiological status and interpret facial expressions and body language, identify normal and abnormal patterns of movement, to read or set parameters on physical therapy equipment, to discriminate color changes and assess the environment.

2. Auditory ability (corrected as necessary) to recognize voice sounds, voices under protective garb, equipment signals, calls for assistance up to 10 feet away, measurement of vital signs in various clinical settings.
3. Tactile ability to palpate a pulse and to detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin temperature, body segment contour, muscle tone and joint movement.
4. Sufficient position, movement and balance sensations to assist and safely guard (protect) patients who are walking, exercising or performing other rehabilitation activities.

Student initials _____

Communication Skills

Candidate must be able to utilize effective and efficient communications, in the English language, with peers, faculty, patients and their families, and other health care providers. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ability to read at a competency level that allows one to safely carry out the essential functions of an assignment (examples: handwritten chart data, printed equipment operations manuals, etc.).
2. Ability to effectively communicate (interpret and express) information regarding the status, safety and rehabilitation of patients.
3. Ability to effectively communicate (verbally and document) with patients/families, health care professionals, within the community and with reimbursement payers.
4. Ability to communicate and document effectively via computer.
5. Ability to recognize, interpret and respond to nonverbal behavior of self and others.

Student initials _____

Behavior Skills

Candidate must be capable of exercising good judgment, developing empathetic and therapeutic relationships with patients and others, and tolerating close and direct physical contact with a broad and very diverse population of laboratory colleagues and patients. This will include people of all ages, races, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, as well as individuals with weight disorders, physical disfigurement and medical or mental health problems. This also includes, but is not limited to:

1. Demonstrate appropriate interpersonal skills and foster cooperative and collegial relationships with classmates, colleagues, instructors, other health care providers, and multiple patients and their families at the same time.
2. Ability to work effectively with lab partners, patients, families and others under stressful conditions, including but not limited to medically or emotionally unstable individuals, situations requiring rapid adaptations, the provision of CPR or other emergency interventions.
3. Manage physically taxing workloads and emotional stress.
4. Ability to prioritize multiple tasks, integrate information and make decisions in rapidly changing situations/environments without warning. Show flexibility and coping skills to function in fast-paced clinical situations with multiple psychosocial issues presenting.

Student initials _____

Cognitive Skills

Candidate must possess sufficient abilities in the areas of calculation, critical problem solving, reasoning and judgment to be able to comprehend and process information within the timeframe of a session of physical therapy interventions. Candidate must be able to prioritize, organize and attend to tasks and responsibilities efficiently. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ability to collect, interpret and analyze written, verbal and observed data about patients.
2. Ability to prioritize multiple tasks, integrate information and make decisions.
3. Ability to observe, measure and interpret normal and abnormal patient responses to physical therapy interventions and appropriately modify treatment procedures.
4. Ability to act safely and ethically in the physical therapy lab and clinic.

Student initials _____

This educational program includes clinical rotations with the candidate providing physical therapy interventions in clinic settings under the supervision of physical therapists. The candidate must have the capacity to complete eight-hour days,

and 40-hour weeks of participation in clinical education experiences. The clinical education experience provides for a truly integrative measure of the candidate's capabilities and requires that the candidate consistently demonstrate entry-level performance of the abilities of the physical therapist assistant.

Please note: These requirements do not reflect (1) the ability of the graduate to pass state licensing examinations, nor (2) functions which may be required for employment of the graduate. Students seeking admission to the PTA program must initial and sign showing they are capable of meeting the essential functions described with or without reasonable accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student with disabilities to request reasonable accommodations necessary to meet the essential requirements. If accommodation is requested, the student must provide documentation of his/her disability and specify his/her request for accommodation.

I, _____ (student full name, printed) attest that I have read and understand the essential requirements for admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Clarkson College. I believe to the best of my knowledge that I have the ability to learn and perform the mentioned requirements (please check):

- Without reasonable accommodations**
- With reasonable accommodations (further documentation is attached)**

Signature of Applicant

Date

Compiled from Technical Standards and Essential Requirements documents from the following academic institutions:

Capital Community College	Manchester Community College
Connecticut Community Technical College	Nash Community College
East Carolina University, Greenville, NC	Naugatuck Valley Community College
Fayetteville Technical Community College	Northwestern Community-Technical College
Greenville Technical College	Tunxis Community-Technical College
Guilford Technical Community College	Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

Other resources:

Ingram D. "Essential Functions Required of Physical Therapist Assistant and Physical Therapy Students." Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 1994; 8:57-59.

Ingram D. "Opinions of Physical Therapy Education Program Directors on Essential Functions." Physical Therapy. 1997; 77:37-46.

**PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:
CLARKSON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT SERVICES
101 SOUTH 42 STREET
OMAHA, NE 68131-2739**