

We are pleased to hear of your interest in advancing your 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 packet. 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:

- › Transcripts from an accredited PTA program in the United States showing proof of graduation or anticipated graduation prior to beginning the Clarkson College PTA program.
- › 2.5 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale on coursework in post-secondary education
- › 2.5 cumulative GPA for PTA program coursework
- › Proof of current, active state license/certification as a PTA. If applicant is a current PTA student, a deferment form may be submitted and proof of passing the FSBPT national PTA board exam and license/certification must then be completed by the end of the first semester at Clarkson College
- › Proof of employment with a minimum of 10 hours per week working in direct patient care as a PTA. If applicant is a current PTA student, a deferment form may be submitted, and proof of employment will then be required by the end of the first semester at Clarkson College

A maximum of 24 applicants will be accepted into the program, which begins in the fall semester.

The deadline is Jan. 15 or May 1 to be considered for admission. Complete applications received after the application deadline will be considered by the admissions committee on a rolling basis as space is available. It is the applicant's responsibility to see that all application materials have been received. Applicants must be in good standing at all previous institutions attended.

SELECTION CRITERIA		
A	⇒ 8 points (maximum)	⇒ Cumulative college GPA
B	⇒ 12 points (maximum)	⇒ PTA program coursework GPA
C	⇒ 10 points (maximum)	⇒ PTA application with written essay questions
D	⇒ 10 points (maximum)	⇒ Video recorded essay submission
E	⇒ 5 points (maximum)	⇒ Evidence of employment as a PTA
F	⇒ 5 points (maximum)	⇒ Evidence of state license or certification as a PTA

Note: Deductions from the selection criteria may be received based on transcripts receiving a no pass, incomplete, withdrawal and/or withdrawal fail for any course.

APPLICANT INQUIRES & SCHOLARSHIPS

For assistance during the application process, contact the Admissions office at 800.647.5500 or 402.552.3100. Information is also available at ClarksonCollege.edu.

To be considered for academic scholarships, students must be accepted to the program at the Jan. 15 deadline.

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. After each deadline, applicants who meet the admission requirements may fall into two categories:

- 1) Selected for the fall 2019 Bachelor of Science degree in PTA class.
- 2) Selected on a wait list. Students on the wait list will be notified if space becomes available.

If the program has not reached capacity after the application deadlines, applicants will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applicants not selected for admission may re-apply 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 updated application fees.

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.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Students selected for the program must be aware of the Clarkson College Progression Policy. Students must maintain a grade of "C-" or higher in each major course. 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: Nutrition Science, Essentials of Pharmacology, Statistics, Concepts of Leadership, Revenue Cycle Management, Public Health or Gerontology, Core One, Core Two, Core Three and/or Electives.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Clarkson College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all members of our campus community, as well as the patients many of our students interact with throughout their education. To protect yourself from certain conditions of risk you may be exposed to, it is essential for you to complete specific health and safety requirements according to your academic program needs. Failure to comply with such requirements will prevent class and/or on-campus weekend attendance. All health and safety requirements are at the expense of the student and are non-refundable. For additional information about this process, visit the health and safety section within ClarksonCollege.edu.

Students are required to submit a background check as part of health and safety requirements. Misdemeanors and felonies are reported to the PTA Program Director.

Drug screens may be performed randomly at the College or PTA employment site. All students should be aware of the College policies on criminal background checks and drug screening listed in the academic catalog.

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Clarkson College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400 Chicago, IL 68062-2504 PH 213.261.0456

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. Questions regarding Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). The Director of Student Support Services serves as the Title IX Coordinator and is located in the Success Center. The Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at 402.552.2693, 1.800.647.5500 or at titleixcoordinator@clarksoncollege.edu. The OCR can be contacted by visiting www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr or by calling 1.800.421.3481. Questions regarding other types of discrimination should be directed to the Director of Human Resources, Deb Tomek, at tomekdeb@clarksoncollege.edu. Questions regarding accommodations for student disabilities should be directed to the Accommodations Coordinator at accommodations@clarksoncollege.edu.



Required Prerequisite Coursework

To qualify for the Bachelor's degree in PTA option, all prerequisites must be completed prior to beginning the program in the fall semester. All prerequisites must be completed at a regionally accredited institution, and students must have received a "C-" or higher in each class. If you are currently enrolled/will be enrolled in upcoming terms for any course(s), write "in progress" or "IP" for the "Grade Received" column. Those classes include:

COURSE	INSTITUTION	TERM	GRADE RECEIVED
College Algebra 3 credit hours			
English Comp I 3 credit hours			
English Comp II 3 credit hours			
Introduction to Psychology 3 credit hours			
Anatomy 4 credit hours			
Physiology 4 credit hours			

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS	INSTITUTION COMPLETED/DEGREE RECEIVED
Associate of Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant	

Applicants with an Associate of Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant are awarded 54 credit hours.

 APPLICANT SIGNATURE

 DATE

 APPLICANT PRINTED NAME



Prepare to be the best.

License/Certification Form

Proof of License/Certification: 5 points

Deferment: 2 points

PROOF OF LICENSE/CERTIFICATION

I hereby attest the following information to be true and accurate.

The following applicant, _____, holds a current and active license
APPLICANT NAME, PRINTED
or certification by the state of _____ to practice as a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA).
My license/certification number is _____ and is valid from _____
DATE
to _____.
DATE

Required evidence of license/certification as part of this application includes the above attestation and a **copy of your current and active state license/certification.**

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____
DATE

DEFERMENT

If the applicant is a student currently in process completing an A.S./A.A.S degree as a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA), this requirement may be deferred at the time of application as they have not passed the NPTE PTA board examination or eligible to be employed as a PTA.

The applicant may sign below acknowledging admission into to the PTA program—if accepted—is conditional on graduating from their current PTA program, passing the NPTE PTA board examination and becoming licensed/certified in their state of practice.

If enrolled at Clarkson College, it is the student’s responsibility to submit the updated form by the end of his/her first (fall) semester showing license/certification as well as employment as outlined above as a PTA.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____
DATE



Proof of Employment Form
 Proof of License/Certification: 5 points
 Deferment: 2 points

PROOF OF LICENSE/CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the following applicant, _____, is a current employee of
APPLICANT NAME, PRINTED

the below agency and employed a minimum of 10 hours per week in direct patient care as a state license or certified Physical Therapist Assistant.

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT PER WEEK	AGENCY/FACILITY

SUPERVISOR/MANAGER/DIRECTOR OF REHAB NAME, PRINTED CREDENTIALS

SUPERVISOR/MANAGER/DIRECTOR OF REHAB E-MAIL PHONE

SUPERVISOR/MANAGER/DIRECTOR OF REHAB SIGNATURE DATE

APPLICANT SIGNATURE DATE

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APPLICANT SIGNATURE DATE



Written Essay Application Questions

Answer the questions below and submit a typed response totaling no more than three pages in length. Your responses will be judged on use of language, response relevance, and your career knowledge of a PTA and the field of physical therapy. Applicants may be awarded up to 10 points toward admission into the PTA program. These questions replace the Statement of Motivation" essay on the undergraduate application for admission.

1. Why do you want to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in PTA? How do you believe it will help to attain your personal and/or professional goals?
2. Describe the strategies you plan to implement in order to balance personal life, practice as a PTA and your education in the Bachelor's degree option of the Clarkson College PTA program.
3. Describe your personal philosophy on leadership and give an example of a time in which you acted as a leader.
4. As a student, you will be graded on many aspects of your performance—both in didactic and clinical settings. One such criterion is professionalism. Describe what professionalism means to you and why it's important in your role as a PTA.



Video Essay Application Questions

A recorded video (audio and visual) submission is needed as part of the admissions requirements. Applicants may be awarded up to 10 points toward admission.

Applicants will upload their completed video to his/her preferred public video-sharing site (ex: YouTube, Google Drive). After uploading, visit ClarksonCollege.edu/video-submissions to complete the video submission form and provide the URL or access code to view the uploaded video.

The video should be no more than 10 minutes in length and should address the following questions:

1. Begin with an introduction and highlight the strengths you believe will contribute to your success when earning your Bachelor of Science degree in PTA. What are your personal/professional weaknesses?
2. Create and explain an acronym composed of adjectives that best describes you. For example, "I am C.A.R.E., Confident, Articulate, Responsible and Ethical."
3. Demonstrate a patient education session and instruct an exercise technique (ex: strengthening, stretching, wound care, exercise). Be sure to justify the choice of intervention and your recommendation.
4. You are in charge of designing a four-week course. Describe the topic(s) covered in the course, your approach to teaching the material, activities used and how to assess participant learning.
5. Closing statement of your choosing.



Prepare to be the best.

Technical Standards of PTA Education

Admission, retention & graduation standards: Essential requirements for Clarkson College PTA program candidates

The candidate for the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program should consider the following essential requirements. The PTA is a professional 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 admission, 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 PTA 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:

- › Coordination, speed and agility to assist and safely guard (protect) patients who are walking exercising or performing other rehabilitation activities.
- › Ability to move or position patients and equipment, which involves lifting, carrying and pulling.
- › 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.
- › Ability to perform—with safe and proper body mechanics—the transfer and gait training techniques used during physical therapy interventions with patients.
- › Ability and dexterity to manipulate devices and treat patients in physical therapy, which may involve adjusting gauges, dials, small nuts/bolts, equipment settings, etc.
- › 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:

- › 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.

- › 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.
- › 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.
- › 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:

- › 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.).
- › Ability to effectively communicate (interpret and express) information regarding the status, safety and rehabilitation of patients.
- › Ability to effectively communicate (verbally and document) with patients/families, health care professionals, community members and with reimbursement payers.
- › Ability to communicate and document effectively via computer.
- › 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:

- › 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.
- › 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.
- › Manage physically taxing workloads and emotional stress.
- › 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 time frame 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:

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

Student initials _____

CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS

This educational program includes assignments, activities and obligations required of the practicing PTA to perform in order to demonstrate learned skilled while providing physical therapy interventions in their employed clinic setting under the administration of a supervising physical therapist. The ability to apply and integrate the hands-on educational skills into their current, contemporary practice is a vital component to achieving competency in these skills as a PTA. The cornerstone to the Bachelor's degree in PTA tract requires consistency in demonstrating safe, skilled application within the legal rules and regulations governing physical therapy and PTA practice.

Note: These requirements do not reflect (1) the ability of the graduate to pass state licensing or certification 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, _____, attest that I have read and understand the essential
STUDENT FULL NAME, PRINTED

requirements for admission into the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant program. I believe to the best of my knowledge that I have the ability to learn and perform the mentioned requirements.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

**Return application materials to:
Clarkson College Admissions Office
101 South 42 Street Omaha, NE 68131-2739**

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

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

Additional 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.