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 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:

- 2.5 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale
- 2.5 cumulative GPA for math and science courses

A maximum of 24 applicants will be accepted into each program—traditional and transfer—and both programs begin in the fall semester.

The deadline is Nov. 30 or Feb. 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. Students admitted at the Nov. 30 deadline will be given priority consideration for scholarships.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Points (maximum)</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Awarded for either a campus visit or Clarkson College Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cumulative college GPA or high school GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Math and science GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistant application questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Observation questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Number of transferable college credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.*

### 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 2020 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.

Students who are accepted at the Nov. 30 deadline will receive priority consideration for scholarships.
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 PTA traditional and transfer programs beginning in the fall 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 coursework only. Students receiving a “D,” “F,” “WF” or “NP” in the PTA major and support coursework 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 I, Medical Terminology, Introduction to Psychology, College Algebra and Health Care Core coursework.

**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 clinical 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.

Misdemeanors and felonies are reported to the Program Director and Academic Clinical Coordinator of Education (ACCE). This may withhold a student from placement at a clinical site or the ability to obtain a license/certification as a PTA after graduation.

Drug screens may be performed randomly at the College or clinical site and are required by some clinical agencies prior to the start of the clinical rotation. All students should be aware of the College policies on criminal background checks and drug screening in the academic catalog.

**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  PH 703.706.3245  apta.org

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. Questions regarding accommodations for student disabilities should be directed to the Accommodations Coordinator at accommodations@clarksoncollege.edu.
Clarkson College offers two options within the PTA program. Please select the option to which you are applying so we may better assist you throughout the application process. The requirements for each program are listed below.

**Please select one of the following programs:**

- **PTA transfer option (four semesters)**
  - To qualify for this option, you must have completed all prerequisites prior to beginning the program in the fall semester. Those prerequisites must have been taken 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>GRADE RECEIVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Composition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Algebra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>3 credit hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
<td>1 credit hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy</td>
<td>4 credit hours</td>
<td>(within five years)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>4 credit hours</td>
<td>(within five years)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  Students are also required to have one of the following completed in addition to the above prerequisite coursework at a regionally accredited institution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>INSTITUTION COMPLETED/DEGREE RECEIVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or higher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree or higher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 hours of general electives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **PTA traditional option (six semesters)**
  - There are no prerequisites required before beginning this program. Credits may still be transferred from a regionally accredited institution, and students must have received a “C-” or higher in each class.

---

APPLICANT SIGNATURE ___________________________ DATE ___________________________

APPLICANT PRINTED NAME ___________________________
After selecting a traditional or transfer option on the program selection form, students have the option to be reviewed and accepted into the dual Associate’s degree to Bachelor’s degree in PTA program option:

☐ PTA: Associate’s degree to Bachelor’s degree dual application
After successfully completing the Clarkson College Associate’s degree in PTA, students will directly begin the Bachelor of Science in PTA program option.

Note: Must complete and graduate with an Associate’s degree in PTA in order to sit for the national board examination. Students cannot take the Bachelor’s degree in PTA courses until after receiving their Associate’s degree in PTA. Students must sit for and pass boards by the end of their first semester in the Bachelor’s degree program option. Additionally, students must have PTA employment (minimum of 10 hours per week) by the start of their second semester in the Bachelor’s degree program option.

The applicant may sign below acknowledging admission into to the Clarkson College Bachelor’s degree in PTA program—if accepted—is conditional on graduating from the Clarkson College PTA program, passing the NPTE PTA board examination and becoming licensed/certified in his/her state of practice.

Bachelor’s degree-seeking students must also show employment at a minimum (average) of 10 hours per week in direct patient care as a state certified/licensed PTA by the start of the second semester.

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. These forms can be obtained from a Clarkson College PTA faculty member.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE __________________________ DATE __________

APPLICANT PRINTED NAME __________________________
**Observation Hours & Questions**

You are required to complete a minimum of **12 observation hours**. You may choose any physical therapy facility to complete your observation requirements, and you may observe a physical therapist (PT), physical therapist assistant (PTA) or both. Applicants are encouraged to observe two different settings, such as outpatient clinics, hospitals, nursing home settings, etc.

Due to organization policies/procedures and HIPAA regulations, scheduling observation hours may be difficult, and you will need to allow scheduling time to complete the necessary site volunteer paperwork.

We urge applicants to schedule observation hours well in advance of the application deadline.

In addition to the **12 observation hours**, you are required to complete the following questions for up to **eight points toward admission** into the Clarkson College PTA program. Ask the following questions to a PT or PTA you are shadowing while on observation, and type your responses on a separate document. Ask the PT or PTA you are shadowing if it’s okay to have a pen and paper with you during the observation in order to have enough information to thoroughly answer the questions below. Please respect the patients’ rights to confidentiality as you answer these questions.

1. PT or PTA: What are the most rewarding aspects of his/her job and why? What are the most challenging aspects of his/her job?

2. How does a PTA contribute to providing quality care for patients? Are PTAs used in their clinical practice? Why or why not?

3. What other careers—if any—did s/he consider, and why did s/he finally choose physical therapy? What attributes does s/he have that make them a good PT or PTA?

4. As an observer, what did you learn about the profession that you did not know?

5. Part of being a health care professional is understanding—and complying with—regulations set forth in the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) 1996 et al. In your own words, define “patient confidentiality” and how it will be related to your practice as a PTA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOURS OF OBSERVATION</th>
<th>FACILITY</th>
<th>CLINICIAN NAME &amp; CREDENTIALS</th>
<th>CLINICIAN SIGNATURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPLICANT SIGNATURE**

**DATE**
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 essay on the undergraduate application for admission.

1. Search your state’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website. After reviewing the rules and regulations for the physical therapy profession, describe in your own words the clinical duties and legal responsibilities of a PTA. Please list what state practice act you reviewed. View practice acts by visiting www.physicaltherapypracticeact.org/nebraska-physical-therapy-practice-acts to get started.

2. Go to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) website at apta.org and select the “Careers and Education” tab. After reviewing the information provided on PT/PTA careers, explain in your own words the differences in the educational requirements and patient care roles between the PT and PTA.

3. Identify and describe your two greatest strengths. How would each enhance your ability to perform the job duties of a PTA?

4. Identify and describe two of your personal weaknesses. How would they detract from your ability to perform the job duties of a PTA?

5. Who/what has helped you make the decision to pursue a career as a PTA versus other health care professions?

6. 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.
The candidate for the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program should consider the following essential requirements. The 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 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 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.

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, ____________________________________________________________, attest that I have read and understand the essential 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: