



Tarrant County College
Trinity River Campus East

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

2024-2025

Application

Information Booklet

The deadline to submit online application and upload all required documents for this program is:

JUNE 1, 2025

Applications will be taken on the next immediate business day only if June 1st is not on a business day.

Complete and Submit Online Application at
<https://tccdforms.tccd.edu/Forms/HealthSciencesProgramApplication>

Information contained in this document is to be used only for the current application period.
Application procedures and requirements may change from year to year.

The Trinity River advisement office provides healthcare professions advisement by appointment only.
for current TCC students.

To Schedule: E-mail TR.HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu or phone 817-515-1484.

Tarrant County College - Trinity River East Campus
245 East Belknap
Fort Worth, TX 76102

www.tccd.edu www.tccd.edu/physicaltherapistassistant

Dear Applicant,

The faculty of Tarrant County College's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program appreciates your interest in our program. The purpose of this packet of information is to answer your questions and to make your application to the program less complicated.

Tarrant County College is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Undergraduate associate degrees are offered in a variety of fields. Each of the five campuses in the district offer typical student services such as a library, testing and counseling, student organization opportunities, etc. Please note: on-campus housing is not offered; however, most campuses are located near private apartment complexes. For more information about Tarrant County College, go to www.tccd.edu.

The PTA program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). This accreditation satisfies the educational requisite to sit for the licensure exam administered by the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. The program is well-supported by local hospitals, private practice clinics, and rehab facilities in and around Tarrant County. Our graduates have excellent pass rates on the licensure exam and are actively recruited by employers. For more information on physical therapy education accreditation or general information about physical therapy, go to www.apta.org. For more information on licensure requisites, go to www.ptot.texas.gov.

The curriculum plan for the program begins in the fall semester of the school year and consists of five consecutive semesters. Besides the PTA courses, our program includes a full complement of general education and science courses necessary for earning an Associates of Applied Science degree (see curriculum plan Appendix A). Successful completion of the program satisfies the academic requirement for applying for state licensure as a PTA.

Currently, the PTA courses are offered only during the day on weekdays. The student schedule will vary each semester and is also dependent upon whether any of the general education and/ or science courses have been completed prior to admission. **Please note: Even if all the general education and science courses are completed prior to program admission, it will still take five semesters, or two years, to complete the program.** Many of the non-PTA courses may be taken during the evening, on Saturdays, or online (see sample schedule Appendix B).

During the second half of the program, students are placed in a variety of clinical sites for hands-on experience in physical therapy. Licensed physical therapists and assistants provide the student with onsite, direct supervision. Clinical hours and days vary by semester (see sample schedule Appendix B). Extensive study time outside of class is required.

Thank you again for your interest in our program. This booklet should answer most of your questions, but please contact the advising office if you have any further questions, 817-515-1484.

Sincerely,

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Tarrant County College
Trinity River Campus East

Total cost of the program is
approximately **\$9170**

See cost breakdown,
Appendix C.

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*This document contains embedded links to websites
(some links to TCC website pages, others to outside sources).
If you view this booklet in paper form, you will not see the embedded links.*

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Accreditation

Tarrant County College's (TCC) physical therapist assistant (PTA) program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Our program began in 1976 and has graduated hundreds of students who have gone on to become licensed PTAs.

TCC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award the Associate's degree. The educational programs and courses are approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

After successful completion of all requirements for the PTA curriculum plan, the student is awarded an Associate of Applied Science Degree.

Faculty

The full-time faculty of the program provide students with many years of clinical experience in various physical therapy settings. Clinical instruction is provided by experienced licensed PTs and PTAs in local hospitals, private practice clinics, rehab facilities, and long-term care facilities. Experienced adjunct faculty are also employed to teach certain courses.

Post-graduation Licensure

In Texas, licensure to practice as a physical therapist assistant is required by the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Students who complete the program satisfy the *academic* requirements for obtaining a PTA license. For complete details about Texas physical therapy licensure, contact the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners, www.ptot.texas.gov Please note: Licensure in one US state does not guarantee automatic licensure in another state. Contact the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy for more information about the licensing authorities in other states, www.fsbpt.org.

Fees associated with taking the licensure exam (administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy) and obtaining a Texas license (awarded by the Executive Council of PT and OT Examiners) are approximately \$650.

Program Mission (Prepare graduates to become licensed PTAs)

The mission of our program is consistent with and expands upon that established by the Tarrant County College District: *To provide affordable and open access to quality teaching and learning.*

In addition to the mission of the college, the PTA program strives to prepare students to be successful on the national physical therapist assistant exam, to practice legally, to exhibit professionalism, to demonstrate competency with entry-level skills appropriate for a physical therapist assistant, and to become employed as licensed physical therapist assistants.

We accomplish this by maintaining a faculty cohort that demonstrates experience in a wide variety of physical therapy clinical settings, ongoing curriculum development and improvement, fair and consistent student performance assessment, quality program management, demonstrating professionalism, promoting quality teaching, and showing a commitment to the profession, institution, the program, and students.

Program Philosophy

The program philosophy is an integration of beliefs founded in community college education, in the physical therapy community, and in basic management principles. The program subscribes to the stated vision and values of the institution—that Tarrant County College will be recognized for its academic excellence, open access, diversity, student success, service to the community, and innovation and creativity.

We also make every effort to integrate into the program and curriculum the fundamental values promoted in the profession of physical therapy—professional ethics and conduct, patient advocacy, lifelong learning, and the promotion of physical therapy as a vital part of patient rehabilitation.

In addition, we recognize that not only are we educators, but that we are also managing *individuals* who have personal commitments, encounter difficulties, and require assistance outside the classroom. With this philosophy in mind, the program has developed goals that promote its mission and philosophy.

Program Goals and Outcomes

The goals of the program and faculty are as follows (note: institutional goals* are linked in parentheses):

1. We recognize the characteristics of the typical community college student and strive to create an environment, curriculum, and program policies that promote successful completion of the student's educational goals. (TCCD goals I, II, III)
Program outcome 1a: Students will graduate, pass NPTE exam and become employed at the set thresholds. As verified by student degree plan audit, students will have completed all program requirements to petition for graduation (expected graduation rate is 90%). As verified by FSBPT report, licensure pass rate will be at least 85% ultimate pass rate each year.
Program outcome 1b: Program faculty, Advisory Committee and students will annually assess environment, curriculum and program policies to note any trends that could improve overall student success. Program Coordinator will assess data from the AAR, Faculty Discussions, student exit surveys and Advisory Committee meeting minutes to determine if changes are necessary.
2. We recognize the fiscal responsibility toward the student and institution and, to that end, develop policies and curriculum that meets the needs of the student, the institution, the various accreditation agencies, and the profession. In addition, we strive to accomplish the mission and goals of the program within the budgetary allowances provided by the institution. (TCCD Goals I, II)
Program outcome 2a: Student costs will be kept as reasonable as possible considering the needs of a typical Texas PTA student. *Student costs:* textbook, tuition (contact hours versus credit hours), uniforms, annual APTA membership, immunizations, background checks, CPR training.
Program outcome 2b: Institutional program cost will be kept as reasonable as possible considering the needs of a typical Texas PTA program. *Institutional/program costs:* faculty workload, equipment purchases, teaching materials, office supplies, C&I proposals (changes in contact hours versus credit hours), professional development, and conference expenses.
For outcomes 2a and b the program coordinator and departmental administrators will annually review fiscal practices to determine if needs are being met and whether the current budget is sufficient and/or if increases are necessary.
3. We recognize the needs of the local physical therapy community and work toward producing graduates of the quality and quantity to support local employment needs, to support clinical education efforts, and to be

a source of economical, accessible, professional continuing education. (TCCD goals I, II) (Student outcomes 1, 6)

Program outcome 3a: The program will produce sufficient quantity and quality of graduates to serve the local employment needs and clinical education efforts (quality students in a clinical setting and future clinical instructors to serve the program).

The program coordinator will annually assess employer survey data to determine graduate quality, clinical instructors available to the program, and current local employment needs.

Program outcome 3b: The program will strive to provide biannual economical, accessible, professional continuing education to the local PT community based upon institutional budgetary support (through the Trinity River Community and Industry Education Department). The program coordinator will biannually review needs assessment data of the local PT community to determine desired professional development activities.

4. We recognize the diversity of the local community of students, faculty, and prospective clinical patients and strive to develop a curriculum and policies that promote understanding and tolerance. (TCCD goals, I, II) (Student outcomes 4,5)

Program outcome 4a: The program will ensure that curriculum and policies are such that students will continuously demonstrate sensitivity to individual and cultural differences with fellow students, faculty, staff, and clinic personnel and patients. The program coordinator will annually (at minimum) assess feedback from faculty, student, clinic instructor (via PTA MACS and mid-term site visits), and public complaints to determine if appropriate curriculum and policies are in place and whether students are following stated policies.

5. We recognize the solid reputation that our graduates have in the local physical therapy community and make efforts to continue this reputation for future graduates. (TCCD goals I, III) (Student outcomes 1-6)

Program outcome 5: The program will annually assess graduate competency to determine if changes to curricular content and policy are warranted. The program coordinator will assess feedback from the Advisory Committee meeting minutes to note trends in negative feedback related to quality of the working graduates.

6. We recognize the varied needs of the faculty and strive to provide a working environment that promotes creativity, individual achievement, innovation, professionalism, and quality teaching. (TCCD goals I, III) (Student outcomes 1-6)

Program outcome 6a: During the annual Program Assessment and Strategic Planning meeting the program coordinator will provide opportunities for faculty to discuss working environments. The program coordinator will assess the feedback to determine if needs are being met or if changes need to be implemented.

Program outcome 6b: The program will annually survey faculty to determine the current working environment. The program coordinator will assess the feedback to determine if needs are being met or if changes need to be implemented.

7. We recognize the importance of process improvement and strive to continually improve the program by incorporating feedback from students, graduates, faculty, clinical faculty, and employers of graduates. (TCCD goals I, III)

Program outcome 7a. The program will annually survey the communities of interest (students, graduates, employers) to discuss program improvement strategies. The program coordinator will assess the data to determine if needs are being met or if changes need to be implemented.

Program outcome 7b: The program will annually discuss program improvement strategies with the Advisory Committee and the Curriculum Committee (a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee). The program coordinator will review Advisory Committee and Curriculum Committee meeting minutes and implement changes as appropriate.

Program outcome 7c: The program will continuously discuss program improvement strategies with the program faculty. The program coordinator will review faculty feedback and implement changes as appropriate.

8. We recognize the needs of various accreditation agency standards and strive to reflect those standards in the program policies, curriculum, and faculty choices. (TCCD goals I, III) (Student outcomes 2-5)

Program outcome 8: The program will annually assess program policies, curriculum and faculty choices to ensure the standards of various accreditation agencies are being met. The program coordinator will review available information and implement changes accordingly.

9. We recognize our duty to students who are admitted into the program; thus, we undertake to:

- maintain equipment that is safe, up-to-date, and sufficient in quantity,
- provide classroom, laboratory, and clinical environments favorable to active learning,
- be mentors as well as educators,
- provide fair and consistent student performance assessments,
- provide a curriculum that promotes success in the program, on the national exam, in clinical educational experiences, and as licensed assistants,
- identify students who may need assistance and make efforts to help the student obtain counseling, tutoring, or other assistance, and
- create an environment that promotes faculty-student communication. (TCCD goals I, III)

Program outcome 9a: The program realizes its duties to the students and performs annual inspections and inventory to ensure availability of equipment that is safe, up-to-date, and sufficient in quantity. The program coordinator will assess these data and coordinate repair/replacement of equipment and consult with faculty and other communities of interest regarding acquisition of new equipment to adequately prepare students for contemporary PT practice.

Program outcome 9b: The program will survey graduates annually to ensure that active learning environments exist in the classroom, laboratory and clinical environments. The program coordinator will review these data and implement changes as indicated.

Program outcome 9c: The program will annually review student performance assessment instruments to ensure that the instruments are fair and consistent. Individual course faculty will assess their respective course assessment tools and implement changes as appropriate.

Program outcome 9d: Through annual review of degree plan audits, FSBPT pass rate reports, SECEE data, PTA MACS and employer surveys, the program will ensure a curriculum that promotes success in the program, on the national licensure exam, in clinical educational experiences, and as licensed assistants. The program coordinator and director of clinical education will review these data and implement changes as appropriate.

Student Outcomes

If the program has followed its philosophy and accomplished its mission and goals, student outcomes, or *objectives*, will be satisfactory. The following are the student outcomes for the program:

1. After graduation, the student who sits for the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination will pass it and become licensed within one year of graduation (TCCD goal I)
2. Within six months of obtaining a license, the student will be employed as a physical therapist assistant. (TCCD goal I)
3. Prior to graduation, the student will demonstrate entry-level competency in professional behaviors, data collection skills, and physical therapy interventions in a supervised clinical setting. (TCCD goal I, III)
4. Prior to graduation, the student will follow the Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act and Rules in a supervised clinical setting. (TCCD goal I)
5. Prior to graduation, the student will describe physiological responses during progressive therapeutic exercises across systems (e.g., musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, integumentary, etc.). (TCCD goal I)
6. Prior to graduation, the student will explain the role various health care providers have in the management of commonly seen pathologies. (TCCD goal I)
7. Prior to graduation, the student will communicate appropriately as a member of the physical therapist assistant program (on campus) and as a member of the health care team (during clinical experiences). (TCCD goal I)
8. In class and/or lab, the student will demonstrate active learning. (TCCD goal I)

**note: institutional goals are linked in parenthesis and are found in the TCC college catalog. Goal I – Support student learning and success; Goal II– Ensure affordability, accessibility, and diversity; Goal III – Promote institutional effectiveness.*

Program Statistics

Pass Rates on PTA Licensure Exam

Graduation Year	May 2022	May 2023	May 2024
TCC 1 st time exam takers	90%	92.3%	90.5%
US 1 st time exam takers	80%	80.7%	76.5%
TCC ultimate pass rate **	90%	96.2%	95.2%

(Data provided by Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy)

** ultimate pass rate is within one year of graduation

Graduate Employment Rate

Graduation Year	2022	2023	2024
% within 12 months of obtaining license**	100%	100%	100%

** Of those who sought employment. Some graduates may not seek/obtain employment due to immigration status (VISA) or change in career path.

Program Acceptance and Graduation Data

Graduation 2 -Year Averages	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023	2024
Graduation Rates	95%	88%	89.7%	87.5%

** including any returning students

CURRICULUM

General Education and Specialized Courses

To encourage student success, the faculty highly **recommends** that students complete as many of the general education and specialized (HPRS) courses in degree plan as possible *prior to applying to the program*. The following non-PTHA courses may be taken before applying; however, **it is not mandatory that any be taken ahead of time**. The general education courses within the curriculum are offered in various formats: on-campus (day, evening, weekend) or distance learning via the Internet.

- BIOLOGY 2401 and 2402: Anatomy & Physiology I & II
- PSYC 2301: Introduction to Psychology
- PSYC 2308 or 2314: Child Growth & Development or Lifespan
- ENGL 1301: English Composition I
- HPRS 2200: Pharmacology for the Health Professions
- Humanities Elective: See Appendix D for list of approved humanities courses.

The following rules apply to the courses listed above:

- After beginning the program, these courses may be taken earlier than shown in the catalog curriculum.
- After beginning the program, these courses **may not** be taken **later** than shown in the catalog curriculum schedule. See Appendix A for curriculum page.

NOTE: Even if all required general education and specialized courses have been completed prior to program admission, it will still take 5 semesters (2 years) to complete the PTHA courses.

FINANCIAL AID NOTE: Taking non-PTHA courses ahead of time may reduce financial aid received later when completing program. Talk to your TCC financial aid coordinator to determine amount of reduction.

PTHA Courses

The PTHA courses are sequenced in a hierarchical arrangement in the curriculum. This allows material to be covered in a logical order, beginning with foundational information and building toward more complex concepts. Program graduates describe the courses as “rigorous”, “intensive” and “comprehensive”; thus, **students must be prepared to spend time learning the material and preparing for exams (which includes spending extensive time at school outside of scheduled class times).**

The following rules apply to the PTHA courses:

- PTHA courses **MUST** be taken in the order shown in the catalog curriculum page (these courses are offered **ONLY** during the semester shown in the curriculum).
- The student **MAY NOT** be allowed to progress to the next semester in the program until s/he successfully completes all courses (PTHA, general education, and specialized) required for the previous semester.
- Only students who have been accepted to the program may take the PTHA courses. Audits of these courses are not permitted.

CLINICAL ROTATIONS

Clinical rotations are a mandatory component of the PTA program. The program utilizes many clinical sites in the Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex – Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Johnson, Parker, and Wise counties. Although not first priority, efforts are made to place the student as close as possible to his/her home. City bus services are not available at all clinical sites. **Students must have reliable transportation to clinical and should prepare for lengthy drive times to clinical.** Students are not paid for clinical work.

The student’s clinical schedule is set by TCC’s Director of Clinical Education and the clinical facility personnel. Hours are during typical physical therapy business hours (daytime). Start and stop times are dependent upon the individual clinical and/or clinical instructor’s schedule. Rotations are 6 weeks in duration with full-time hours (up to 40 hours/ week). Start times as early as 6am and stop times as late as 8pm are possible. Clinical days are typically during the weekdays. However, in certain situations weekend days may be required.

Note: To pass a clinical course, it is mandatory to complete the assigned clinical hours.

Typical Clinical Schedule

Semester	Course	Typical Days
Fall of 2 nd year (6 week course)	PTHA 2360	Monday through Friday
Spring of 2 nd year (6 week course)	PTHA 2361	Monday through Friday
Spring of 2 nd year (6 week course)	PTHA 2363	Monday through Friday

Screening Requirements

Criminal background checks and drug screenings are mandatory **within 30 days prior to** beginning the first clinical experience. Felony convictions will prevent the applicant from acceptance into the clinical experience; misdemeanor convictions may or may not. **The student is responsible for all fees associated with these procedures (approximately \$80)** Health Science departmental policies regarding screening apply. Students may be required to complete additional screenings from individual clinical sites; cost is usually covered by the clinical site, but occasionally the student may incur the cost. **Failure to meet the criteria in any screening will result in immediate termination from the program. TCC sends an attestation of clean background and drug screens to clinical sites for those students who pass these screenings.**

Note: Satisfying the criminal background check for the program does not guarantee that the graduate satisfies the criteria for taking the Texas PTA licensure exam. If you have a felony, misdemeanor conviction, jail-time associated with a crime, you must contact the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (www.ptot.texas.gov) to ensure you are eligible to take the licensure exam after graduation. The form "Request Criminal History Evaluation Letter" is available on their website.

Health Status and Immunizations

Students **must submit documentation** to verify health status and immunizations (with the exception of TB and influenza) at the time of application or the application **will be determined incomplete and not considered**. The information must be documented by a qualified healthcare provider. **Please keep original and digital copies for your file.**

Students must meet the following immunity requirements:

- Mumps, measles, rubella, polio: proof of immunity through vaccination or titer.
- Tuberculosis: current skin test showing no active TB (or X-ray where necessary); this test must be no older than one year and must be re-administered yearly.
- Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis: current immunization (within past 10 years)
- Hepatitis A: complete series (2 doses) or proof of immunity
- Hepatitis B: complete series (3 doses) or proof of immunity titer
- Meningitis, in certain circumstances may be required before registration.
- *Covid-19 (2 injections)
- Flu vaccine yearly
- Varicella – chicken pox vaccine or titer
- Upon admission, students will upload proof to CastleBranch Compliance Tracker (Fee: \$25.00)

*Covid-19 Statement:

The health and safety of our Tarrant County College District (TCCD) community are responsibilities that we all share. TCCD does **not** require the COVID-19 vaccine to access TCCD properties or to participate in campus activities.

However, TCCD's partners may require vaccination for students enrolled in technical programs that require the fulfillment of onsite practicum/clinical coursework at one of our partnering facilities. Students in technical programs with a practicum/clinical component may be required by the partnering facility to have the vaccine to complete the practicum/clinical requirement at the partnering facility. Several hospitals require technical program students to be fully immunized against COVID-19 before arrival at the facilities.

As a result, practicum/clinical sites for unvaccinated students may be limited; therefore, graduation may be delayed if students decline clinical/practicum assignments at sites requiring vaccination.

Health and Liability Insurance

Students will be asked to provide proof of **personal health insurance** just prior to the start of clinical courses (see Appendix A for timing of clinical courses within the curriculum). Students must provide documentation indicating they are covered with at least "catastrophic or emergency care" and/ or a county health care card (JPS Connection program does not qualify). *Note: Health insurance is recommended but not required prior to the start of the program courses.*

Students are **not** required to purchase their own ***patient liability insurance*** for clinical courses. TCC obtains the insurance certificate and provides this information to each clinical site. The fee associated with this insurance is paid for by students during the fall semester of each year. Students are covered at one million dollar per incident/ three million total. **Note: This insurance does not pay for personal injuries to the student at clinical, only for the patient. The student is completely responsible for costs incurred if injured while in clinical. This insurance may not cover all legal costs if a patient is injured by the student.** Students who are accepted into the program will be required to sign a statement of understanding for liability insurance requirements.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid may be available to students based on need, academic success, and/or field of study. Information about loans, student employment, scholarships for allied health students, and applications for financial aid must be obtained from the Financial Aid Office located on the Trinity River Campus, 817-515-1058. From the TCCD website, click on the *Financial Aid* tab of the [Student Services](#) page for [online financial aid information](#).

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that financial aid paperwork is completed in a timely manner prior to the start of the semester. Students who apply for financial aid close to the start of the semester may not receive financial assistance until after payment dates are due for tuition. It is the student's responsibility to maintain contact with the financial aid advisor to know when assistance is arriving in relation to tuition payment dates. **Students are dropped automatically from classes if tuition payment is not made on time whether or not financial aid has been initially approved.**

WORKING WHILE ATTENDING THE PROGRAM

The PTA program is a highly technical program, covering complex skills and applications. All of the PTA courses are currently taught on-campus during the daytime hours. Class days vary by semester (see Appendix B for sample schedule).

The successful program student will be prepared to spend extensive time studying course material, preparing for exams, and practicing therapy techniques in lab (*outside of scheduled lab classes*).

- Content throughout the program is rigorous and compressed and the program **highly** recommends that students **not** work during the program. There are several options for scholarships, financial aid, or educational loans for students who apply and/or qualify.
- If students choose to work during the first year of the program, it is highly recommended to limit to part-time hours.
- It is **not recommended to work at all during the second year** as the rigor of the coursework and the time constraints make outside work opportunities extremely difficult to manage.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are made available in the Trinity River campus bookstore for PTHA and specialized HPRS courses before the beginning of each semester. The textbooks for all other general education courses are available at any campus bookstore before each semester. Textbooks for the PTHA courses are required however and should be purchased **prior** to the first day of classes. In some courses, electronic books (*e-books*) are available for purchase along with the hard copy of the textbook.

On the TCCD website, click on the *Bookstores and Textbooks* tab of the [Student Services](#) page for information about the [TCC bookstores](#). **It is highly recommended that students purchase as opposed to renting textbooks** as the same textbooks are often used in multiple PTHA courses. Textbooks also serve as study tools in preparation for your licensure exam as well as a reference when out in clinical practice.

Because of the nature of the textbook and course activities, used/ pre-owned books for PTHA 1225 Communication in HealthCare are not acceptable

JOB PLACEMENT POST-GRADUATION

While the PTA program does not offer job placement, historically our students who seek employment are offered a job by the time they complete the second year of the program or shortly thereafter. A temporary PTA license can be obtained so that a student may begin working soon after graduation prior taking the licensure exam for permanent licensure. Students are responsible for gaining information related to obtaining a temporary license.

TCC routinely apprise students of openings as they are brought to our attention by area employers. The Office of Career and Employment Services offers an online job listing for graduates. Employers are encouraged to list jobs with this department. The student must register with that office prior to graduation to be eligible for this service. Contact them at 817-515-1322.

The American Physical Therapy Association (Apta.org) also posts physical therapy employment opportunities on their website.

COMPUTER USE

After the student receives TCC admissions approval, he/ she will use the online **MyTCCTrack** system to select and register for classes. This system is password protected and information within this system is considered protected information. The system can be accessed via the [TCC web site](#) by clicking on the tab titled [MYTCC](#).

The program student is expected to be able to use basic computer functions, navigate the Internet, use a basic email program, and use a word-processing and power-point presentation program. Materials for each course (such as a syllabus, handouts, course objectives, Microsoft PowerPoint© presentations, etc.) are provided to the student electronically via [Canvas Dashboard](#) online system. It is recommended that a student's home computer be compatible with Microsoft products for ease of downloading. The college does provide limited on-site computers for students to use free of charge. Printing documents on any campus is **not** free, however.

DRESS CODE FOR CLINICALS AND OFF CAMPUS TOURS

It is mandatory for students to wear the program-approved uniform to all clinicals, professional seminars, and off-campus events. Women are allowed to wear a maximum of two stud earrings in each ear (no bars or large gauges) and men may not wear earrings or gauges at all. No other visible piercings (including tongue) are allowed. Clinical sites may require students to wear long sleeves to cover tattoos. *Note: The faculty will provide further information and instructions about the approved program "uniform" once accepted into the program.*

APPLICATION PROCEDURES and REQUIREMENTS

JUNE 1, 2025
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM

****Only those students with a complete application submission are considered for selection into the program. A complete application requires ALL of the items listed in this box submitted to the registrar and uploaded with the application online.****

1. Proof of admission to TCC & attendance at the Information Session
2. Program Application Form (*different from TCC college admission form*)
3. Official Transcripts (*each college*)
 - Submitted to TCC Registrar along with a **request for transcript evaluation.**
 - Proof of a 2.5 overall GPA
4. Forty (40) hours of work/ volunteer/ observation experience forms (*Appendix E*)
5. HESI A2 exam scores (all components on same day in past 2 years)
6. Three (3) reference forms (*appendix F*)
7. Proof of immunization status (*vaccine or titer*)

1. Proof of Admission to TCC and attendance at the Information Session

Prior to applying to the PTA program, the student must be accepted as a TCC student. The student can request college enrollment several ways:

- Appear in person to any TCC registrar's office and complete an application
- Print an application form online [Tarrant County College - Apply for Admission](#). Complete the form and mail in to address on the form
- Apply online: [Tarrant County College - Apply for Admission through "ApplyTexas" System](#).

If the student has not been enrolled in a TCC course for over one year, the student must complete a *Reactivation Form* through the online Web Advisor system. Without an updated record, the student may have to pay out-of-county tuition. Processing time is approximately 48 hours after submission of form.

It is recommended that students enroll with TCC prior to submitting transcripts to the registrar's office. It takes several days for an application to be processed; thus, it is recommended that students enroll at the college in time for the paperwork to be processed so that the advisement office can confirm student status.

Note: If you apply for admissions online using the “ApplyTexas” online application (the third choice in the bulleted list above), please be aware that this application method is not controlled by Tarrant County College and has been shown to delay acceptance into the college (especially during peak times of the year).

- Submit the certificate of attendance or responses to the online Information Session powerpoint as proof of attendance.

2. Program Application Form

The PTA program is a specialized admissions program. **It is a separate process than applying as a TCC student.** Students can obtain an *Application for Admission to Health Science Programs* by going to <https://tccdforms.tccd.edu/Forms/HealthSciencesProgramApplication>. **Follow instructions carefully within online application to upload information session certificate and observation form. The application will require the student to upload transcripts; however, student will ALSO need to have a copy of the official transcripts send to the Registrar’s office.**

3. Transcript Requirements

Prior to the deadline date, applicants must submit to the **TCC Registrar’s Office** separate official transcripts from **each and every** college or university attended or currently attending (**including TCC**). Graduate transcripts are required but are not used in the selection process.

A minimum overall GPA of 2.5 is required to be eligible to apply.

Students who have been enrolled in colleges or universities *other than TCC* must BOTH:

- Submit official transcripts from those colleges/ universities to the Registrar’s Office on any TCC campus, or mail to the District Office of Admissions, May Owen Center, 1500 Houston Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102
- Once admitted to TCC, complete a **Transcript Evaluation Request** online through the [WebAdvisor](#) system. The Registrar’s office will evaluate all transcripts from other colleges/ universities to determine which courses will apply for transfer credit to TCC.

In general terms, coursework from a regionally-accredited institute of higher learning can be transferred to TCC to satisfy a degree requirement, but first must be evaluated by the District Office of Admissions. If the course requested to be transferred into TCC does not have the same course number (e.g. BIOL 2401) or course title (Anatomy & Physiology I) as is used at TCC, further evaluation may be necessary at the Department Head level.

PTHA courses from other colleges MAY Not Transfer. Evaluation by the PTA Program Director would be required in these unique cases.

The following table gives courses that have, in the past, been requested to substitute for TCC’s courses but upon evaluation were deemed **not** transferable for credit toward the PTA degree plan. This is not an all-inclusive list..

TCC Required Course	Denied Substitute
PSYC 2301 General Psychology	Sociology or Human Relations

PSYC 2308 Child Growth & Development	Abnormal Psychology
PTHA 1225 Communications in Health Care	Fundamentals of Speech or Interpersonal Communication

International Transcript Requirements

Students who request transfer credits from non-US colleges or universities must make an appointment with the International Admissions Office and have transcripts evaluated **at least six weeks prior to application to the program**. Contact that office at 817-515-5232 no later mid-January to ensure all paperwork can be completed by the application deadline date. For additional information, go to ["Evaluation of Transfer Coursework"](#) from the Admissions page on the TCC Website.

Challenge Tests

Challenge tests for advanced placement credit are available for BIOL 2401 & 2402 Anatomy and Physiology. Certain requirements apply. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to take these tests, if desired. It is also the student's responsibility to apply with the registrar's office to have these credits, if given, posted to his/her transcripts. There is no fee to take the challenge test; however, there is a fee of approximately \$30 involved in posting each course's credits on the transcript. Approval to take the challenge tests must be obtained from the following individuals:

- BIOL 2401/2402 Anatomy & Physiology Physical Sciences Department
TCC Northeast Campus
817-515-8547

4. Observation hours

Students must complete a total of **40 hours** of observation (volunteer or paid) in a **physical therapy setting**. We recommend obtaining exposure in a variety of settings to get the full picture of the profession (outpatient, inpatient rehab, skilled nursing, etc.) **MUST** be done within the last 5 years under the supervision of a licensed PT/PTA. Documentation of Experience form needed for each facility in which you performed these hours.

5. HESI A2 exam: Admissions Testing Requirements

In order for students to be successful in the program, competency in math, reading, and writing skills must be demonstrated prior to application. Students must be complete with TCC Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements. **Applicants must take the HESI A2 exam at TCC**. It will cost approximately \$50.00 and will be offered on **specific dates and times**. Please refer to the HESI A2 link on the PTA program page for HESI A2 for more information regarding protocol and dates the exam will be offered. Seating is limited to 80 students/ date and is scheduled on a first come/ first served basis. Exam preparation materials can be located in the TCC library at the Trinity River Campus. Must include reading, vocabulary, grammar and math components. Each testing session should include all 4 of the required components.

6. Three (3) Reference Forms

Applicants must obtain references from **3 clinicians (PT and/ or PTA ONLY)**. These reference forms **MUST BE** from **the clinical settings where they observed physical therapy practice (See #4 above)**. See Appendix F for more details.

7. Immunization Requirements

Applicants must submit proof of vaccination or immunity (with the exception of TB and influenza) via titer with their application in order to be considered for admission. **Applicants should keep original and digital copies of all immunizations.**

ADMISSIONS RANKING

The selection committee calculates an **admissions ranking** for each student who is eligible to apply and submits a complete application. The admissions ranking is calculated by adding together the student's:

- **Cumulative undergraduate or high school grade point average (GPA)**
- **Anatomy & Physiology I & II GPA**
- **Average of the HESI A2 scores** (Reading, Grammar, Vocabulary, Math)

Bonus Points:

1. 0.1 will be given to those who are registered at TCCD as a military Veteran.
2. 0.1 will be given to those who were enrolled as dual-credit high school students.
3. 0.1 will be given to those who are applying to our program after completing an associate's degree or higher. Transcripts must state successful completion with GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Admissions rankings change every year depending upon the pool of students who apply. Keep in mind that each applicant is competing with all other applicants who apply during the same admissions period so scores will vary from year to year. ***There is no "magic number" to guarantee selection.***

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The last 5 years of your undergraduate transcripts from regionally-accredited colleges/ universities will be used to calculate a cumulative grade point average. If a student has completed a course more than once, the course with the highest grade will be used to calculate the GPA. A student may retake a course **one time** to increase his/ her admissions ranking. Anatomy & Physiology I/ II GPA is calculated separately and includes BIOL 2401/ 2402 grades. If you have not taken those courses, the A&P I/ II GPA portion of your ranking will be calculated as "0" which will result in a lower overall ranking. Therefore, it is **highly encouraged** to take these courses prior to application to improve overall admissions ranking for selection. If a student does not have at least 12 credit hours of college, high school transcripts will be used to calculate the GPA. International credits can be used if previously evaluated by TCC (see above section titled International Transcript Requirements).

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION

After the admissions rankings are calculated (refer to Admissions Ranking section above), top applicants will be notified by email as to their admission status.

Students with the highest rankings will attend a **mandatory** Top 40 Candidate Meeting. **Not attending the candidate meeting will make the applicant ineligible for admission into the program.** Shortly after the candidate meeting, students who were invited to the meeting will be notified of their final student status by email.

Alternates: The students who attended the meeting, but not selected into the incoming class, will be designated as alternates; “Alternate Ranking” is not indicated in this letter. Information regarding ranking on the alternate list will not be disclosed by TCC Selection Committee, faculty or staff. As an alternate, it may still be possible that you will be a part of the incoming PTA class. If an alternate is to be selected, the offer will be extended via email. Students selected from the alternate list for entry into the program have **24 hours** to accept the position before we move onto the next alternate. Also, selected candidates that are unable to attend the program will be replaced by the next candidate on the alternate list. More information of this alternate selection process will be discussed at the Top 40 Candidate Meeting.

APPENDIX A - PTA CURRICULUM PLAN

First Year

Fall Semester

Rubric	Course Number	Course Title	<i>Semester Hours</i>
BIOL	2401	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
PTHA	1413	Functional Anatomy	4
PTHA	1201	The Profession of Physical Therapy	2
HPRS	2200	Pharmacology for Health Professions	2
PTHA	1321	Pathophysiology for the PTA	3

Spring Semester

BIOL	2402	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
PTHA	1431	Physical Agents	4
PSYC	2301	General Psychology	3
PTHA	1405	Basic Patient Care Skills	4
PTHA	1225	Communication in Health Care	2

Summer Semester

PTHA	2201	Essentials of Data Collection	2
ENGL	1301	English Composition I	3
PSYC	2314	Child Growth and Development; or PSYC 2308	3
PTHA	2431	Management of Neurological Disorders	4

Second Year

Fall Semester

PTHA	2360	Clinical – Physical Therapist Assistant	3
PTHA	2435	Rehabilitation Techniques	4
PTHA	2409	Therapeutic Exercise	4

Spring Semester

PTHA	2239	Professional Issues	2
PTHA	2361	Clinical – Physical Therapist Assistant	3
PTHA	2363	Clinical-Physical Therapist Assistant	3
Elective(s)	##	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3

One three-credit hour course required. See Appendix D for approved courses.

Any Non-PTHA course can be taken prior to admission to the PTA Program.

APPENDIX B - SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Typical Schedule for PTHA Courses

Course days and times may vary from year to year. This chart gives only the PTHA course schedule; all other required courses (general education and specialized) must be taken at times that do not conflict with this schedule or be completed prior to admission to the program. The college offers numerous sections of general education courses that will fit into the student's schedule.

Course	Title	Days/week	Total Hours/week in class	Comments
YEAR 1: FALL TERM				
PTHA 1201	Profession of PT	1	2 hours	Extensive reading required
PTHA 1321	Pathophys for PTA	2	3 hours	Extensive reading required
PTHA 1413	Functional Anatomy	2	3 hours lecture; 4 hours lab	Student is assigned to one lab. Extensive study time outside of class with fellow classmates.
General Education Courses Required: BIOL 2401, HPRS 2200				
YEAR 1: SPRING TERM				
PTHA 1405	Basic Patient Care	2-3	3 hours in lecture; 4 hours in lab	Student is assigned to one lab. Extensive study time outside of class with fellow classmates.
PTHA 1431	Physical Agents	2-3	3 hours in lecture; 4 hours in lab	Student is assigned to one lab. Extensive study time outside of class with fellow classmates.
PTHA 1225	Communications	1	3 hours	Extensive documentation homework required
General Education Courses Required: BIOL 2402, and PSYC 2301				
SUMMER TERM				
PTHA 2201	Data Collection	2	3 hours lecture 10 hours lab	Extensive study time outside of class with fellow classmates. *Summer I only
PTHA 2431	Neurological Disorders	2-4	5 hours in lecture 6 hours in lab	Extensive study time outside of class with fellow classmates *Summer III
General Education Courses Required: PSYC 2308 or 2314, ENGL 1301				
YEAR 2: FALL TERM				
PTHA 2435	Rehabilitation Techniques	2	6 hours lecture; 8 hours lab	Extensive study time outside of class with fellow classmates. <u>Course length is 9 weeks</u>
PTHA 2409	Therapeutic Exercise	2	6 hours lecture; 8 hours lab	Extensive study time outside of class with fellow classmates. <u>Course length is 9 weeks</u>
PTHA 2360	Clinical	5	Depends upon placement	Last 6 weeks of Fall semester
YEAR 2: SPRING TERM				
PTHA 2239	Professional Issues	varies	11	Intensive program capstone course. Between clinical 2 and 3. <u>Course length is 3 weeks.</u>
PTHA 2361	Clinical	5	Depends upon placement.	First 6 weeks of Spring semester
PTHA 2363	Clinical	5	Depends upon placement.	Last 6 weeks of Spring semester
General Education Courses Required: Humanities Elective (see Appendix D for approved courses)				

APPENDIX C - PROGRAM COST ANALYSIS

Approximate Costs per Semester

	1st Year Fall	1st Year Spring	1st Year Summer	2nd Year Fall	2nd Year Spring
Credit Hours	15	17	12	11	11
Tuition*	\$1110	\$1258	\$888	\$814	\$814
Required Textbooks**	\$985	\$658	\$634	\$207	\$150
Miscellaneous #	\$325	\$325	\$450	\$325	\$415
Program uniform	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$0
APTA membership	\$90	-----	-----	-----	\$90
Total per semester	\$2510	\$2241	\$1972	\$1396	\$1379
Grand Total	\$9498				

* Tuition is presently \$74 per credit hour (based on current rates – rates can change year to year); rates listed are based on Tarrant County residency.

** Book prices are for new hardback books purchased at the college bookstore. Price includes general education and physical therapist assistant course textbooks.

Miscellaneous includes personal copying/printing fees (paper and ink), office supplies, gait belt, goniometry equipment, lab uniform, clinic uniforms and shoes, immunizations and clinic ID badge.

APTA membership is required for some course materials and assignments.

Approximate Total Cost: \$9170
Length of Program: 2 years (5 consecutive semesters)
Degree: Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

Eligibility for State Licensure: Completion of the program satisfies the educational requirement for taking licensure exam. State licensure is required for working as a physical therapist assistant in Texas. Approximate initial licensure and exam fee is approximately \$650. The Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners is the official licensing agency.

General Education & Science Courses Required: Anatomy & Physiology I & II, English Composition I, Humanities Elective, Introduction to Psychology, Child Growth & Development or Life Span Growth & Development, and Pharmacology for Health Professions.

APPENDIX D - APPROVED HUMANTIES/ FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

HUMANITIES AND VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS One 3-hour course

Visual and Performing Arts

ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation
ARTS 1303 Art History Survey I
COMM 2366 Film Appreciation
DANC 2303 Dance Appreciation
DRAM 1310 Theatre Appreciation
DRAM 2366 Film Appreciation
HUMA 1315 Aesthetics: Individual & Their Creations
MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation
MUSI 1307 Music Literature
MUSI 1310 American Music

Humanities

ENGL 2322 British Literature I to 1800
ENGL 2323 British Literature II Since 1800
ENGL 2327 American Literature to 1865
ENGL 2328 American Literature II Since 1865
ENGL 2332 World Literature I to 1650
ENGL 2333 World Literature II Since 1650
FREN 2311 Intermediate French I
FREN 2312 Intermediate French II
GERM 2311 Intermediate German I
GERM 2312 Intermediate German II
HIST 2311 Western Civilization I to 1660
HIST 2312 Western Civilization II Since 1660
HIST 2321 World Civilization I
HIST 2322 World Civilization II
HUMA 1301 Introduction to the Humanities
PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 1304 Great Religions of the World
PHIL 2306 Ethics
PHIL 2316 Classical Philosophy
SPAN 2311 Intermediate Spanish I
SPAN 2312 Intermediate Spanish II

APPENDIX E DOCUMENTATION OF EXPERIENCE (pg. 1 of 2)

Instructions to the Applicant:

It is the applicant's responsibility to secure exposure to **at least 40 hours** of **physical therapy** services either through volunteering, observation, or as a paid employee as a physical therapy tech/ aide.

- **You must provide one form from EACH facility where the hours were performed.**
- **The PT or PTA you observed or worked with must sign the form.**
- **Hours MUST have been performed within the last 5 years.**

➤ This form must be uploaded within the online application to meet this requirement.

It is recommended that the student maintains a copy of the form for their records.

Instructions to the Employer/ Facility:

The person listed on the following form has applied for admission to the physical therapist assistant program at Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, Texas. To satisfy admissions criteria, we require documentation of at least 40 hours of work, observation, volunteer experience in physical therapy. Your prompt response will assist in completing the applicant's application packet.

On the Documentation of Experience Form, please mark the category (or categories) that best describes the position held by the applicant. Write in the total clock hours completed for each category. The total 40 hours can be completed at multiple locations and times. Note: Inaccurate or false information on the form will void the student's application.

All hours must have been completed in the United States. **Do not include hours completed more than 5 years prior application deadline.** This form is only evidence of experience and not a reference.

➤ **This completed form will be uploaded within the online application.**

DOCUMENTATION OF EXPERIENCE FORM (pg. 2 of 2)

THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLETE ONLY THE TOP PORTION OF THIS FORM:

Print Name (Last, First , Maiden)	Date
Phone Number (required)	Email address (required)

THE EMPLOYER/ FACILITY MUST COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Based on the descriptions below, locate the type of hours the applicant completed and fill in the requested information.
Thank you for completing this form for the applicant.

TYPE OF EXPERIENCE	TOTAL CLOCK HOURS <small>**Within last 5 years**</small>	START DATE OF HOURS	END DATE OF HOURS
1. PAID PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH OR AIDE Hours applicant worked were as a TECH in a PT department providing <i>PHYSICAL THERAPY</i> rehabilitation as directed by a PT or PTA (combination of PT/ OT tech hours allowed, but majority must be with Physical therapy) Hours applicant worked were as an ATHLETIC TRAINER (ATC/ LAT) in a PT department providing <i>PHYSICAL THERAPY</i> rehabilitation as directed by a PT or PTA			
2. UNPAID VOLUNTEER OR OBSERVER Applicant was strictly a volunteer or observer in a PT department providing <i>PHYSICAL THERAPY</i> rehabilitation as directed by a PT or PTA			

Print Name of Person Completing this Form, Credentials and Professional Title	Signature of Person Completing this Form
Facility Name	Contact Number
<i>*If the person completing this form is not a PT or PTA (such as an office manager or HR manager), please have each PT or PTA supervising the applicant write his/ her name and signature here:</i>	

APPENDIX G

PERFORMANCE LEVELS REQUIRED FOR CLINICALS / PT PROFESSION

The following are performance levels required to perform essential job functions as a Physical Therapist Assistant. This list is taken directly from a clinical site's employee requirement list.

LIFTING

- Must be able to lift in excess of 50 pounds
- Examples: Lifting, moving, or transferring patients/clients and equipment is essential in physical therapy.

PUSHING- Moderate loads

- Must be able to push objects such as an occupied wheelchair or stretcher.

PULLING – Moderate loads

- Must be able to pull objects such as an occupied wheelchair or stretcher.

WALKING – Continual

- Must be able to walk more than 30 minutes without break.

STAIR-CLIMBING

- Must be able to climb stairs, curbs, and ramps.

STANDING - Continual

- Must be able to stand more than 30 minutes without break.

SITTING/ SQUATTING

- Must be able to bend at the knees to perform this job.
- Must be able to get into squat position to perform this job.

STOOPING

- Must be able to bend at the waist to perform this job.

REACHING

- Must be able to reach above shoulder level and behind body.

HANDS

- It is necessary to have bilaterally functioning hands.

SIGHT

- It is necessary to have vision to perform this job.
- Example: small dials on equipment, skin integrity, facial expressions, tissue colors and texture, wound debridement

SPEECH

- Must be able to communicate effectively; must have good volume, diction, and grammar skills

HEARING

- Must be able to hear oral communication as well as equipment tones (high and low)
Example: equipment tones in intensive care, patient complaints without looking at face

WRITTEN LANGUAGE

- Must be able to communicate effectively
 - must have good grammar, spelling, and handwriting skills
 - must be able to interpret written information accurately and in a timely fashion.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Must be able to work effectively in a culturally diverse setting
- Must be able to work in high stress, fast-paced environment
- Must be able to work with varying age groups (pediatric to geriatric)
- Must be able to work with varying diagnosis: stroke, head injury, spinal cord injury, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, cardiac & respiratory conditions, orthopedic injuries and surgeries, amputations, open wounds from burns or pressure ulcers, and others.
- Will be at high risk for exposure to potentially biohazard waste (blood, body fluids, and tissue).
- Will be at high risk for exposure to diseases such as Hepatitis B and HIV.

Job Opportunities: Hospitals, Rehab Centers, Nursing Facilities, Private Practice Clinics, Home Health Agencies, School Systems (ISD); the licensed PTA must work under the direction and supervision of a licensed PT.

Approximate Working Hours as Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant: Hours are generally typical business hours, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some facilities require occasional Saturday & Sunday work.

Salary: In the DFW area on average, \$29 per hour; benefits usually included if full-time; \$61,180 is annual mean salary nationally for experienced PTAs. Source: Sept 2022 Bureau of Labor Statistics data from www.bls.gov in section Occupational Employment Statistics, accessed Nov 2022. Salary impacted by setting type and additional administrative assignments.

Comments: **Extensive patient contact is to be expected.** Student must demonstrate excellent communication, critical thinking and problem solving skills. Clinical rotation begins in the 4th semester of the program. The general education courses may be taken prior to application. Student must pass criminal background check and substances of abuse screen 30 days prior to clinical/patient contact. Personal health insurance, CPR certification, and completed medical vaccination series are required prior to starting clinical. Documentation of childhood immunizations and negative TB test is required prior to starting PTHA courses. Risk for exposure to communicable diseases is significant.