

2009 – 2010

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING

▪ **Associate in Applied Science Degree**



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Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College.

Please review the enclosed Information and Application Packet. If you decide to apply for admission into the program, complete all the required steps noted on the **INFORMATION SHEET** and **APPLICATION PROCESS** pages of the packet.

Although you may begin the application process at anytime, please note that admission to the program is on a "first applied-first accepted" basis. **ALL** prerequisite requirements must be completed before admission to the program will be granted.

Please access one of the following resources or the program website if you have additional questions about the program:

1. **Website:** <http://www.gatewaycc.edu>
2. **College Advising** – Available in the Center for Health Education Careers, at 602.286.8183 or 602.286.8176.
3. **Peter Zawicki**, PT, MS – Program Director / 602.286.8476
E-mail: zawicki@gatewaycc.edu
4. **Kirsten Berdahl-Klug**, PT, M.Ed., ATC – Program Faculty / 602.286.8520
E-mail: berdahl@gatewaycc.edu
5. **Jessica Goodman**, PT, DPT – Program Faculty / 602.286.8489
E-mail: goodman@gatewaycc.edu

Please note that the curriculum and prerequisites for the program will be revised periodically. It is the applicant's responsibility to remain aware of changes that occur.

I wish you success in your educational and career pursuits.

Sincerely,

Peter Zawicki, PT, MS
Director of Physical Therapist Assisting Program

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APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1 – See a College Advisor

- a. Receive a program information and application packet

STEP 2 – Read your entire packet carefully

- a. Note any questions and contact Program Advisor/Counselor for answers

STEP 3 – Complete and submit the Letter of Intent. **SEE PAGE 21.**

STEP 4 – Complete the Student Information Form to the College

- a. Obtain form at the Registration and Records office or at:
<http://enroll.gatewaycc.edu/Enrollment/HowToEnroll/default.htm>
- b. Submit form to Registration and Records

STEP 5 – Transcripts - Request **ALL** official transcripts from colleges/universities sent to the Admissions and Records Office, GWCC, 108 N. 40th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034.

- a. Official transcripts must be sent from institution to institution, allow 2-4 weeks for receipt. Please request institution to include current name and student ID number used at GateWay Community College.
- b. Evaluations of Official College Transcripts **must be requested** by the student after their arrival at the college. To **verify** receipt of transcripts and evaluation, a **request for transcript evaluation** form must be filled out and submitted to Admissions and Records. This form can be obtained

- STEP 6 –** See a College Advisor
- a. Necessary qualifications will be checked
- STEP 7 –** Complete pre-requisites, page 5. See p.15 regarding the required volunteer/work experience. Submit P. 17-20 to the Office of Registration and Records upon completion of the experience.
- STEP 8 –** Submit the **COMPLETED** application to the Registration and Records Department.
- Students are accepted into the program based on the date and time the completed Physical Therapist Assistant Program application packet is received by the Registration and Records Department.**

A completed application packet consists of:

1. Official college/university transcripts received by GWCC Registration and Records.
2. Letter of Intent (**SEE PAGE 21**)
3. Completed Student Information Form submitted to Registration and Records
4. Documentation of completion of ENG101 and BIO160/BIO201 with a 2.4 GPA
5. Completed verification of volunteer/work/observation/ of 40 hrs (**SEE PAGES 17-20**)
6. Completed application to program (**SEE PAGE 23**)

PROGRAM PRE-REQUISITES

Please read all pertinent information about the Physical Therapist Assistant Program contained in this information and application packet. If you have any questions, please contact a College Advisor or the Program Director.

1. Submission of a high school diploma OR GED Transcripts
2. Submission of a completed Student Information Form. See a college advisor or the Registration & Records Department or access the web at: <http://enroll.gatewaycc.edu/Enrollment/HowToEnroll/default.htm>
3. A total of forty (40) hours of volunteer/work/observation hours in PHYSICAL THERAPY within the past two years. A minimum of 20 hours **MUST** be from an in-patient setting. See page 15 for additional information.
4. Successful completion of the following college courses:

		<u>CREDITS</u>
ENG101	First Year Composition	3.0
BIO160	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology OR	
BIO201	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	<u>4.0</u>
	TOTAL	7.0

NOTE: A minimum 2.40 cumulative G.P.A. in prerequisite courses is required to enter the program. For applicants considering eventual completion of a bachelor's degree BIO160 does not satisfy the science requirement at state universities in Arizona. BIO201 does satisfy the science requirement at state universities in Arizona.

HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

A negative urine drug screen, two TB skin tests, a fingerprint clearance card and an updated immunization record is required prior to clinical placement. The cost for these tests will be the responsibility of the student. If the drug test is positive for illegal or undocumented prescription drugs, the student will be dropped from the program. For consideration for readmission to the program, contact the Program Director for the process.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING

A student must fulfill the requirements for an AAS degree (refer to the college catalog) to become a Physical Therapist Assistant. It is strongly recommended that as many General Education courses as possible be completed prior to beginning the program and during the first semester.

ENG101 Composition	3.0	(included in program pre-requisites)
BIO160/201	4.0	(included in program pre-requisites)
ENG102 Composition	3.0	credits
HCC130	3.0	credits
HCC146	2.0	credits
Mathematics Elective	3.0	(a 100 level course or higher is required)
Communication Elective	3.0	credits
Humanities Elective	2.0 – 3.0	credits
PSY101	3.0	credits
CRE101/111 Critical Reading	0-3.0	credits (Waiver by assessment offered.)
Total credits	23.0 – 27.0	credits

The above classes may be taken at any accredited community college or university. If a student would like to take them outside the Maricopa Community College District, please contact a college advisor prior to taking the course to ensure transferability. Please see the GateWay Community College Catalog for a list of courses that satisfy requirements for the AAS degree.

Total Credits for an AAS in Physical Therapist Assisting

Required program credits	50.0	
Pre-requisite credits	7.0	
Additional required General Studies	<u>16.0 – 20.0</u>	
Total credits	73.0 – 77.0	

Additional Requirements

Prior to the first clinical practicum (PTA206), a student must show proof of:

- Current CPR certification at the Healthcare Provider level
- Completed Immunization and Health Declaration Form
- Current negative drug testing
- Fingerprint clearance card/criminal background check

CPR certification may be completed at GateWay (RES109/HCC109). **All costs** for CPR certification, TB testing, immunizations, fingerprint clearance and drug testing are the responsibility of the student.

Total Credits of A.A.S. in Physical Therapist Assisting Program 73.0 – 77.0 credits

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE DAY PROGRAM
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PTA Program Pre-requisites: 7 credits

- _____ 40 hours volunteer/observation/experience
- _____ **BIO160 or 201** Intro to Human Anatomy **OR** Human Anatomy and Physiology I
- _____ **ENG101**

PTA Courses First Fall (Aug- Dec) 12.5 credits

- _____ **PTA101** Survey of Physical Therapy
- _____ **PTA103** Kinesiology
- _____ **PTA104** Musculoskeletal Assessment Techniques (lecture and lab)
- _____ **PTA205** Communication in Physical Therapy
- _____ **HCC130** Fundamentals of Health Care Delivery
- _____ **HCC146** Medical Terminology

PTA Courses First Spring (Jan-May) 12.0 credits

- _____ **PTA200** Patient Mobility Techniques (lecture and lab)
- _____ **PTA202** Selected Physical Therapy Modalities (lecture and lab)
- _____ **PTA203** Clinical Pathology

PTA Course First Summer (May-June) 4.0 credits

- _____ **PTA206** Clinical Practicum I
- _____ **PTA207** Clinical Practicum I Seminar

PTA Courses Second Fall (Aug-Dec) 13.5 credits

- _____ **PTA 208** Rehab of Special Populations (lecture and lab)
- _____ **PTA 210** Orthopedic Physical Therapy (lecture and lab)
- _____ **PTA 214** Electromodalities (lecture and lab)
- _____ **PTA 215** Wound Care Management*
- _____ **PTA 217** Clinical Neurology

PTA Courses Second Spring (Jan-May) 12.0 credits

- _____ **PTA230** Physical Therapy Seminar
- _____ **PTA280** Clinical Practicum II
- _____ **PTA281** Clinical Practicum Seminar II
- _____ **PTA290** Clinical Practicum III
- _____ **PTA292** Clinical Practicum Seminar III
- _____ **PTA295** PTA Exam Review

General Education Courses 14.0 – 18.0 credits**

- _____ **ENG102** 3.0 credits
- _____ **PSY101** 3.0 credits (fulfills Soc. & Behav Sci. Elective)
- _____ **Math Elective** 3.0 credits
- _____ **Communication Elective** 3.0 credits
- _____ **Humanities Elective** 2.0 – 3.0 credits
- _____ **Critical Reading** 0 – 3.0 credits (May exempt through examination)

** General Education courses may be taken at any Maricopa County Community College or regionally accredited university. If taken outside of the MCCCDC system, consult an advisor to ensure transferability. General education courses must be completed in order to graduate.

**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE
WEEKEND / HYBRID EDUCATION COURSES**

*All course dates subject to change

PTA Program Prerequisites		Credits
BIO160/201	Human Anatomy and Physiology	4.0
ENG101	Freshman Composition	3.0
HCC130	Fundamentals in HealthCare Delivery	3.0
HCC146	Medical Terminology	2.0
Block I (May – August 2010*)		
PTA101	Survey of Physical Therapy	1.5
PTA103	Kinesiology	3.0
PTA203	Clinical Pathology	3.0
Block II (August – September 2010*)		
PTA104	Musculoskeletal Assessment	1.5
PTA217	Clinical Neurology	2.0
Block III (September – October 2010*)		
PTA200	Patient Mobility Techniques	4.0
Block IV (October – December 2010*)		
PTA202	Selected Physical Therapy Modalities	5.0
PTA205	Communication in Physical Therapy	1.5
Block VI (January – February 2011*)		
PTA206	Clinical Practicum I	3.0
PTA207	Clinical Practicum Seminar I	1.0
Block VII (January – February 2011*)		
PTA208	Rehabilitation of Special Populations	5.0
Block VIII (March 2011*)		
PTA214	Electromodalities	2.5
Block IX (April – May 2011*)		
PTA210	Orthopedic PT	4.0
PTA215	Wound Care for the Physical Therapist Assistant	1.0
Block X (May – June 2011*)		
PTA280	Clinical Practicum II	3.0
PTA281	Clinical Practicum Seminar II	1.0

Block XI (July – August 2011*)		
PTA290	Clinical Practicum III	3.0
PTA291	Clinical Practicum Seminar III	1.0
Block XII (August – September 2011*)		
PTA230	PT Seminar	2.0
PTA295	PTA Examination Review	2.0
<i>Additional required courses:</i>		
ENG102	First Year Composition	3.0
PSY101	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3.0
MAT+	Introductory Algebra or Satisfactory completion of a higher level mathematic course	3.0
+COM++	Any approved general studies course in the Oral Communication area	3.0
HUM	Humanities and Fine Arts Elective* (2.0 – 3.0 credit hours)	2.0 – 3.0
CRE101+	Critical and Evaluative Reading I (3) OR	
CRE111+	Critical Reading for Business and Industry (3) or Equivalent by Assessment	0 – 3.0

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Physical Therapy?

Physical therapy (PT) is the art and science of providing care to patients suffering from injury or disease which has resulted in a loss of motion in the joints of the body, a loss of strength in muscles, increased pain, an inability to walk normally, as well as any of several other examples of losses of physical function. Through physical therapy patients are helped to regain the ability to function at their highest possible level. Patients may include infants, children, adults, and the elderly.

Who provides Physical Therapy?

Physical therapists (PTs) assess patients, determine what treatment is necessary, and perform skilled treatments. Physical therapists assistants (PTAs) are supervised by the physical therapist. They help the physical therapist by performing selected treatment activities with patients.

I really want to become a physical therapist – do I need to become a physical therapist assistant first?

Individuals interested in becoming physical therapists do not need to complete education as a PTA to become a PT.

What Education is Necessary?

Individuals interested in becoming physical therapists complete a bachelor's degree prior to making application to enter an educational program. Programs for the education of physical therapists are at the doctoral level and generally take three years to complete.

Physical therapist assistants attend community or technical colleges that offer an associate's degree. Programs take between one and two years to complete.

Where do PTs and PTAs work?

PTs and PTAs are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, schools, home health and out-patient practice settings.

How much money do PTs and PTAs make?

The new graduate PT can expect to earn about \$60,000-65,000 per year for a full-time position. The new graduate PTA can expect to earn about \$40,000-48,000/year for a full-time position.

What is the current job market for PTAs?

The job market for PTAs is projected to continue to grow for the next several years both locally in Arizona and throughout the country. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts that, through 2010, PTAs will be among the top ten fastest growing healthcare occupations. Graduates of the PTA Program at GateWay Community College are currently in high demand.

Why should I consider a career in physical therapy?

A career in physical therapy is very rewarding. Each day physical therapists and physical therapist assistants work closely with their patients to help them recover from injuries or illnesses that have temporarily or permanently changed their lives. PTs and PTAs are important members of the rehabilitation team. Helping people to progress back towards optimal health is a wonderful experience.

PTs and PTAs work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, home health, schools, skilled nursing facilities, out-patient clinics and sports medicine centers. Work hours are generally during the daytime, Monday through Friday. Weekend work is generally available or required at hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

PTs and PTAs are men and women who enjoy challenging work, communicating with people, and working in a team to assist patients to achieve their fullest rehabilitation potential.

Do I need to pass an examination to be a PT or PTA?

To hold the title of physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in Arizona an individual must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for the respective level of education and training. The examination is administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). Costs associated with the applying for certification and taking the examination are approximately \$600.

If I have a criminal record, will that prohibit me from being successful in this career?

Possibly, our clinical agreements with the healthcare facilities require that our students receive a Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Additionally, a student must not be listed on the Federal Government's Office of the Inspector General's Exclusion List. Students that are unable to obtain either of these clearances will be prohibited from attending their clinical experience.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

How many students are admitted to the program?

A new class of 24 students is admitted each August to the traditional day program. The weekend/hybrid education program admits a new class of 20 students in May of each year. The number of students admitted may change depending on employment market conditions and the availability of clinical training sites. Students are admitted on a "first applied-first accepted" basis. There is no specific application deadline.

What do I need to do to apply to the program?

It is recommended that interested students contact a program advisor. Program faculty are also frequently available for consultation. Following these initial meetings students should then work to complete the following:

- a) BIO160 (or BIO201)
- b) ENG101
- c) 40 hours of work/volunteer experience in physical therapy. Interested applicants are encouraged to allow adequate time to complete this requirement. It may take some time to locate a site, establish a schedule, and complete the required hours.

The above requirements **MUST** be completed to be placed in the admission queue to be admitted into the program. Incomplete applications will not be assigned an admission queue number. A grade point average of 2.4 for BIO160 and ENG101 must be achieved to be admitted into the program.

What happens to my application if I am not one of the first 24 applicants for the day program or if I am not one of the first 20 applicants for the weekend/hybrid education program?

The application remains on file. If a student in the initial acceptance group is unable to take their space the position is offered to the next applicant in the order in which the application was received. If no space becomes available the application automatically rolls over to the next year.

How much does the program cost?

The cost of tuition for residents of Arizona is currently \$71*/credit hour. The total tuition to complete all prerequisites and degree requirements would be \$5,183 – \$5,467*. This amount may be decreased if the student has already completed certain degree requirements. Textbooks (approximately \$1000-\$1500), lab fees (\$150), travel to clinical sites, and other costs are extra. Financial aid may be offered to qualified students. Grants and scholarships may also be available.

* Tuition and fees are set by the Maricopa County Community College Board and are subject to change.

How long does it take to complete the program?

The day program can be completed in five semesters. Students admitted to the day program in August 2010 will graduate in May 2012, if all lecture, laboratory, and clinical courses are completed satisfactorily. Students admitted to the weekend/hybrid education program in May 2010 will graduate in September 2011, if all lecture, laboratory, and clinical courses are completed satisfactorily. Many students take a year prior to actually beginning program courses to complete program prerequisites and general education courses that are required for the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree.

Is this program accredited?

The PTA Program is separately accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). GateWay Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

CAPTE
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
703.684.2782
www.apta.org

What is the current job market for PTAs?

The job market for PTAs is projected to continue to grow for the next several years both locally in Arizona and throughout the country. For the past several years the job placement rate for graduates has been 100%.

Are the PTA Program courses transferable to colleges or universities if I decide to pursue a bachelor's degree?

Certain bachelor's degree programs will accept up to 81 credits from the program. Contact college advising (602-286-8600) for further information.

When are the classes scheduled?

For the day program lecture and lab classes may be scheduled Monday through Friday. Classes may begin as early as 7:00 a.m. and end as late as 4:00 p.m. Depending on the semester, students may be in class for 3-6 hours per day, 3-4 days per week. For the weekend/hybrid education program lecture courses will be online with periodic on campus testing. Lab classes will be scheduled Friday through Sunday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., on alternating weekends. All of the lab classes are held on site at GateWay Community College. There approximately 19 weekends of lab classes in the hybrid program.

Clinical practicum classes (PTA206, 280, and 290) are Monday through Friday for 8 hours each day for six consecutive weeks. Extended hours and weekends are occasionally necessary during clinical experiences. These classes require attendance at clinical facilities that include hospitals, extended care facilities, and outpatient practices.

What facilities do I contact to complete my volunteer/work experience?

Applicants are encouraged to contact local hospitals, nursing homes, and private physical therapy offices to arrange for volunteer experience. The program requires that 40 hours of volunteer or work experience must be completed prior to entering the program. A minimum of 20 hours must be from an in-patient (hospital, extended care facility) physical therapy practice setting. For volunteer experiences this requirement will often involve observing physical therapy practice without any direct patient interaction.

Can I work and go to school?

For the day and hybrid/weekend education programs applicants are cautioned that the PTA Program is a rigorous course of study. The program faculty recommends that work hours be kept to a minimum. Each student must make an individual decision about the number of work hours that he/she can accept while continuing to make acceptable academic progress in the program.

Is financial aid available?

Financial assistance is available to eligible students in the form of grants, scholarships, employment, or loans. Students may receive aid from one funding source or aid may be offered in a package from multiple sources. Contact the Financial Aid office at 602.286.8300 for additional information or visit their web site at: <http://enroll.gatewaycc.edu/FinancialAid/ApplyForFinancialAid/default.htm>

Does the weekend/hybrid education program have special requirements?

Students in the weekend/hybrid education program will need regular access to a computer with internet capabilities (high speed service is preferred). Students should be computer literate and must be able to access documents that are presented in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Windows Media Player, or similar software, is also required. Students will be traveling to GateWay on alternating weekends and thus reliable motor vehicle transportation is essential. Students in this education program who travel from a distance will need to make their own lodging arrangements for the weekend lab classes. Every effort will be made place students in their local communities for clinical education rotations. In the event that this is not possible students may be required to drive many miles to the nearest available clinical site.

Where can I get more information?

Website: <http://www.gatewaycc.edu>

College Advising – Available in the Center for Health Education Careers, 602.286.8183 or 602.286.8176.

Peter Zawicki, PT, MS – Program Director / 602.286.8476

E-mail: zawicki@gatewaycc.edu

Kirsten Berdahl-Klug, PT, M.Ed., ATC – Program Faculty / 602.286.8520

E-mail: berdahl@gatewaycc.edu

Jessica Goodman, PT, DPT – Program Faculty / 602.286.8489

E-mail: goodman@gatewaycc.edu

LEGAL PROCEDURES

Fingerprinting: The program requires fingerprinting and background checks prior to clinical rotations. Students are responsible for any costs associated with fingerprinting which is \$65.00. To obtain a DPS Finger Print Clearance Card you can call 602.223.2279 and ask them to mail you a finger print clearance card packet or you can visit them in person at 2102 W. Encanto Blvd. in Phoenix and pick up the packet. <http://www.azdps.gov/reports/fingerprint/faq/default.asp>

Felonies: Commission of a felony must be disclosed to the Arizona Board of Physical Therapy upon application for Physical Therapist Assistant Certification. It is the decision of the State Board whether or not to grant certification after commission of a felony. For further information contact: State Board of Physical Therapy at 602.274.0236 or visit their web site at www.ptboard.state.az.us

STUDENT SERVICES

The following are some of the services available to students.

Advising – contact a Health Sciences Academic Advisor at the Center for Health Careers Education (CHCE) at 602.286.8183 or 602.286.8176.

Bookstore – Available are textbooks and supplies for classes, call 602.286.8400. You may visit their website at: www.efollett.com and selecting “College Textbooks”.

Counseling – Academic, personal, or career counseling available. Call 602.286.8900.

Employment – Upon completion of the Health Unit Coordinator Program, contact the Career & Re-Entry Services, at 602.286.8500 for assistance.

Financial Aid – Available for qualified students. Contact the Financial Aid Office at 602.286.8300 or visit website: <http://enroll.gatewaycc.edu/FinancialAid/ApplyForFinancialAid/default.htm>

Student Assessment Center – Services include instructor makeup exams, the English, Math, and Reading ASSET or COMPASS placement tests, and selected instruments required for acceptance into the Health Science or Nursing programs. Call 602.286.8160 for specific days and times tests are available.

Tutoring Assistance – Available through the Learning Center, 602.286.8800.

For a complete listing of student services, please refer to the college catalog, or visit GateWay’s website: www.gatewaycc.edu or call college information at 602.286.8000.

POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE

Policies, courses, programs, fees, and requirements may be suspended, deleted, restricted, supplemented, or changed through action of the Governing Board of the Maricopa Community Colleges.

The Maricopa Community Colleges reserves the right to change, without notice, any materials, information, curriculum, requirements, and regulations.

Admission or graduation from any Allied Health program at GateWay Community College does not guarantee the student’s professional certification, licensure, or employability. The student must comply with legal requirements of the profession. This may include provisions from Arizona Revised Statutes 41-1758.03 (sections B and C) regarding the denial of a fingerprint clearance card or being listed on the US government’s Office of Inspector General’s Exclusion List.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The following is a list of physical/mental requirements that are expected of students in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

1. Demonstrate visual acuity and auditory ability to assess the condition of a patient and administer effective patient care.
2. Demonstrate manual dexterity, eye-hand coordination, fine and gross motor skills, and tactile abilities to perform functions as directed by the physical therapist and in accordance with skills outlined in section three of the Evaluative Criteria for the Accreditation of Physical Therapist Assistant Education Programs (see attachment).
3. Demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills for effective patient management and implementation of selected treatment interventions.
4. Maneuver equipment in a patient’s room or in the physical therapy department.
5. Work in stressful situations that require quick thinking and the simultaneous coordination of a variety of activities.
6. Demonstrate physical agility to respond to patient and family needs, including unexpected changes in the patient’s status.

7. Demonstrate the physical ability to assist patients in ambulating, positioning in bed, and transferring from the bed/mat, wheelchair or car.
8. Demonstrate proper body mechanics for lifting.
9. Lift objects in excess of 100 pounds with assistance with frequent lifting and/or carrying objects weighing 50 pounds or more.
10. Tolerate prolonged standing, stooping, squatting, bending, pushing, and pulling.
11. Demonstrate ability to read, write, understand and speak English.
12. Demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills with internal and external customers.

Students who are unable to perform these functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, may be unsafe in the clinical environment and thus will likely be unsuccessful in the program.

VOLUNTEER / WORK / OBSERVATION HOURS

Forty (40) hours of volunteer/work/observation are a prerequisite to application for admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at GateWay Community College. This requirement has a two-fold purpose. First, it assures that the applicant has done career exploration in the field. The applicant should be well aware of the job duties and responsibilities of the PTA through the volunteer/work/observation and thus be able to make an intelligent decision about the appropriateness of pursuing this career goal. Second, the program wants to be reasonably certain that students entering the program are committed to this career goal. The volunteer/work/observation requirement is used to assure that applicants have had first hand experience about the job duties that a PTA is required to perform. **The applicant should expect that the majority of facilities only allow volunteers to observe of physical therapy practice. "Hands on" experience is not allowed in most facilities.**

Volunteer/work/observation hours can be gained at a number of facilities which provide physical therapy services. These facilities include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing units/facilities, rehabilitation units/hospitals, private practices, business owned practices (CIGNA, Occupational Medical Centers), schools, and private agencies (Easter Seals). **A minimum of twenty (20) hours must be from an acute care, skilled nursing, or rehabilitation setting.**

It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for volunteer/work/observation hours or to certify work experience gained in the field. Volunteer/work/observation can be arranged by contacting the physical therapy departments of the types of facilities noted above. Phone numbers and locations of facilities may be found in the Yellow Pages under the headings "Hospitals," "Physical Therapy," and "Nursing Homes." Facilities may have a waiting list for volunteers and may have limited hours in which volunteers can be accommodated. Applicants often achieve the required hours of volunteer service through attendance at multiple facilities. It is common to contact a number of facilities before observation can be arranged. Some orientation may be required. Plan ahead. Allow several weeks to find a facility or facilities to complete the 40 hours.

The volunteer/work/observation hours must be certified by a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant. Please see the Volunteer/Work/Observation Hours Verification and Assessment Form included in this packet. One form is required from each facility at which work/volunteer experience was completed.

VOLUNTEER / WORK / OBSERVATION HOURS VERIFICATION & ASSESSMENT FORM

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE APPLICANT - On the attached form PRINT your name in the indicated spaces. Give this form and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to each Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist Assistant who has observed your performance during your volunteer/work/observation in PHYSICAL THERAPY. Only DIRECT volunteer/work/observation in PHYSICAL THERAPY will satisfy the prerequisite requirement. Volunteer/work/observation must have occurred within the past two years. Make additional copies of this form if your volunteer/work/observation have been performed in more than one facility. A separate form should be provided to each facility.

Applicants must submit the Volunteer/Work/Observation Verification and Assessment form(s) with their application to the program.

**VOLUNTEER / WORK / OBSERVATION HOURS
VERIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT FORM**

(Page 1 of 3)

Applicant's Name _____

Social Security # or GateWay ID # _____

The above named applicant is applying for admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College. A provision of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 allows students to review the Volunteer/Work/Observation Verification and Assessment form unless the student waives the right in writing.

I waive the right to review this Volunteer/Work/Observation Verification and Assessment Form.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY VOLUNTEER/ WORK/OBSERVATION SUPERVISOR

Please complete the form below. Forty hours (40) of volunteer/work/observation hours are required for admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at GateWay Community College. A minimum of twenty (20) hours **MUST** be from an in-patient facility setting. The rating and comments sections of this form are used for student advisement purposes.

After completing the form please mail the form to the address provided below. To assure confidentiality, please sign your name across the back flap of the envelope.

GateWay Community College
Registration and Records
108 N 40th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034-1704

I, _____, do hereby verify that _____
(SUPERVISOR'S NAME - PLEASE PRINT) (APPLICANT'S NAME PLEASE PRINT)

has completed _____ hours of work/volunteer experience in physical therapy at

(FACILITY NAME)

Supervisor's Signature _____

Date _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Work Phone Number _____

PT/PTA License or Certificate # _____

State _____

**VOLUNTEER / WORK / OBSERVATION HOURS
VERIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT FORM (cont'd)**

(PAGE 3 OF 3)

The physical therapy volunteer/work/observation certified on this form can best be described as occurring in the following setting:

* **NOTE:** A minimum of twenty (20) hours must be from the in-patient setting. If several types of experiences were provided at one facility, please specify the number of hours spent in each type of experience.

HOURS

- _____ Acute Care Hospital
- _____ Rehabilitation Unit - Hospital based
- _____ Rehabilitation Unit - Free standing
- _____ Outpatient Services - Hospital based
- _____ Private Practice
- _____ Sports Medicine
- _____ Extended Care Facility
- _____ Industrial injury rehabilitation clinic
- _____ Home care
- _____ Pediatric care
- _____ School based physical therapy
- _____ Cardiac Rehabilitation
- _____ Other (please specify)

Submit to:
GateWay Community College
Registration & Records
108 N 40th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034-1704

**LETTER OF INTENT
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

I plan to complete all pre-requisites and begin the GateWay Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program (check one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 2010 Distance Program | <input type="checkbox"/> August 2010 Day Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 2011 Distance Program | <input type="checkbox"/> August 2011 Day Program |

Please print clearly:

LEGAL NAME - LAST FIRST MIDDLE

ADDRESS STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE NUMBER HOME PHONE NUMBER WORK PHONE NUMBER CELL

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS

Signature Date

It is the applicant's responsibility to keep the college and advisor informed about changes about the above information. Please answer the following questions. They are designed to help us gather data and in no way affect the admission process.

- How did you find out about the field of physical therapy? (check all that apply)
 Friend/Relative Physical Therapist/Assistant Experience as a patient
 Radio Print Ad TV Ad Internet
 Other (please specify) _____
- How did you find out about the PTA program at GWCC? (check all that apply)
 Friend/Relative Physical Therapist/Assistant Experience as a patient
 Radio Print Ad TV Ad Internet
 Other (please specify) _____
- If you plan to work while attending the program, will it be (check one)
 Full-time Part-time
- Do you have another degree? yes no
If yes: Associates Bachelor's Master's or higher
- Do you have another healthcare license or certification? yes no
If yes, in what area? _____

Mail to: GateWay Community College
Registration & Records
108 N 40th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034-1704

**PROGRAM APPLICATION
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

I intend to enter the PTA Program class beginning (check one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 2010 Hybrid/Weekend Program | <input type="checkbox"/> August 2010 Day Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 2011 Hybrid/Weekend Program | <input type="checkbox"/> August 2011 Day Program |

NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to assure that the information on this application remains current. The applicant must inform GateWay Community College of any changes in the information provided below. Failure to provide current information may result in the applicant forfeiting their program space.

Please print clearly:

LEGAL NAME - LAST FIRST MIDDLE

FORMER NAME(S) which may appear on transcript(s)

ADDRESS STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE NUMBER HOME PHONE NUMBER WORK PHONE NUMBER CELL

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS

ADMISSION APPLICATION DISCLAIMER:

Admission to the Gateway Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program does not guarantee that a student will receive an Associate in Applied Science Degree from the college. Further, completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is not the sole criterion for obtaining a license/certificate to work as a physical therapist assistant. Licensing/certification requirements, if required, are the exclusive responsibility of the individual State Board of Physical Therapy or similar agency, and an individual must satisfy specific requirements of those agencies independent of graduation from the an accredited PTA education program.

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the above answers are true, correct and complete. I understand that any falsification or intentional misrepresentation of information on this application may be cause for dismissal from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program and from the college.

Applicant's Name (PRINT)

Signature

Date

Submit to:

GateWay Community College
Admissions and Records Office
108 N 40th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034-1704