

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Application Packet

Fall 2022

Dear Physical Therapist Assistant Student Applicant:

We at River Valley Community College welcome your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program. We encourage you to review the PTA program website prior to applying and contact us if you have any additional questions. Enclosed, please find information regarding the college and the program and the application process.

Please work through the following document as your supplemental application for the PTA program.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kim-Laura Boyle

Kim-Laura Boyle, PT, DPT, MS

Program Director

Chair: Rehabilitation Services

email: kboyle@ccsnh.edu

phone: 603.542.7744 ext. 5434

Amanda Couitt

Amanda Couitt, PT, DPT

Director of Clinical Education

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Admission Policy and Procedure for the PTA Program

The RVCC PTA Program can accept up to 24 students in each cohort. Cohorts begin each Fall Semester. We use a rolling admissions process and allow applicants to apply at any time. Seats are offered on a first come, first served basis until the cohort is filled. Steps to apply to the program are outlined below.

- 1) Applicants to the program should begin by completing an online application via the River Valley admissions website: <https://www.rivervalley.edu/admissions/welcome/>
- 2) Complete this packet and provide the information requested by uploading it to the Admissions Portal via Target X: https://ccsnh-apply.force.com/apply/TX_SiteLogin?startURL=%2Fapply%2FTargetX_Portal_PB
- 3) If you are a current student, and you want to change majors, please discuss this change with your current academic advisor first. You will then need to complete a change of major form in addition to the materials in this packet. <https://www.rivervalley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Program-Change-Or-Add-Form.pdf>
- 4) Submit your transcripts to the college based on your individual situation (pick one/more from the list below: a-f). All transcripts should be submitted to the college: River Valley Community College, Attn: Admissions, 1 College Place, Claremont, NH 03743; electronic submissions can be sent to RVCCAdmissions@ccsnh.edu
 - a. Contact your high school guidance office and request your official high school transcript be submitted to RVCC
 - If you have passed any of these college-level courses: Intro to Chemistry or Chemistry or Anatomy & Physiology I, you can skip this requirement.
 - b. If you took any relevant AP (advanced placement) courses in high school, they may be eligible for transfer of credit. Please contact the College Board (<https://www.collegeboard.org/>) and request your formal transcript be submitted to RVCC
 - c. If you earned your GED or took the HiSET, please contact the site where you tested and request your official scores be submitted to RVCC
 - d. If you have taken any college courses outside of the CCSNH, please request an official transcript be submitted to RVCC
 - e. If you have taken any college courses at our other sister Community Colleges in NH, you do not need to request a transcript from the sister college. We already have access to the transcript.
 - f. If you have previously tested out (via CLEP testing) of any previous college courses, please contact the College Boards and request your formal transcript
- 5) Complete the additional PTA Program application requirements on the following page

Additional PTA Program Application Requirements

Be sure to review this packet in detail and make sure you have completed all sections as well as provided documentation of all required items listed below:

1. Please provide your SAT scores to River Valley Community College Attn: Admissions, 1 College Place, Claremont, NH 03743. The SAT scores can be waived under the following circumstances:
 - a. You have successfully completed college-level English or college-level Mathematics course **AND** submitted those transcripts to RVCC; please contact Program Director Kim-Laura Boyle to have your SAT scores waived: kboyle@ccsnh.edu
2. Via transcripts submitted above, provide proof of successful completion of **one** of the following:
 - a. High school Chemistry
 - b. Previous college level Chemistry
 - c. RVCC course: Introduction to Chemical Principles (minimum grade C) (or equivalent from elsewhere)
 - d. RVCC course: Anatomy and Physiology I (minimum grade C)
 - e. Transferring in college-level Anatomy and Physiology I (minimum grade C) (A&P courses taken elsewhere that had an on-line lab may not transfer for credit to the college)
3. Via SAT scores or previous college transcripts, provide proof of successful completion of **one** of the following:
 - SAT EBRW (current version of SAT test) Reading/Writing score at least 500
 - RVCC course: English Composition I (minimum grade C)
 - Transferring in English Composition I or equivalent (minimum grade C)
4. Via SAT testing, or previous college transcripts, provide proof of successful completion of **one** of the following:
 - a. SAT math score = 450
 - b. RVCC course: Fundamentals of Math Literacy (minimum grade of C or higher)
 - c. RVCC course: Fundamentals of Math Literacy for STEM ((minimum grade of C or higher)
 - d. RVCC course: Statistics 1 (minimum grade of C or higher)
 - e. Transferring in college level Statistics 1 or equivalent (minimum grade of C or higher)
5. Upload to Target X a current résumé
6. Please read the following documents in this packet and fill in information requested and then upload this packet to the Admissions Portal.
 - a. Essential Skills/Technical Standards information page signed
 - b. Criminal/Background Check and Drug Testing Attestation signed
 - c. PTA Student Statement of Background Disclosure page signed
 - d. Clinical Education Policy / Clinical Education and Disability Services information page signed
 - e. PTA Program Supplemental Questionnaire

LASTLY: When all of the above items have been completed, you may request the final step which is an **Advising Meeting** with the PTA Program Director. Please contact Kim-Laura Boyle: kboyle@ccsnh.edu when you are ready to schedule the advising meeting. Plan an hour for the meeting. This meeting can be done in person or via Zoom. Advising meetings will not be held with an applicant until all other steps have been completed.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS/TECHNICAL STANDARDS OF THE PTA

Students must possess the following abilities or be able to perform the skills using compensatory techniques and/or adaptive devices. These essential abilities include:

Physical Skills:

- The ability to safely bend, twist, and lift to assist a patient moving from one surface to another.
- The ability to apply manual resistance to a patient's arm, leg or trunk during exercise.
- The ability to perform chest compressions necessary for CPR.
- The coordination, balance, and strength to safely guard and protect a patient negotiating stairs with an assistive device.
- The ability to crouch, kneel, reach, push/pull, and crawl to perform exercises with patients.
- The ability to climb when instructing or assisting a patient on the stairs.
- The agility to move quickly to ensure patient safety.
- The physical capacity to work a 40-hour week during clinical affiliations.
- Sufficient manual dexterity to safely grasp and manipulate small objects and dials.
- The ability to identify color changes on the skin.
- The ability to visually observe and assess a patient 10 feet away.
- The visual acuity to set and read scales, dials and digital displays on equipment, and to read from the medical record.
- The ability to respond quickly to a visual or auditory timer.
- The ability to respond quickly to a patient call button (visual or auditory).
- The ability to hear heart and lung sounds.
- The ability to hear and respond to monitors, calls for assistance, timers, and verbal directions.
- The ability to detect odors such as equipment burning, smoke, spills, environmental hazards, and pathophysiological conditions.
- The ability to feel pulse, muscle tone, and bony landmarks.
- The ability to hold and use a writing instrument for documentation.
- The ability to navigate software programs on a computer for electronic medical records.

Cognitive/Behavioral Skills

- The ability to collect and integrate data about patients to problem solve safely and effectively as a PTA student.
- The ability to handle the emotional stress of working with patients in need of compassionate health care.
- The ability to read and comprehend patient information.
- The ability to prioritize and manage multiple tasks simultaneously.
- The ability to interact effectively with patients, families, supervisors, and co-workers regardless of their race, sex, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, or disability.
- The ability to maintain personal hygiene consistent with the close personal contact associated with patient care.

- To abide by the policies and procedures of RVCC, as detailed in the RVCC Student Handbook, and policies of the PTA Program.
- To render assistance to individuals of all cultures from across the lifespan without prejudice.
- To comprehend and effectively communicate in the English language (orally and in writing), using appropriate grammar and vocabulary.
- The ability to portray professional behavior in all areas, including professional presentation, academic and professional responsibility, ethics, and commitment to learning.

Applicants to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program who have questions or concerns about these requirements are encouraged to contact the director of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. The director can be called at (603) 542-7744 x5434, or contacted via email at kboyle@ccsnh.edu. Please check off one of the two boxes before signing and dating.

I can perform the **Essential Skills/Technical Standards of a PTA** listed above:

☐ With reasonable accommodations (student is required to provide proof of disability to the Accessibility Services Coordinator prior to receiving accommodations)

☐ Without reasonable accommodations

By signing this form, the applicant for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program acknowledges that this Essential Skills document has been provided, and any concerns have been addressed with the Program Director.

Signature

Date

Print Name

CRIMINAL/BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG TESTING ATTESTATION

As part of the coursework in the PTA program, students spend time in two clinical sites working with patients under the supervision of a licensed PT or PTA. Most clinical sites require the student obtain certain background checks (state/federal criminal or sexual offender) and/or drug testing before coming to the clinic.

Cost for the criminal background check is the responsibility of the student (estimated \$50-\$125). This information is given to you now just to forewarn you of the potential additional cost and responsibilities. **You DO NOT need to get these background checks done as part of the application to the PTA program.**

The PTA applicant needs to recognize that certain personal histories or current statuses may result in the inability to pass a Criminal Offender Record check, Sexual Offender Record check and/or a drug test. The use of medical marijuana will trigger a positive drug test and is generally not allowed by clinical sites, even with a prescription because marijuana is still considered illegal at the federal level.

While this background will not preclude an applicant from applying to or being accepted into the PTA program, it will result in the inability to attend any Clinical Education Experience course. This will prevent progression in the program, graduation, licensure and ability to work as a PTA.

Refusing to participate in these background checks or drug testing will result in inability to progress in the program.

It is in your best interest to discuss any concerns with the PTA Program Director (kboyle@ccsnh.edu) early in the application/ orientation process so you don't waste time and money.

By the signature below, the prospective student acknowledges his/her responsibility to participate in and pay for these background checks/drug tests, if required by the clinical site. By the signature below, the prospective student also acknowledges the consequences of refusing to test, or refusing to undergo the background checks. By the signature below, the prospective student also acknowledges the consequences of a positive background check/test and the inability to complete the PTA program.

Signature

Date

Print Name

PTA STUDENT STATEMENT OF BACKGROUND DISCLOSURE

In most states, after students graduate from a PTA program, they are required to take a national licensing exam and then to apply for licensure in the state in which the job resides.

The job of the licensing board is to protect the public, so the applicant may be asked certain questions on the license application form. For example, in New Hampshire, the applicant is asked to disclose:

- Whether the applicant has any physical, mental or emotional condition, or any alcohol or substance abuse problem which could negatively affect the applicant's ability to practice the profession for which licensure is sought;
- Whether the applicant engages in any remedial undertaking to alleviate one or more conditions listed above and
- Whether the applicant has committed any act(s) that would violate the laws and/or rules that govern the profession (e.g. Whether the applicant has been found guilty or entered a plea of no contest to any felony or misdemeanor)

While this background will not preclude an applicant from applying to or being accepted into the PTA program, the applicant is encouraged to discuss any concerns with the program director at kboyle@ccsnh.edu

By the signature below, the prospective student acknowledges reading information about background disclosure and acknowledges that she/he will discuss any concerns with the program director.

Signature

Date

Print Name

CLINICAL EDUCATION POLICY OVERVIEW

For successful completion of the PTA curriculum, each student must complete two clinical education experiences comprising no less than 18 weeks total, in facilities approved by the PTA program. These clinical experiences are formal courses for which the student registers and pays tuition.

Each clinical experience is full-time and students are expected to work the hours/days of their clinical instructor which vary at each site. Students often need to start their day early to prepare and may be expected to stay a bit later to finish up the day's tasks. The clinical experiences are meant to provide the PTA student with real life experience treating patients under the supervision of licensed physical therapists and/or physical therapist assistants.

The first clinical experience occurs in the Summer months between the first and second years. It lasts 8 weeks for a total of 304 hours in the clinic. The clinic site chooses the 8- week time span that fits them, so the PTA student is told to not make any other plans (e.g. job, vacations, weddings, trips) for the summer months until your clinical site times have been determined. There is an additional summer course for Clinical Education Seminar that must be taken at the same time.

The last clinical experience occurs during the final Spring semester of the program. This clinical experience is 10 weeks long. For the remainder of the final semester, students will be in a Senior Seminar course.

Students are expected to be in the clinic the same hours as their supervisor, which will vary from site to site to accommodate patients' work schedules. There may be sites where the clinical supervisor works four 10 hour days, or has hours shifted to an earlier/ later part of the day, or works some weekend hours. Students **must** make appropriate plans and arrangements (financially and personally) to allow this commitment to the clinical site.

Every attempt is made to place students in a variety of settings, and in locations that are within a **1 ½ hour** driving radius of your home base. Students are able to discuss preferences for clinical sites but *it is not guaranteed that a student will get their top choice for clinical experiences.*

To meet requirements of the program, students must be able to:

- successfully complete all previous course work and comprehensive practical testing
- provide own transportation to and from clinical sites
- provide proof of current immunizations and CPR certification by a stated deadline; please note that CPR is built into the PTA curriculum as part of PT Procedures II
- provide proof of personal health insurance

Students who fail to have the required immunizations, health insurance, and CPR documentation done by the stated deadlines risk a delay in progression in the program (the student will not go out on the scheduled clinical practicum and must wait until the following year). Failure to comply with requirements may result in a student not being assigned to a clinical education placement which will impeded progression through the program and impact graduation dates.

Since it may take a while to track down your childhood immunization records, we advise you to start the search now!! You do not need to turn in your immunization records to us, but must provide them for our review when asked.

CLINICAL EDUCATION AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Students whose disabilities may require some type of accommodation for their clinical education experiences are strongly advised to self-identify and complete a "Request for Accommodations" agreement with the Office of Accessibility Service and Accessibility Services Coordinator. Current documentation is required. Retroactive accommodations cannot be provided to avoid a failing grade. The Director of Clinical Education (DCE) will work with students to determine if/how an identified disability may impact their ability to carry out the responsibilities of the clinical assignment. The DCE will not disclose any health/disability related information about the student to a clinical site without the student's written authorization.

Students in programs that require successful completion of a clinical placement should be aware that clinical sites are not necessarily required to recognize accommodations contained within an Individual Reasonable Accommodation Plan (IRAP) issued by River Valley Community College ("RVCC") designed for use in classroom setting pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please be aware that clinical sites may need to adapt any accommodation request you make in a manner that does not create an undue hardship for them and does not require them to alter the essential functions of the practicum expectations. You are encouraged to discuss the accommodation process with both your site supervision and your RVCC faculty.

I have been provided with the Clinical Education Policy and the Clinical Education and Disability Services information. I understand the information and have had my questions answered.

I understand it is my responsibility to request accommodations if I am entitled to them. I further understand that accommodations for hands on skills such as those required in practical examinations or clinical education are not required if they provide undue hardship for a facility or alter the essential functions or the expectations of the role and skills of the PTA.

Signature

Date

Print Name

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

One of the expectations of the applicants for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is that they have some knowledge of the physical therapy field. Therefore, we ask applicants to provide the College with evidence of this knowledge by reading some material, watching a short video and answering the following questions.

Name_____

Date_____ Signature_____

Step One: Go to this link <http://www.apta.org/PTACareers/Overview/> and read about/watch videos about PTA careers.

Step Two: Answer the following questions in the space provided.

Based on the information gathered, what type of work setting(s) interest you and why?

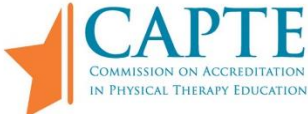
Describe, in your own words, what a PTA does.

Step 3: Go to the following website: <https://www.choosept.com/video> Pick a video that looks interesting to you and watch it. Identify which video you chose to watch here:

Step 4: After you watch the video, answer this question: What new information was pertinent to you? Why?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

ACCREDITATION



The Physical Therapist Assistant program at River Valley Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone (703) 706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 603.542.7744 extension 5419 or email kboyle@ccsnh.edu .

WAIT LIST:

Completed applications received after the class is filled will be added to the wait list in case a current student has a change of plan.

Applicants who were not accepted for the current year but who are interested in the PTA program for the next year must fill out a new application to the college, declaring interest in the PTA program for the following year. Alternately, applicants can request that the Admissions Office roll their file over to the following year.

Those applicants on the wait list and those who apply again for Fall 2022 should consider enrolling in RVCC's Healthcare Applications (HCAP) program to begin taking their Core Liberal Arts Courses. There are seven liberal arts courses in the PTA program (see list below). Applicants who do not have these college level liberal completed (with grade of C or higher) might consider taking one/some/all of these ahead of time:

- Statistics I
- Anatomy and Physiology I (usually must have a face-to-face lab)
- Anatomy and Physiology II (usually must have a face-to-face lab)
- English Composition I
- Introduction to Psychology
- Human Development
- one 3-credit course in Humanities (e.g. History or Philosophy), **or** Fine Arts (e.g. Introduction to Art, Introduction to Dance, etc.). **or** a world language (e.g. Spanish, Sign Language, etc.).

Taking these courses ahead of time can lighten the course load while in the PTA program, but will not shorten the time to complete the program. Taking courses ahead of time will also affect the Financial Aid package when the student is in the program; the applicant/student may want to talk to someone in Financial Aid first.

It must be understood that taking these liberal arts courses will not guarantee the applicant a seat in the PTA program. Please remember to send in new formal transcripts to show completed coursework.

Those applicants on the wait list who choose to take some/all of the liberal arts courses have the option of taking those courses at River Valley Community College (RVCC) or at a college closer to home. Through RVCC, applicants are encouraged to apply to the Healthcare Applications program (HCAP) <https://www.rivervalley.edu/program/healthcare-2/> for 2-3 semesters and then reapply to the PTA program. The earned grade for the liberal arts courses must be a C or higher.

Courses taken elsewhere may transfer in for credit if a) the previous college holds a regional accreditation that we recognize, the course description/content/credit load are similar and the student earns at least a C grade.

If applicants are interested in taking courses elsewhere before being accepted into the program, it would be wise to request pre-authorization before taking the course. Getting this pre-authorization will guarantee that the course will transfer in for credit once accepted into the college/PTA program if the earned grade is a "C" or better. Please contact the program director for more information.

OUTCOMES & BENCHMARKS

The PTA Program Outcomes are as follows:

- 1) Produce safe, competent, caring, graduates who possess entry-level skills, as evidenced by successful completion of all PTA program courses as per grade policy.
- 2) **Graduation rate/Retention rate:** Using averages spanning 2 years, our goal states at least 80% of students admitted to program will graduate within 3 years (150% of time). The data collected includes only those who did not complete the program for academic reasons (and does not include those who did not complete the program for personal reasons).
- 3) **Two-year ultimate passing rate of national exam:** For those graduates who choose to take the Physical Therapist Assistant national examination, our goal states at least 85% of a given cohort will ultimately pass the exam.
- 3) **Employment rate:** Our goal states at least 96% of the graduates who seek employment as a physical therapist assistant will obtain a position they are interested in within 1 year of passing the national PTA examination.

PTA programs across are required by our accrediting agency (CAPTE) to make statistics related to our program outcomes available to the public, these statistics include: graduation rates, the graduates' success in passing the national examination and their success rate in obtaining employment after passing the national examination. You can review the most recent statistics here as well as statistics on acceptance rates into our program: https://www.rivervalley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PTA_Public-Disclosure_2021.pdf

2021 – 2022 COST ESTIMATE TO ATTEND RVCC’S PTA PROGRAM

Total cost of the PTA program includes tuition, other college fees, and program-related expenses such as books. This estimate does not include travel expenses, housing, meals or personal health insurance (required for clinical education experience courses). This estimate also does not include the cost of the national licensing examination or cost to obtain the PTA license (both of which occur after graduation, and estimate about \$800-\$1000). Out-of-state attendees to RVCC (who live within 50 miles of one of our campuses/ centers) may be eligible for in-state tuition. Veterans may also be eligible for additional reductions. Please consult with Admissions.

Students who receive financial aid must keep in mind that the summer semester between year 1 and year 2 actually begins the senior year 2. Financial aid given for year 2 must be managed to cover summer, fall and spring semesters.

Item	In-state	NE Regional	Out-of-State
Tuition (assumes student is required to take all courses in program)	71 credits X \$215/credit = \$15,265	71 credits x \$323/credit = \$22,933	71 credits x \$490/credit= \$34,790
Academic instruction fee *	22 x \$110 = \$2,420	22 x \$110 = \$2,420	22 x \$110 = \$2,420
Comprehensive student services fee*	\$639	\$639	\$639
Clinical Surcharge Fee*	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
1 year liability insurance*	\$25	\$25	\$25
Books (estimate)	\$500	\$500	\$500
Background checks and drug testing may be required before attending clinical practicum courses.	125	125	125
Personal health insurance (required of students attending clinical practicum courses)	variable	variable	variable
Totals for entire program.	\$19,974	\$ 27,642	\$39,499

*Descriptions of the nature of these fees can be found in the RVCC College Catalog under the “Expenses” tab: <https://catalog.rivervalley.edu/> . These fees are determined by the Board of Trustees of the Community College System of New Hampshire and subject to change based on their decisions.

PTA PROGRAM OF STUDY

The PTA Program of Study can be found on the program website under the “Program of Study” tab:

<https://www.rivervalley.edu/program/physical-therapist-assistant/>

The following chart shows the program map in greater detail. Please note the number of hours in school/clinic per week (right hand column). This does **NOT** include study time or time for activities outside of class/lab time. Please keep this in mind as you consider this program. These hours do not include travel time to/from campus, family responsibilities, or time for practicing skills with your classmates.

We recommend that a student doing the program on the usual two-year path do not take on outside work responsibilities. Students who choose to do the program on a part time basis, the three-year path, should plan to only work part time hours. We recommend no greater than 15 hours per week for those students in the part time program.

Students on the full time, two-year, path should plan to be on campus 5 days per week during their first year and 3-4 days per week during their senior year.

Once matriculated in the program, courses must be completed within 3 years. Extension into a 4th year may only be made for extenuating circumstances.

We cannot express strongly enough the time commitment that is needed to be successful in this program. The number one reason students struggle in the program is because they are working too many hours and not allowing enough time to study. Students are encouraged to discuss their individual circumstances with the program director when developing their academic plan to ensure they are set up for the greatest chance of success.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM – YEAR ONE				In school or clinic hours/wk
First Year - Fall Semester	<u>C</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>Credi</u>	
AHLC 104 Introduction to OT/PT *	1	0	1	2
AHLC 112 Clinical Conditions for OT/PT **	3	0	1	3
ENG 102 College Composition I *	4	0	3	4
AHLC 135* Activities of Daily Living **	2	0	4	5
BIOL 201 Anatomy & Physiology I *	3	3	3	6
PTAC 112* Physical Therapy Procedures I **	2	3	4	5
TOTAL CREDITS		3	3	25
			18	
First Year - Spring Semester (busiest semester; 4 lab courses)				
AHLC 123 Functional Kinesiology (BIOL 201) **	2	3	3	5
MATH 106 Statistics 1 *	3	0	3 or	4
BIOL 202 Anatomy & Physiology II *	-	3	4	6
PTAC 114* Therapeutic Exercise *	4	3	4	5
PTAC 122* Physical Therapy Procedures II	3	3	3	

TOTAL CREDITS	2 2		<u>3</u> 17	<u>5</u> 28
First Year - Summer Semester PTAC 190* Clinical Ed. Experience I (304 hours = 8 weeks) * PTAC 172 *Clinical Ed. Experience I Seminar * (2 eight hour days) TOTAL CREDITS	0 1	0 0	6 <u>1</u> 7	40
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM – YEAR TWO				In school or clinic hours/ wk
Second Year - Fall Semester HUMC xxx Humanities/Fine Arts/World Language PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology PSYC 114 Human Development AHLC 220* Clinical Neurology * AHLC 210* PT/OT Management * PTAC 211* Physical Therapy Procedures III (PTC 122) TOTAL CREDITS	<u>C</u> <u>L</u> 3 3 3 3 2 2	<u>LA</u> <u>B</u> 0 0 0 0 0 3	<u>Credi</u> <u>ts</u> 3 3 3 3 3 2 <u>5</u> <u>3</u> 17	3 3 3 3 2 <u>5</u> 19
Second Year - Spring Semester PTAC 292* Clinical Ed. Experience II (40 hours/wk x 10wks = 400 hours) * PTC 250* Clinical Education Seminar (8 eight hour seminars) * TOTAL CREDITS	0 4	0 0	8 <u>4</u> 12	40
TOTAL PROGRAM			71- 72	152

***THIS PROGRAM OF STUDY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Prerequisites and co-requisites are listed in parentheses.

* pre/co-requisites needed

**Must be matriculated in professional program or receive special written permission from the Program Director or Instructor.

PTA PROGRAM DRESS CODE

The dress code policy for the PTA program is defined as “Business Casual”. The dress code expectations will be explained during the early weeks of the first semester. At a pre-determined time, students in the program are expected to follow the dress code policy until graduation.

The policy is in place to allow students sufficient time build up their wardrobes before the Clinical Education courses, allow time for mentoring from instructors and also to ensure students are presenting themselves in a professional manner at all times.

PTA PROGRAM FAILED GRADE POLICY

The PTA program shares and follows the same failed grade policy as the RVCC Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. This policy is outlined in the PTA student handbook but highlights are as follows:

1. The PTA program courses follow a 10 point grading scale.
2. Students must pass all Liberal Arts Core courses with a C or better
3. Students must pass all program courses (as identified by the AHLT or PTAC prefix) with a B- or better (80 points)
4. A student is allowed to re-take a course once. Many courses are offered only one time per year, so a failed course will add time to your academic program.
5. If two or more classes are failed in one semester, students are suspended for the program for one semester. At that time they can apply for reinstatement as outlined in the full grade policy.

Upon Completion of the Program

Completing the educational process is one component of working as a Physical Therapist Assistant. In 49/50 states in the US, once you have graduated from an accredited program, you must do the following:

1. Successfully pass the national licensure examination
2. Obtain a license as a PTA in any state you wish to work. Each state has different requirements but the process regularly includes applying to the State Board of Allied Health and providing the required paperwork including (but not limited to): proof of examination scores, criminal background check (a positive criminal history may prevent an individual from being licensed or working as a PTA), sexual offender registry clearance, fingerprints, proof of passing the state legal exam, reference letters.

The cost for taking the exam and obtaining licensure for one state often totals \$600-800. Seeking licensure in multiple states will increase this cost.

Healthcare Occupational Hazards

People working in the healthcare industry face certain occupational hazards. Some hazards are due to the nature of the work, and some are due to the types of settings. Applicants to the PTA program should be aware of the concept of workplace hazards and may need to use this information in deciding if the profession is worth pursuing. Healthcare

workers face a wide range of hazards on the job, including sharps injuries (ie. needle sticks), harmful exposures to chemicals and hazardous drugs, back injuries, latex allergies, violence, and stress. Although it is possible to prevent or reduce healthcare worker exposure to these hazards, healthcare workers continue to experience injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Cases of nonfatal occupational injury and illness with healthcare workers are among the highest of any industry sector. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/healthcare/default.html>

For additional information regarding potential occupational hazards in Physical Therapy, see this link:
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/clinical/pt/pt.html>

We hope this application packet provides you with a summary not only of the application process, but also provides you with an overview of general expectations and rigor of the program. The more you know up front, the better you can plan for the future. Please let me know what questions you might have. I am available via email at kboyle@ccsnh.edu or phone 603.542.7744 x 5434 to answer any questions regarding the application process or profession. Academic planning questions are addressed during the advising meeting upon completion of the PTA Program Application.

Thank you,

Kim-Laura Boyle, PT, DPT

*Department Chair – Rehabilitation Services
Program Director - Physical Therapist Assistant*

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