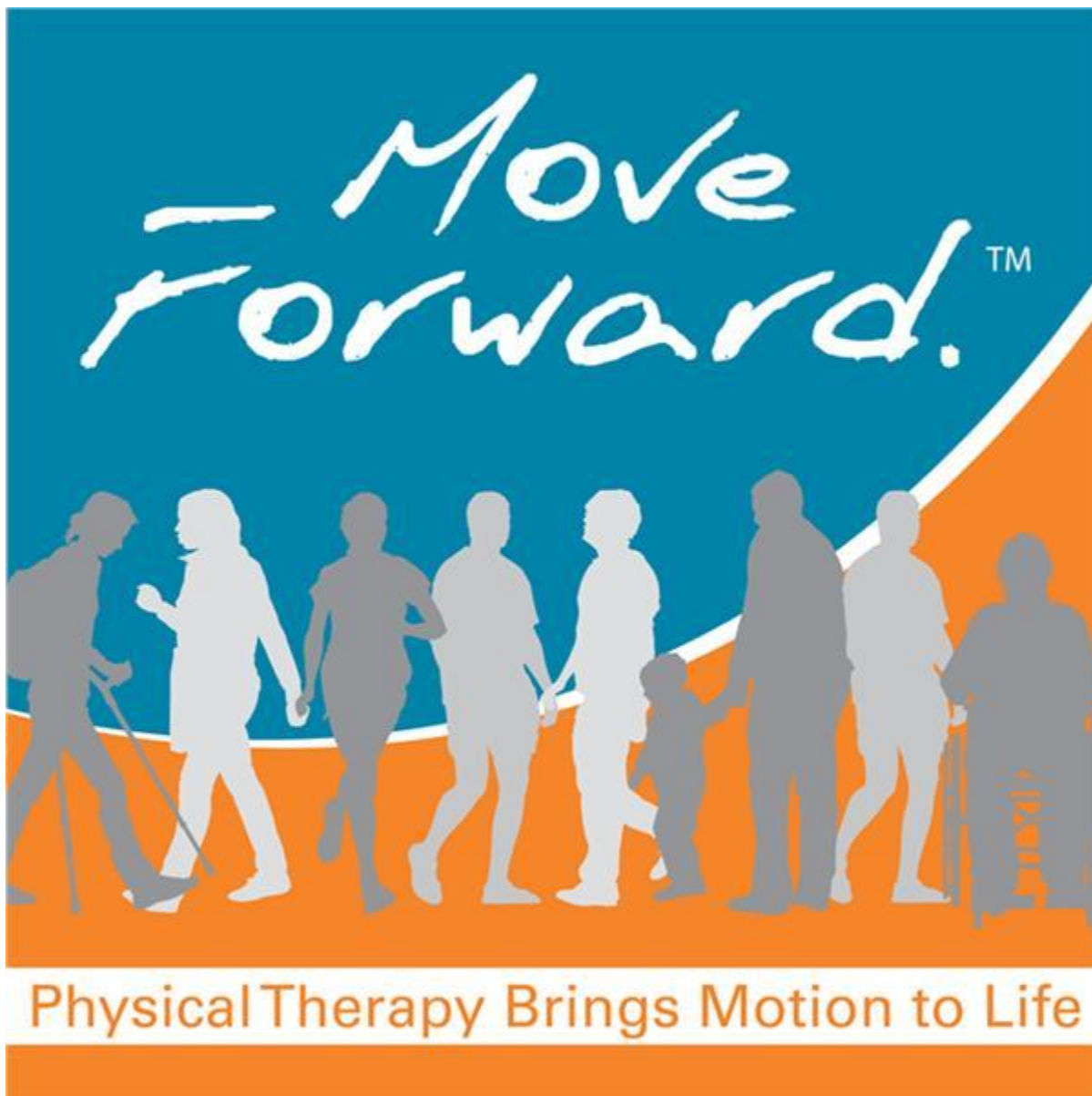


LaGuardia Community College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Admission Guide



What is an ideal PTA candidate?

Physical Therapist Assistants are.....

Compassionate and caring individuals who are empathetic, good listeners, with strong communication skills, and sees their patients as a whole. PTAs are ethical, knowledgeable, motivated, responsible, proactive, and receptive to new ideas. They are analytical and critical thinkers who are nonjudgmental while being logical and creative. PTAs are lifelong learners.

PTAs need to be flexible, able to multitask, and enthusiastic. They have high physical and mental agility while having the ability to work well under stress. They enjoy working collaboratively with team members and are capable of adapting to different teaching and learning styles. PTAs are healthcare professionals ready and willing to serve the patients, the profession, and to positively influence the health of society.

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
QUICK FACT SHEET**

- A Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is a graduate from an accredited Associates degree program who is New York State licensed and works under the supervision of a Physical Therapist. A PTA follows the plan of care designed by the physical therapist and can treat patients/clients of all ages except for birth-three years old (New York State Law). A Physical Therapist is a graduate from an accredited Doctorate Program (DPT) The PTA curriculum does not lead directly to a DPT degree.
- Federal Law limits issuance of a professional license to practice physical therapy to residents qualify to work in USA. You must have legal status in the US to practice. A felony charge will also interfere with New York State licensure.
- The PTA program at LaGuardia is 68 credits and consists of a Pre-clinical (pre requisites), Technical (PTA courses), and Clinical (off-site clinical experiences) phase. The Technical and Clinical phases are full time day program.
- The PTA Program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) until June 2020. (Reaccreditation pending 2020)
- Students must be a PTA major to apply for candidacy. A change of major form can be signed by the PTA Program Core Faculty
- Acceptance to the Technical Phase is limited to a class size of 20 students twice per year and is competitive. Students must file for and be accepted into candidacy in order to progress to the Technical Phase.
- Application to candidacy must be submitted to PTA Program in E300 with proof of residency form done in person in C 107. It takes place in the Spring I and Fall I semesters. Students must be in or have completed all four key courses (ENG 101, SSY 101, SCB 203 and MAT 120 or 115) with a 2.5 or better to qualify for candidacy. Students are ranked according to GPA. **All** Pre-clinical required course grades on the student's record are counted for candidacy even if the student repeats a course. A key course grade of 2.5 or better does not guarantee admission to the Technical Phase.
- A TEAS exam score must be submitted to the PTA program prior to the end of the semester of candidacy. Score earned within 18 months of application may be accepted.
- 50 hours of volunteer work in a facility where a physical therapist is supervising the student is required before starting the first session in the Technical Phase.
- Students will complete a minimum of 640 hours of varied clinical work (internship) during the Clinical Phase upon completion of the Technical Phase of study. Many students get offered jobs from their PTA affiliations.
- Information on the PTA program can be found at www.lagcc.cuny.edu/pta & https://lagcc-cuny.digication.com/pta_program_candidate_orientation/Home
- Information on the field of Physical Therapy is available at www.apta.org.
- Median annual salaries in 2019 for a PTA are approximately \$58,790 for salaried positions ([U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov)).

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Candidacy

PROGRAM/CODE	Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) major (351)
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION/DEGREE	The PTA Program prepares graduates to function as PTAs under the supervision of the physical therapists to provide direct patient care. Upon completion of the program, students earn an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. The <u>Technical & Clinical Phases</u> of the PTA program is a full time, day program. No evening program is available at this time. Due to the intense workload during the Technical and Clinical phases of study, employment is NOT recommended.
MINIMUM GPA REQUIREMENT	Minimum GPA requirement to apply for candidacy: 2.50*. <i>*Please note: the program is highly competitive. The minimum GPA varies each semester and is often well above 2.50.</i>
LENGTH OF PROGRAM	The minimum time required to complete the entire program is two years and three months (5 semesters). Once pre-requisite courses (Pre-Clinical Phase) are complete, the Technical + Clinical phases can be completed in 18 months. <i>** Due to full time clinical field work/internship, PTA student will be taking only 3 credits and may be considered part-time status in the last semester of the clinical component.</i>
CANDIDACY INFO & APPLICATION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidacy occurs twice a year, Fall I and Spring I • The candidacy deadlines are listed on the school calendar and it is the student's responsibility to apply for candidacy on time. • To apply for PTA Candidacy, student must submit: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact healthsci@lagcc.cuny.edu to request application to PTA Candidacy. 2. Proof of residency is required. Candidacy code is PTA000.4499. • Students <u>must complete</u>, at minimum, all four key courses (ENG101, SSY101, SCB203, and MAT120 or 115) and submission of TEAS result prior to or at the end of the candidacy semester. • All program requirements can be found in: https://lagcc-cuny.digication.com/pta_program_candidate_orientation/Admission_Handbook/published • A student has two attempts for PTA candidacy. • Students will be notified of the result in session II of the same semester. • Successful candidates are scheduled to begin the Technical Phase in session II of the following semester. (6 months after notification of acceptance into the technical phase). Candidate will forfeit the seat if unable to begin as scheduled. • All Pre-Clinical courses MUST be completed prior to the start of the first technical course.
STUDENTS CLASS SIZE	20
PASSING GRADE REQUIRED FOR SCIENCES	Students must have a minimum of 2.50 in all the key courses to be considered for the PTA program. Please note: students are not permitted to repeat any course with a grade of C or above. In addition, The original grade in any pre-clinical courses required for the PTA major, are averaged into the ranking along with the repeated grade. <i>*SCB 203 and 204 taken more than 7 years of the candidacy semester will not be accepted for PTA candidacy.</i>
CLINICAL/FIELDWORK REQUIREMENTS	Students must complete a minimum of 640 hours of varied clinical rotations during the clinical phase. Students are required to have a current medical exam with blood work (within 3 months) and be certified in CPR-BLS before beginning clinical rotations. <i>*CUNY does not require criminal background checks; however, individual health care facilities may require background checks and drug screening.</i>
PROOF OF RESIDENCY	Required. <i>See acceptable proof of residency in the college catalogue.</i>
LICENSING EXAM/REQUIREMENTS	At the completion of the program, students are eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) for physical therapist assistants. PTA graduates cannot practice physical therapy in New York without a New York State license.
PROGRAM SPECIFIC INFORMATION	All applicants are required to take the ATI-TEAS exam as a requirement for candidacy. A Proficient composite score (55% or higher) on the TEAS is required for candidacy application . The TEAS score within 18 months of the end date of candidacy may be used to fulfill this requirement. There is no limit on the number of attempts for this exam.
	2020-2021

Recommended Course Progression

PRE-CLINICAL PHASE

FALL I (12 WEEKS)	HSF 090	First Year Seminar for Health Sciences	0
	ENG 101	COMPOSITION I	3
	SSY 101	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
	SCB 203	HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I	4
	MAT120	ELEMENTARY STATISTICS I OR	
	MAT 115	ALGEBRA & TRIG.	3
	PTA 000	APPLY FOR CANDIDACY	0
	(TEAS)	Health Sciences Program Entrance Exam	0
	CREDITS	13	
FALL II (6 WEEKS)	HUP102	CRITICAL THINKING OR	
	HUC 106	PUBLIC SPEAKING	3
	<u>ENG 102</u>	<u>WRITING THROUGH LITERATURE</u>	<u>3</u>
	CREDITS		6
SPRING I (12 WEEKS)	SSY 240	DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
	SCN 195	COMMUNITY HEALTH	2
	SCB 204	HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II	4
	CREDITS		9
Pre-Clinical TOTAL CREDITS			28

TECHNICAL PHASE + CLINICAL PHASE:

SPRING II (6 WEEKS)	SCT 101	INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL THERAPY	2
	SCT 102	ETHICAL AND LEGAL CONCEPTS FOR PT	2
	<u>SCO 230</u>	<u>FUNCTIONAL PATHOLOGY</u>	<u>3</u>
	CREDITS		7
FALL I (12 WEEKS)	SCT 203	CLINICAL KINESIOLOGY	4
	SCT 211	THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURE I	4
	SCT 220	MOBILITY SKILLS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY	3
	<u>CPR/BLS CERTIFICATION</u>		<u>0</u>
	CREDITS		11
FALL II (6 WEEKS)	SCT 221	FUNCTIONAL GAIT TRAINING SKILLS	3
	<u>SCT 212</u>	<u>THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES II</u>	<u>3</u>
	CREDITS		6
SPRING I (12 WEEKS)	SCT 290	PTA CLINICAL EDUCATION AND SEMINAR I	2
	SCT 230	ORTHOPEDIC THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE	4
	<u>SCT 231</u>	<u>NEUROMUSCULAR REHABILITATION</u>	<u>4</u>
	CREDITS		10
SPRING II (6 WEEKS)	SCT 291	PTA CLINICAL EDUCATION AND SEMINAR II (FULL TIME, 280 HOURS)	
	CREDITS		3
FALL I (12 WEEKS)	SCT 292	PTA CLINICAL EDUCATION AND SEMINAR III (FULL TIME, 280 HOURS)	
	<u>GRD 000</u>	<u>INTENT TO GRADUATE</u>	
	CREDITS		3
Technical + Clinical TOTAL CREDITS			40

TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS

68--