



**ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

*2021 Program Information  
Updated November 2020*

*Spring 2021 Main Campus - Littleton  
Application Deadline: August 31, 2020, 5 pm*

*Fall 2021 Sturm Collaboration Campus – Castle Rock  
Application Deadline: May 15, 2021, 5 pm*

Note: An acceptance letter from Arapahoe Community College into the college does not mean that an applicant has been accepted into the PTA Program. Completion and submission of the information in this packet does not automatically guarantee acceptance into the program.

# ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Spring 2021 – Fall 2021

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**Department Chair: Paula Provence**  
**Email: [Paula.Provence@arapahoe.edu](mailto:Paula.Provence@arapahoe.edu)**

## **Program Information**

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colorado. This program guide has been designed to provide you with information about the program and the Physical Therapy profession in general. Please read the information and follow the instructions carefully.

## **Description of the Profession**

A physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a health care provider working under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. Physical therapist assistants are involved in the treatment of individuals with a variety of diagnosis. Patients/clients may range from infants to the elderly. The PTA is able to provide physical therapy services as specified in a care plan developed by a physical therapist. Proper administration of various physical therapy interventions requires the PTA to assist with the moving of patient, clients and equipment resulting in a moderate to heavy physical demand on the practitioner. The PTA will also be involved with the physical therapist in modification of treatment programs, patient/family education, and discharge planning. As the field of physical therapy grows, so do the roles and responsibilities of the PTA. This growth and new knowledge is obtained through continuing education throughout the career of the PTA.

Generally, education, training and practice as a PT Assistant are not seen as a stepping stone to becoming a physical therapist. Because of the differences in depth and breadth of information and knowledge between the PTA Associate degree and the Doctorate PT degree, transfer credit for PTA core courses is generally not awarded. Currently, there are only two programs in the nation (University of Findlay, Ohio and University of Texas, Galveston) that are designed to transition PTAs through PT degrees. Please visit the website of the American Physical Therapy Association ([www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)) for more information for prospective students.

## **Mission Statement**

The Physical Therapist Assistant program provides physical therapist assistant education to a widely diverse student clientele. Since the educational needs of the program's constituency vary significantly, the program is committed to maintaining instructional flexibility to provide for these diverse needs; it encourages lifelong learning.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program fosters a sense of personal and professional integrity, ethics and responsibility, and understanding of the critical thinking and problem solving processes; it develops communication skills and promotes an awareness and acceptance of individuals and groups from various backgrounds. The physical therapist assistant program's commitment to this educational process will prepare students with the medical knowledge, clinical skills, and professional behaviors necessary to meet the challenges inherent within our complex, evolving systems of physical therapy and health care delivery. Our graduates will be knowledgeable, competent, self-assured, adaptable, compassionate, and service-oriented

physical therapist assistants capable of competently performing the duties of a PTA in a variety of PT settings.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program responds to our physical therapy community including efforts to advance the recognition of the field of physical therapy and the role of PTAs within the field. We partner with area clinicians and facilities to determine and meet their needs for physical therapist assistants.

### **PTA Program Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the PTA program is to prepare our graduates to assume a responsible position in the Physical Therapy community, delivering consistently high quality services to patients/clients under the direction of and seeking consultation from the physical therapist. Additionally, the PTA program seeks to:

- Produce graduate PTAs prepared to competently perform the duties of a PTA in a variety of PT settings,
- Produce graduate PTAs prepared to successfully complete the national licensure examination and obtain licensure/certification in the state of their choice,
- Produce graduate PTAs prepared with a technological proficiency to effectively participate in the ever evolving practice of Physical Therapy, and
- Advance the recognition of the field of physical therapy and the role of PTAs within the field.

Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national licensure examination and obtain licensure/certification in the state of their choice. Graduation from an accredited program is one of the eligibility requirements for licensure or certification in all states. Information on certification of PTAs in Colorado can be found on the Department of Regulatory Agencies website (<http://www.dora.state.co.us/Physical-Therapy/statutesrulespolicies.htm>).

***The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy publishes [ultimate pass rates for PTA program graduates](#). ACC's ultimate pass rates for national boards are***

<b>Graduate Years</b>	<b>Ultimate Pass Rate</b>
2012 – 2014	93%
2014 - 2015	90%
2015 - 2016	93%
2016 – 2017	94%
2017 – 2018	100%
2018 - 2019	100%
2019 - 2020	100%

### **Program Format**

ACC's PTA program is an associate of applied science degree program. It is two academic years in length including a summer term. Students in the PTA program enroll in approximately 14 credit hours per semester of PTA courses. Students should anticipate being on campus at least 4 days a week for class sessions and open lab practice. Students must be available for full-time clinical internships (40 hours/week, day shifts) during semesters with an internship course (PTA 280, PTA 281, PTA 282). During clinical affiliations students work the same

schedule as their clinical instructor which may include weekend and/or early morning/early evening hours.

**Commitment to Learning:**

The PTA program is rigorous and requires a commitment to attendance, study time and skills practice that is generally greater than other courses of study. Program faculty expect that students will come to class prepared (text reading already completed, content reviewed, questions ready). Often, faculty will direct students toward resources to find answers to questions rather than just providing answers. Students are responsible and will be held accountable for course and program activities, participation and schedules, including deadlines. Student should enjoy learning and be able to draw connections and conclusions between the content of different courses.

Current students average 52 hours a week spent on PTA program activities with 23 of those being on campus. Here are some examples of their schedules showing on campus and overall time spent on PTA program activities on a regular basis.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8-1 Personal time 3-11 Study - home or at school	8-10 study 11-4 class study until 10	5-1 Work 2-10 Study	8-4 Class Home study til 10	study 1.5 hrs Class 11-12:30 Work 1-7 study 2 hrs	5-1 work 2-10 study	Study/lab day
9-5 Home study or Lab Practice on campus	8-11 Lab Practice 11-4 Class 6-9 Study	8-5 Work 6-9 Home Study	8-4 Class 6-9 Home Study	8-11 Open Lab 11-1 Class 1:30-5:30 Work	8-5 Work 6-9 Lab Practice	8-12 Work 1-5 Lab Practice
Study 8 hrs	In Class 5 hours Open Lab 3 hrs Home study 2 hours	Study 8 hours	In Class 8 hours	In Class 1.5 hrs Open Lab 3 hrs Campus study 2.5hrs Home Study 2		Home study 5 hours
2-3 hours Study	11-4 Class Study 2-3 hours	10 - 6 Study	8-4 Class 4-6 Campus Study	11-12:30 Class 1-7:30 Campus open lab, tutor, study in library	10 - 6 Study	5 hours study

Feedback from current and previous students indicates that primary PTA courses are more rigorous than Anatomy and Physiology I and II. You should plan approximately 3 hours of out of class time for studying for each hour spent in class (16 hours each week in class + 48 hours out of class time = 60 hours a week for PTA program activities). You'll also need to plan some

additional time on campus for practicing your new skills during open lab times. Consequently, please plan your schedules accordingly. If you are planning/needing to work during the PTA program, you should plan on NO MORE THAN 20 hours a week in most cases.

### **Job opportunities**

According to the [US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics 2019 edition](#), Nationally, the 2019 mean income was \$58, 520 while in Colorado that mean income was \$53,770. 2019 program graduates received salary offers between \$37,500 and \$52,000+. Similarly, the job market in the Denver Metro area and throughout Colorado continues to be positive. The continued influence of wellness, prevention and the aging of the baby boomers provides for a growing role of Physical Therapy and the PTA in today's healthcare arena.

Formal job placement assistance to PTA program graduates has not been necessary as our graduates who wish to work as PTAs have been able to obtain those positions with most graduates achieving employment within 1 week to 3 months of successful completion of the National PTA exam. The PTA program does provide informal job placement assistance by acting as a liaison between employers and graduates.

### **Essential Functions of a Physical Therapist Assistant Student**

There are several important factors for you to consider when you are determining your future career directions. To be successful in the PTA classroom, at a PTA clinical education site and in your job following graduation, you should be able to meet all of the essential functions of a PTA.

The Advisory Board of the PTA program has determined the following abilities to be essential for the performance of the job duties of a PTA. These are meant to reflect the overall practice of a PTA, not the requirements of any one type of a clinical setting.

### **The PTA Student must be able to demonstrate**

1. **Motor Abilities** including the ability to
  - a. complete an 8-10 hour shift.
  - b. sustain activity up to 4 hours at a time.
  - c. walk, bend, stand, and reach consistently throughout an 8-10 hour shift.
  - d. lift frequently with the proper body mechanics throughout an 8-10 hour day and dead lift 25-50 pounds alone and ASSIST with the management of 150-350 pounds.
  - e. transfer clients (patients) safely.
  - f. guard and assist with ambulation (gait).
2. **Observation Skills** including the ability to
  - A . assess, through functional use of vision, olfactory, hearing, and somatic abilities, the patient,
  - b. comprehend and interpret the information and report the results to the supervising physical therapist.
3. **Interpersonal and Communication Abilities** including the ability to
  - a. utilize appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
  - b. utilize correct grammar, expression, accurate spelling, and legible handwriting as applicable in oral, written and electronic formats.
  - c. provide effective, concise, and organized oral and written information and education to all pertinent individuals.

- D . interacts effectively with patients, families, colleagues, other health professionals, and the community in a culturally aware manner.
4. **Hearing Ability** including the ability to
    - a. hears patient concerns and emergency signals.
    - B . hears and interprets verbal instructions from others.
  5. **Visual Ability** including the ability to
    - a. assess a patient/client from 10 feet away.
    - b. observe patient conditions and observes patient/responses.
    - c. read charts, computer screen, dials, labels, and gauges.
    - d. observe laboratory and clinical demonstrations.
    - e. display visual/spatial skills sufficient for patient safety and comfort.
  6. **Tactile Ability** including the ability to
    - a. discriminate muscle tone, tissue temperature, soft tissue changes
    - b. perform appropriate hands-on interventions such as soft tissue mobilization, facilitation, or passive range of motion.
    - c. demonstrate fine motor skills for effective and efficient patient management such as handling of therapeutic equipment and accurate documentation.
  7. **Environmental Safety** including the ability
    - a. follow universal precautions, safety/security procedures and protocols;
    - b. work safely with potentially hazardous body fluids;
    - c. utilize disinfectants and cleaning agents;
    - d. tolerate frequent handwashing and tolerates wearing of gloves, masks and safety eyewear.
  8. **Critical Thinking** including the ability to problem solve by assessing and utilizing scientific evidence for safe and effective physical therapy practice.

### **Program Costs, Tuition and Fees**

As part of the Colorado Community College System, ACC offers courses at a very reasonable tuition rate. At today's tuition rates, the tuition and fees for the 75 credit hours of the PTA degree would only cost a COF eligible student approximately \$15,000.00. Students who are Colorado residents may be eligible for participation in the College Opportunity Fund (COF). COF is not a need based financial aid but a subsidy from the State of Colorado for the education of its residents. Apply for your stipend at [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org)

Non residents will find tuition information available online at [www.arapahoe.edu/tuition](http://www.arapahoe.edu/tuition)

Students in the PTA program are also financially responsible for nominal costs associated with clinical affiliations potentially including uniforms and travel to and from the clinical facility. Additionally, students are responsible for the cost of Hep B vaccinations (approx. \$150.00), MMR vaccinations (approx. \$65.00), annual PPD tests (approx. \$20.00), CPR and First Aid Certification (variable depending on certifying agency), a background check (approx. \$75), and a flu shot (approx. \$35.00) and/or drug screen (approx. \$50.00) if required by the clinical facility.

Students in the PTA program complete a Professional Development Portfolio, which encompasses all of these areas: Community Service, ACC PTA Club, American Physical Therapy Association Membership, Continuing Education and Career Development. Students have options of the activities they use to complete each category. Membership in the APTA, which currently costs \$100 annually, is an option toward portfolio completion many current students take advantage of. Regardless of choices, completion of the portfolio will require additional out of class time and expenses vary depending on choice. Students are responsible for the financial aspects of portfolio completion.

### Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association has granted accreditation to the PTA program at Arapahoe Community College. CAPTE can be contacted at 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1488. 1-800-999-2782 or via e-mail at [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org).

### Non Discrimination Statement

Arapahoe Community College does not discriminate on the basis of sex/gender, race, color, age, creed, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, veteran status, pregnancy status, religion, genetic information, gender identity, or sexual orientation in its employment practices or educational programs and activities.

### Curriculum Plan A.A.S. Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Depending on a student's other responsibilities and for all-around success in the program, it is to your advantage to complete as many of the general education courses before applying to the PTA program. These credits are transferable if previously taken at **MOST** other colleges. For eligibility for transfer credit, Biology credits must be less than five years old. Anatomy and Physiology (Bio 201 or Bio 104) is required prior to initiation of PTA program core courses. For assistance with questions regarding transfer credit contact Records and Enrollment at 303.797.5621 or [records@arapahoe.edu](mailto:records@arapahoe.edu).

Beginning Spring 2021, we will again have a group of students in the PTA program at the main campus in Littleton. A new group will start at the Littleton campus Spring semester of odd numbered years. We will continue to start a new group of students in the PTA program at the Sturm Collaboration Campus in Castle Rock each Fall semester. The curriculum plan will be the same for both campuses.

### 17 CREDITS

#### GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

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BIO 201	Human Anatomy & Physiology I <b>OR</b> BIO 104 Biology: A Human Approach	4
PSY 101	General Psychology	3
PSY 235	Human Growth and Development	3
ENG 121	English Composition I	3
COM 115	Principles of Speech Communication OR COM 125 –Interpersonal Communications	3

HPR 138	Introduction to Medical Terminology OR HPR 144 Comprehensive Medical Terminology (Formerly HPR 178)	1
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**Note: Students wishing to transfer their Speech credit to another institution should complete COM 115**

**PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM COURSES 58 CREDITS**

HPR 117	Anatomical Kinesiology	3
PTA 110	Basic Patient care in physical therapy	5
PTA 115	Principles and Practices in Physical Therapy	2
PTA 117	Anatomical Kinesiology Lab	2
PTA 120	Modalities in Physical Therapy	5
PTA 124	Rehab Principles of Medical Management I	2
PTA 131	Professional Communications I	1
PTA 134	Rehab Principles of Medical Management II	2
PTA 135	Principles of Electrical Stimulation	2
PTA 140	Clinical Kinesiology	5
PTA 141	Professional Communications II	1
PTA 205	Psychosocial Issues in Health Care	2
PTA 230	Orthopedic Assessment and Management	5
PTA 240	Neurological Assessment and Management	5
PTA 278	PTA Seminar	2
PTA 280	Internship I	4
PTA 281	Internship II	5
PTA 282	Internship III	5

**Physical Therapist Assistant Program Curriculum Sequence**  
(includes general education courses if not previously completed)

**Littleton Campus Spring 2021 Start** (the next Littleton cohort start date will be January 2023)

**Pre program Semester (12 weeks or transfer credit)**

BIO 201 <b>OR</b> BIO 104 - 4 cr
ENG 121 - 3 cr
PSY 101 - 3 cr
HPR 138 – 1 cr
<b>Total Credit = 12</b>

**2 Year Sequenced Schedule**

<b>Spring, 1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	<b>Summer, 1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	<b>FALL, 1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>
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PTA 110 - 5 cr PTA 115 - 2 cr HPR 117 - 3 cr PTA 117 - 2 cr PTA 131 - 1 cr COM 115 OR 125 - 3 cr	No PTA Courses scheduled	PTA 120 - 5 cr PTA 134 - 2 cr PTA 140 - 5 cr PTA 135 - 2 cr PTA 141 - 1 cr PSY 235 - 3 cr
Total Credits = 16	Total Credits = 0	Total Credits = 18 credits

Spring, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Summer, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	FALL 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
PTA 280 - 4 cr (4 weeks) PTA 230 - 5 cr PTA 124 - 2 cr	PTA 281 - 5 cr	PTA 205 - 2 cr PTA 240 - 5 cr PTA 278 - 2 cr PTA 282 - 5 cr
Total Credits = 12	Total Credits = 5	Total Credits = 14

### Sturm Collaboration Campus – Fall Start

#### Pre program Semester (10 weeks or transfer credit)

BIO 201 OR BIO 104 - 4 cr ENG 121 - 3 cr PSY 101 - 3 cr HPR 138 - 1 cr
Total Credit = 12

#### 2 Year Sequenced Schedule

FALL, 1 <sup>st</sup> Year	SPRING, 1 <sup>st</sup> Year	SUMMER, 1 <sup>st</sup> Year
PTA 110 - 5 cr PTA 115 - 2 cr HPR 117 - 3 cr PTA 117 - 2 cr PTA 131 - 1 cr COM 115 OR 125 - 3 cr	PTA 120 - 5 cr PTA 134 - 2 cr PTA 140 - 5 cr PTA 135 - 2 cr PTA 141 - 1 cr PSY 235 - 3 cr	PTA 280 - 4 cr (4 weeks)
Total Credit = 16	Total Credit = 18	Total Credit = 4

FALL, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	SPRING, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
PTA 230 - 5 cr PTA 124 - 2 cr PTA 281 - 5 cr	PTA 205 - 2 cr PTA 240 - 5 cr PTA 278 - 2 cr PTA 282 - 5 cr
Total Credit = 12	Total Credit = 14

The PTA program utilizes a variety of methods of curriculum delivery based on the type of information included in each course. Courses with appropriate content are delivered in an online format via the internet. This delivery method allows students the flexibility to adjust the time they spend with the coursework to their schedules within the assignment due dates and deadlines for each course. Hybrid courses combine online instruction with traditional classroom instruction for courses where the face to face contact is necessary to assure student learning of key competencies in the course. Classroom time generally focuses on practical application of the theoretical information presented online and the instruction and practice of hands-on skills. For those courses containing a high percentage of hands-on skills, traditional classroom instruction continues to be utilized as the most appropriate method of teaching such skills. Despite the use of traditional instruction, non-traditional schedules allow those individuals with other responsibilities to participate in the PTA program.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **How many students do you accept a year?**

For the groups starting at the Littleton campus in January of odd years, a class of 16 students will be selected. Groups starting each fall at Sturm Collaboration Campus in Castle Rock will continue to be classes of 20 students. A list of alternates is maintained until the first semester PTA courses begin.

#### **How long is your wait list?**

ACC's PTA Program selects a new group of students each application period. **We do not keep a wait list from year to year.**

#### **Do I have to take the Accuplacer if I already have a college degree?**

Yes, because of accreditation standards all of our applicants must complete the same process. Consequently, we are not able to substitute grades for courses completed or other standardized testing for this requirement.

#### **How do I know if courses I took at another college will transfer?**

If the courses in question were completed at a public college or university in Colorado, check the listing of guaranteed transfer courses in the college catalog. If the courses in questions were completed at a college or university outside of Colorado, work with the ACC records office or the advising center to determine which courses will transfer.

#### **If I transfer in my general education courses, can I finish my degree in less than 2 years?**

No, the PTA program courses are sequenced over all 5 semesters. Your overall time doesn't change, but how many classes you have each semester may.

#### **Will my application be considered if I'm currently enrolled in Anatomy and Physiology?**

YES!! If you are currently enrolled in A&P or any other general education courses you are encouraged to submit your application according to the scheduled deadlines.

#### **What kind of technology do I need for PTA courses?**

For online and hybrid classes, a computer, a printer, a modem, an internet provider, e-mail and Microsoft Word are required. Students may use the instructional computer center on campus if they do not have personal access to these items.

#### **Spring 2021 - Application Information**

5:00 pm on August 31, 2020 is the application deadline for Spring 2021 admission. Applications will be accepted starting July 1<sup>st</sup> until 5:00 pm, August 31, 2020. No applications materials are

accepted before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications received after August 31<sup>st</sup> will be considered on a space available basis. Once the application period has closed, completed applications are screened according to the point system explained below. Those candidates with the highest point totals are the students given priority admission for each class. All applicants will be notified by September 30, 2020 via the address provided on the admission application as to the outcome of the selection process. Interim communication will occur via the @student.cccs.edu email address provided in the application. Applicants will only be considered by the year specified on their application. Those not selected must reapply if they wish to be considered for the following year. All application materials become the property of the PTA program and will not be returned to the student.

Applicants reapplying to the program must meet all current criteria of the admission process. A waitlist of students is not held from one year to the next. Neither are applications from previous years.

**Fall 2021 - Application Information -**

5:00 pm on May 15, 2021 is the application deadline for Fall 2021 admission. Applications will be accepted starting February 1<sup>st</sup> until 5:00 pm May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. No applications materials are accepted before February 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications received after May 15<sup>th</sup> will be considered on a space available basis. Once the application period has closed, completed applications are screened according to the point system explained below. Those candidates with the highest point totals are the students given priority admission for each class. All applicants will be notified by June 30, 2021 via the address provided on the admission application as to the outcome of the selection process. Interim communication will occur via the @student.cccs.edu email address provided in the application. Applicants will only be considered by the year specified on their application. Those not selected must reapply if they wish to be considered for the following year. All application materials become the property of the PTA program and will not be returned to the student.

Applicants reapplying to the program must meet all current criteria of the admission process. A waitlist of students is not held from one year to the next. Neither are applications from previous years.

**Requirements to be considered for Admission:**

	Item	Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete ACC application for acceptance to college	Complete the Admission Application online at <a href="http://www.arapahoe.edu">www.arapahoe.edu</a> Scroll down and select " <a href="#">Apply</a> ".
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take the Accuplacer exam in the Testing Center	Attach a copy of required Accuplacer scores to your application. Minimum scores are: <b>Accuplacer (taken within past 3 years)</b> a. Before November 2018 Sentence Skills = 95 Elementary Algebra = 61 b. November 2018 to present 246 or higher in Next Generation Writing 230 or higher on Next Generation QAS

		<p>There are <b>NO</b> exemptions to the Accuplacer exam. <b>All</b> students regardless of prior degree status, ACT test scores or any other consideration must complete the Accuplacer. If you live outside of the Denver Metro/Front Range area, call the testing center (303-797-5993) to make arrangements to take the Accuplacer test from a remote location. Completed coursework does not replace Accuplacer scores in the application process.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	G.P.A	Obtain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 to be eligible to apply.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Complete the following General Education courses prior to PTA classes</p> <p>ENG 121 PSY 101 BIO 201-Anatomy and Physiology</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>BIO 104-Biology: A Human Approach HPR 138 – Introduction to Medical Terminology</p>	<p>You may still submit an application if you haven't completed your Anatomy and Physiology. Any acceptance offered would be conditional based on successful completion of A&amp;P prior to the beginning of PTA courses.</p> <p>The remaining general education courses may be completed along with PTA courses to fulfil degree requirements.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain three letter of recommendations.	<p>References may be from instructors, employers, PTs/PTAs you have worked or volunteered with. Please note that the reference requires the individual has known you for <b>at least one year</b>. References from friends and family members will not be accepted.</p> <p>The Letter of Recommendation form is included in the application for admission to the PTA program.</p> <p><b><u>Letters of recommendation must be mailed to the PTA program directly from the reference source during the application period.</u></b> Please use the delivery confirmation options available from the various carriers to confirm your letters have been received by the PTA program. The PTA program is unable to confirm receipt of individual letters of recommendation.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Obtain documentation of work related or visitation hours in Physical Therapy</p> <p><b>Fall 2021 Applicants:</b> The PTA program is hoping that by Spring 2021, COVID 19 restrictions have eased to allow completion of PT Visitations. We will reassess the visitation requirement for Fall 2021</p>	<p>Applicants are to complete a minimum of a total of 30 hours of observation/volunteer or work related time with a PT or PTA in at least 2 different physical therapy settings (hospitals, skilled nursing facility, acute rehab, outpatient ortho, home health, etc) to develop an understanding of the role of the PTA. <i>(The PTA program does not maintain a list of preferred clinics for such observation. Students are encouraged to determine the areas of practice they</i></p>

	<p>applications on April 1, 2021. If significant restrictions are still in place, we will post an option to complete this requirement at that time.</p>	<p><i>need exposure to and contact clinics for visitation opportunities.)</i></p> <p>The <i>Physical Therapy Setting Visitation Report</i> form is included in the application for admission to the PTA program. It is also available on the PTA webpage at <a href="http://www.arapahoe.edu/pta">www.arapahoe.edu/pta</a></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Answer the essay question in the <a href="#">PTA program application</a>.</p>	<p>Include in your application for admission packet.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Complete and sign the Informed Consent Page and the Essential Functions for the PTA page from <a href="#">the PTA application</a>.</p>	<p>Include in your application for admission packet.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Complete the PTA application and submit by 5:00 pm on the deadline: May 15, 2021 for Fall 2021. Attach the following documentation to your application</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuplacer scores</li> <li>Transcripts (Unofficial)</li> <li><i>Physical Therapy Setting Visitation Report</i> forms.</li> <li>Completed and signed Informed Consent Page from the PTA application.</li> <li>Signed Essential Functions of the PTA form</li> </ol>	<p>An application packet is complete when all necessary application items are filled out and required documents are included. The application and required forms can be accessed on the ACC website.</p> <p>Students are responsible for completing the Official Transcript Evaluation process to officially transfer credits from other colleges or universities to ACC.</p> <p>Applications may be submitted to the HPS school assistant in A-2000, left in Ms. Provence's mailbox in A-2080 or mailed to:  ACC PTA Program  5900 S. Santa Fe Drive  Littleton, CO 80120.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Students with complete submitted applications may be asked to complete the Health Sciences Reasoning Test (HSRT) part of the admission requirements and admission criteria.</p> <p>The HSRT is included any year that more than 20 applications are received. The approximately 40 applicants who earn the highest number of points on their applications are invited back for completion of the HSRT.</p> <p>HSRT points are combined with previously established academic points to determine an overall total application score. This point system</p>	<p>The program uses the @student.ccs.edu email for interim communication with applicants. Please make sure your student email address is active and checked regularly between submission of your application and final notification dates.</p> <p>The Health Sciences Reasoning Test - must be completed in the ACC Testing Center during regular testing center hours. Testing Center information is available on the ACC website at <a href="http://www.arapahoe.edu/advising-support/testing-center">www.arapahoe.edu/advising-support/testing-center</a></p> <p>There is a \$40.00 proctor fee for the HSRT which is the student's responsibility.</p> <p>Testing is by appointment only. Please call 303.797.5993 opt 6 to schedule.</p>

<p>is used to determine which applicants are offered admission.</p> <p>If invited, students must complete the Health Sciences Reasoning Test – AD in the ACC Testing Center on one of the three campuses.</p>	<p>The test takes 1 hour to complete.</p>
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**SELECTION CRITERIA:**

Admission to this program is competitive and based on a point system of the following criteria after meeting the minimum admission requirements. Applicants will be ranked starting with the highest point value first. Random selection is used when applicants have been awarded the same number of points.

There is no benefit to submitting your application before the deadline especially if you are submitting it without the documentation you need to earn points as described below.

Selection will be based on the following:

- A. Accuplacer scores. Required scores must be achieved to be eligible for consideration.
- B. Completion of general education and other required courses.
- C. Overall college GPA and GPA of general education courses. (NOTE: a minimum college GPA of 2.50 is required to be eligible for admission.)
- D. Work related or observation time in a Physical Therapy setting.
- E. Letters of Recommendation

Students with complete submitted applications may be asked to complete the Health Sciences Reasoning Test (HSRT) part of the admission requirements and admission criteria.

The HSRT is included any year that more than 20 applications are received. The approximately 40 applicants who earn the highest number of points on their applications are invited back for completion of the HSRT.

**Ranking Criteria Point System**

Criteria Points	Awarded
<p><b>GPA</b></p> <p>Minimum required GPA is 2.5</p> <p>Points assigned to the cumulative GPA are as follows</p> <p>3.6- 4.0 = 15 points</p> <p>3.3-3.5 = 12 points</p> <p>3.0 – 3.2 = 10 points</p> <p>2.5 – 2.9 = 5 points</p> <p>Below 2.5 = not eligible</p>	<p>Total points awarded for GPA</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>General Education Courses</b></p> <p>Point possibilities: 17 points possible</p> <p>One point per credit will be awarded for each of the required general education course credits completed with a grade of “B” or better as listed on</p>	<p>Total points awarded for general education courses</p>

<p>one's Arapahoe Community College transcript. No points are awarded for any completed with a grade of "C" or lower.</p> <p>General Education Courses include:</p> <p>BIO 201 OR BIO 104                      4 credits</p> <p>COM 115 OR COM 125                    3 credits</p> <p>ENG 121                                        3 credits</p> <p>PSY 101                                        3 credits</p> <p>PSY 235                                        3 credits</p> <p>HPR 138                                        1 credit</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p><b>Application Essay Responses</b></p> <p>Points Possible: 10 Points Possible</p> <p>Points are awarded according to an established grading rubric. Essays are evaluated for 1) Relevance of answer to the question, 2) Thoroughness of answer, 3) Organization and logic of answer and 4) mechanics of writing (spelling, punctuation, grammar, clarity). Each category is equally weighted.</p>	
<p><b>Healthcare Employment (Work related or observation time in a Physical Therapy setting)</b></p> <p>0-6 hours = 2 points</p> <p>7-14 hours = 4 points</p> <p>14-21 hours = 6 points</p> <p>22-29 hours = 8 points</p> <p>30+ hours = 12 points</p> <p><b>Note: If only one practice setting is documented maximum points awarded will be 6 points.</b></p>	<p>Total points awarded for Physical Therapy Visitations</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Recommendation letters</b></p> <p>A maximum of 15 possible points - which is the sum of average of ranking on three recommendation letters.</p> <p>A student will receive the maximum points (15 points) when he/she obtained "outstanding" ranking in all categories specified in the recommendation form as outlined below. Otherwise, an average will be calculated and assigned to the student based on the rankings he/she receives. Rankings are on a continuum from 1 to 6 in skill categories of Interpersonal Skills, Communication Skills, Character/Integrity, Organizational Skills, Initiative, Leadership, Teamwork, Responsibility, Problem Solving, and Critical Thinking.</p>	<p>Total points awarded for recommendation letters</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Reasoning skills demonstrated on the HRST</b></p> <p>If the program receives more than 20 applications, the applicants with the highest number of academic points earned on these selection criteria will be invited back to take the Health Sciences Reasoning Test (HSRT). The highest possible score is 100 points.</p>	<p>Total points awarded for HSRT</p> <p>_____</p>

- Notes:
- A Criminal Background check is required upon the acceptance into the program. For additional information on the procedure for background checks as well as disqualifying

events, please see the PTA website under “Important PTA Program Information” for link to Castle Branch. Please note: Criminal background checks require a fee and the applicant’s social security number.

- Prior to clinical participation, PTA students must meet PTA program Health and Safety Requirements including:
  1. Professional Level CPR and First Aid Certification
  2. MMR, Hepatitis B and tDap vaccinations
  3. OSHA Training
  4. Annual PPD (TB) test
  5. Annual Flu shots (for clinicals occurring October – April)
  6. Varicella immunity (either vaccination or report of occurrence)
  
- If required by assigned clinical affiliation, students must also provide documentation of
  1. A successfully completed Drug Screening
  2. Health Insurance
  3. An annual physical within the past year
  4. COVID 19 vaccination
  
- Professional development as a Physical Therapist Assistant includes commitment to learning, commitment to service, and commitment to the physical therapy profession. To facilitate development, each student will build a portfolio over the next two years, which encompasses all of these areas: Community Service, ACC PTA Club, American Physical Therapy Association Membership, Continuing Education and Career Development. Students have options of the activities they use to complete each category. Regardless of choices, completion of the portfolio will require additional out of class time and expenses vary depending on choice. Students are responsible for the financial aspects of portfolio completion.

Information Sessions about the PTA program will be held via WebEx at <https://cccs-meetings.webex.com/meet/paula.provence> on

Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 8:30 am

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:30 pm

Any additional sessions scheduled will be listed on the ACC website at [www.arapahoe.edu/pta](http://www.arapahoe.edu/pta)

### **Admission statistics:**

Each year all applications received are evaluated based on the criteria above and compared to the others in that year’s applicant pool. Although there is some variation between years, the successful applicant averages:

- Completion of 3-4 general education courses with a “B” or better;
- A cumulative GPAs of at least a 3.0
- Completion of at least 30 hours of Physical Therapy Visitation
- 3 recommendation letters with outstanding ranking in all of them.

### **Application Facts:**



Year	Number of Applications	Complete Applications	Incomplete Application	Primary reason for incomplete
2014	64	50	14	No/Low Accuplacer scores, No transcripts, low GPA
2015	64	51	13	No/Low Accuplacer scores, No transcripts, low GPA
2016	75	70	5	No/Low Accuplacer scores, No transcripts, low GPA
2017	58	50	8	No/Low Accuplacer scores, No transcripts, low GPA
2018	53	46	7	No/Low Accuplacer scores, No transcripts, low GPA
2019	44	43	1	No/Low Accuplacer scores, No transcripts, low GPA
2020	51	2	49	No transcripts, low GPA