

Physical Therapist Assistant

Application & Information Packet

Application Deadline

May 15, 2021



**Mount Wachusett
Community College**

Application for Entrance

September 2021

Thank you for considering the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Mount Wachusett Community College.

Admission to this program is competitive and seats are limited. Therefore, everyone who applies may not be admitted to the program. Students who complete the Physical Therapist Assistant program are prepared for employment under the direct supervision of a Physical Therapist and will be prepared to sit for the PTA licensure examination in the student's respective state of practice.

Important Application Information:

- Applicants must submit a completed application, including this signature page and checklist along with all required documentation by the application deadline.
- Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant and are not eligible for review by the Admissions Committee.
- Letters of Recommendation are not accepted.
- Education completed outside of the U.S. must be evaluated for equivalency. Evaluating agencies can be found at www.naces.org.
- Official transcripts must be received directly from the sending institution or may be hand delivered to the Office of Admissions in a sealed envelope.

Please place a ✓ next to items you are submitting along with selective application. Incomplete applications will be returned.

- Completed Physical Therapist Assistant application**
- Verification of Completion of high school or equivalency:** All applicants must provide proof of high school completion or equivalency by submission of high school or HISET (high school equivalency test) transcripts, copy of high school diploma or HISET certificate. Education completed outside the US must be officially translated/evaluated for high school equivalency. Evaluating agencies can be found at naces.org.
- Have you attended a mandatory Information Session?** Yes No If yes, what date? _____
- Official college transcripts (if applicable):** Transfer credits must be completed at an accredited college and official sealed transcripts should be submitted. Photocopies will not be reviewed or accepted. Education completed outside of the U.S. must be officially translated/evaluated for college course equivalency. Evaluating agencies can be found at www.naces.org.

Date transcripts requested, if not submitted at time of application.

- Documentation demonstrating that all minimum requirements for consideration have been met. **Note: Science and math courses cannot be older than 10 years.**
- Students whose native language is not English and those who have not completed Grades K-12 in the U.S. must demonstrate English proficiency by having completed ENG101 with a grade of C+ or higher, or have completed a Bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university, or score 213 on the computerized version or 550 on the paper version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL scores).

I hereby attest I have submitted all documentation required at time of submission for this selective application

Signature of applicant

Date

Signature of MWCC Admissions personnel

Date



**Mount Wachusett
Community College**

Physical Therapist Assistant

September 2021

EDUCATION INFORMATION

Which of the following have you been awarded: High School Diploma HiSET (GED) Certificate Home School Diploma

Name of High School/Home School/Testing Center: _____ Location: _____

Date Awarded (month/yr): ____/____/____ (documents awarded outside of the U.S. must be evaluated to meet U.S. standards) City State

Are you a current MWCC student? Yes No MWCC Student ID Number (if applicable): _____

Have you completed courses at MWCC? Yes No If yes, approximately how many credits have you completed at MWCC? _____

Have you completed courses at a college other than MWCC? If so, what is your highest level of college completed?

Some college Associate Degree Bachelor Degree Master Degree Doctor's Degree Certificate

Please list all colleges you have attended:

College City State/Country College City State/Country

College City State/Country College City State/Country

Will you be asking the Committee to review college transcripts from college(s) other than MWCC? Yes No

Have you ever been accepted to our Physical Therapist Assistant or other selective program at MWCC? Yes No

Minimum Course Requirement

Have you met the math requirement?

- Completed a college course equal or greater than MAT143 with a grade of "C+" or greater at _____
- Met with College Placement Testing (Math placement testing is permitted for program acceptance; however, students may be required to complete MAT 143 or higher for degree completion.)

Have you met the science requirement?

- Completed a four-credit college Human Biological science course with a grade of "C+" or greater at _____

Have you met the English requirement?

- Completed college coursework in fundamentals of reading and writing with a grade of "C+" or greater at _____
- Met with College Placement Testing (English placement testing is permitted for program acceptance; however, students may be required to complete ENG101 and ENG102 for degree completion).

I have read the Technical Standards and understand that it is my responsibility to discuss any accommodation that I may need with the appropriate College representative.

Yes No



Physical Therapist Assistant

September 2021

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Ethnic Background: Do you identify yourself as: Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: Select one or more races, as you identify yourself:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American White Cape Verdean Native Hawaii or Pacific Islander

Marital Status: Married Single Divorced Separated Widowed

Have you, your spouse, or your parents ever served in the U.S. Military: yes no

Emergency Contact Person: Name: _____ Relationship to the Applicant: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____
Street & Apt. # City State Postal/Zip Code

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL AID?

- I have already applied I plan on applying I do not plan on applying

To apply for financial aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available on the federal financial aid web site at www.fafsa.gov. Financial aid can be used to pay for tuition, fees, books, transportation, and other educational expenses. MWCC strongly encourages you to complete the FAFSA. If you have questions about your financial aid application or college financial planning, please call the college Financial Aid Office at 978-630-9169 or online at mwcc.edu/financial.

SIGNATURE

I hereby apply to MWCC. I agree to accept the regulations and requirements of the college and will cooperate with the students, faculty, and administration in the maintenance of high standards and appropriate conduct. I understand that concealment of facts or untruthful statements may result in my application being withdrawn or cause me to be dismissed from Mount Wachusett Community College. The information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand and consent to the information provided on this completed form being used to contact me by (check all that apply):

- automated telephone text messaging for matters related to my enrollment at Mount Wachusett Community College.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

(Required if applicant is under the age of 18 at time of application)

Office use only:

Date Received: _____

Physical Therapist Assistant

Physical Therapist Assistants implement treatment procedures in the rehabilitation of injured, ill or debilitated individuals. The Physical Therapist Assistant Degree program prepares individuals to work in the healthcare field under the direct supervision of a physical therapist in a variety of settings. The program also prepares students for the PTA licensure examination in the student's respective state of practice. The program is accredited by The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

All applicants must meet the following criteria at time of application.

- Completion of a four-credit college Human Biological science course with a grade of a 'C+' or higher completed at an accredited college within ten years of program start date. College course must have been completed at time of application to be considered.
- Completed college coursework in fundamentals of reading and writing with a grade of 'C+' or higher allowing advancement in college level coursework or through placement testing. ENG101 is preferred.
- Completed college coursework equal to or greater than MAT143 (not MAT140) with a 'C+' or higher (not more than 10 years old) or through college placement testing.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Students entering the Physical Therapist Assistant Degree (PTA) program must be able to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Comprehend textbook material at the 11th grade level.
2. Communicate and assimilate information either in spoken, printed, signed, or computer voice format.
3. Gather, analyze, and draw conclusions from data.
4. Stand for a minimum of two hours.
5. Walk for a minimum of six hours, without device or apparatus, not necessarily consecutively.
6. Stoop, bend and twist for a minimum of 30 minutes at a time and be able to repeat this activity at frequent intervals.
7. Lift a 40-pound person or assist with a larger person and transfer the person from one location to another.
8. Determine by touch: hotness/coldness, wetness/dryness, hardness/softness.
9. Use the small muscle dexterity necessary to do such tasks as gloving, gowning, and operating controls on machinery.
10. Read measurement units with or without corrective lenses.
11. Respond to spoken words, monitor signals, call bells, and vital sign assessment equipment.
12. Identify behaviors that would endanger a person's life or safety and intervene quickly in a crisis situation with an appropriate solution.
13. Remain calm, rational, decisive, and in control at all times, especially during emergency situations.
14. Exhibit social skills appropriate to professional interactions.
15. Maintain cleanliness and personal grooming consistent with close personal contact.
16. Function without causing harm to self or others if under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter medications.

Students are expected to meet the technical standards for enrollment in college programs. In some cases, assessment and developmental courses may help students meet these standards. Technical standards must be met with or without accommodations. The college complies with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Therefore, the College will make a reasonable accommodation for an applicant with a disability who is otherwise qualified.

ACCREDITATION

MWCC's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, which is the functioning body for accrediting educational programs for the preparation of Physical Therapist Assistants.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon graduation from this program students shall have demonstrated the ability to:

- Consistently demonstrate appropriate role utilization of the physical therapist assistant within the plan of care and the working relationship of the PTA to the supervising physical therapist in the application of an established treatment plan.
- Integrate into practice the Guidelines of Ethical Conduct/Standards of Practice for PTAs in an effort to assure safe and proper conduct for all interactions within the profession.
- Demonstrate entry-level competence and skill in the implementation of a comprehensive treatment plan including appropriate modifications according to patient response, patient/practitioner interactions, and participation in discharge planning and follow-up.
- Report and communicate regularly with supervising physical therapists regarding patient progress and treatment modifications in accordance with changes in patient status.
- Perform with entry-level competence assessment procedures integrating the findings of such procedures to the patient's plan of care.
- Identify and demonstrate consistent behavior of interactions and teaching with healthcare professionals, patients and their families while providing the desired psycho-social support among diverse populations.
- Demonstrate effective and accurate written and verbal communication skills in documenting the relevant aspects of patient care including patient response and progress.
- Integrate information obtained from professional literature review into their clinical practice.
- Demonstrate consistent commitment to lifelong learning through regular participation in continuing education.
- Demonstrate successful performance on state licensure examination.
- Function within the ethical and legal framework of a Physical Therapist Assistant.

SPECIAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Health examination conducted within the past two years by a licensed health care provider.
- Immunization Requirements for Health Science Students: Two (2) doses Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine; two (2) doses MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine; three (3) doses Hepatitis B vaccine AND Hepatitis B titer showing immunity to the disease; one (1) TDAP (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine within 10 years; one (1) dose Meningococcal vaccine (ages 16-21); annual Influenza vaccine; initial "2 step" PPD or Quantiferon Gold TB blood test and then annual TB testing (negative chest x-ray within 5 years AND annual TB Questionnaire also accepted); a complete physical exam within two years. Contact the Health Services Office at 978-630-9136 for more information.
- Liability Insurance of \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 coverage is required. Students will be covered under the college's liability insurance policy, which will be billed through student fees.
- CPR Certification (at BLS Level from the American Heart Association) is required. A course will be offered in the fall semester for those in need.
- All PTA students must participate in the Massachusetts Community College Health Insurance or provide accurate information regarding comparable coverage.
- Completion of CORI/SORI form and drug and background screenings. Costs for these reviews will be the responsibility of the student.

BACKGROUND CHECKS, DRUG TESTING AND LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

A Criminal Offender Records Information (CORI) review procedure has been implemented for students whose academic programs includes the potential for unsupervised contact with persons from vulnerable populations (i.e., children, the elderly and the disabled).

As part of the coursework in the Physical Therapist Assistant program, students are required to complete practical hours in clinical facilities working with patients under the supervision of licensed providers. Clinical sites may require the student obtain certain background checks (state/federal criminal or sexual offender), finger printing and/or drug testing before participating in the clinical experience. Costs for these reviews will be the responsibility of the student.

Refusing to participate in these background checks or drug testing will result in the inability to progress in the program. A positive background check or drug test may also result in the inability to progress in the program.

The prospective student is encouraged to discuss any concerns with the program director prior to acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant program. All screenings and background checks are completed AFTER admission/acceptance into the program.

By signing this application, the prospective student understands his/her responsibility to participate in and pay for these background checks/drug tests, if required by the clinical site; and understands the consequences of refusing to test, or refusing to undergo the background checks.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Office of Admissions offers monthly information sessions that will include program information and the admission process. Transcript evaluations are not conducted at these sessions. All students are required to attend a session before applying to the program. See listing of sessions by visiting our website at mwcc.edu/admissions or call us at (978) 630-9110.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

If I will not meet the math and science requirements by deadline, will my file be reviewed?

No, unfortunately your file will not go to committee. Only those applicants who meet and provide documentation of requirements at time of deadline will be reviewed. (see minimum requirements for consideration).

I haven't completed the coursework needed to apply to the Physical Therapist Assistant program yet. Can I still come to MWCC?

YES! Students are encouraged to enter the college as a "Interdisciplinary Studies - Allied Health (IDSH)" student. In this major, you will be identified as a potential PTA applicant and will be assigned to an advisor that will assist you in establishing an educational plan. As a student in this major, you may complete any of your pre-requisite/co-requisite courses (i.e. English, mathematics, sciences, psychology, etc.) then apply to the program when you have met the requirements for consideration.

How is my file evaluated?

Our Physical Therapist Assistant class is selected from a pool of applicants who have met the minimum academic requirements for admission to the program. Space is limited and not all applicants are accepted. Applications will be reviewed and candidates will be notified of the decision by mail approximately 60 days after the deadline. The process is competitive and your file will be evaluated using the following:

- Grades for those courses applicable (via college transcript) to the physical therapist assistant curriculum (i.e. Application pre-requisites as well as co-requisite courses in curriculum that have been completed prior to application submission).
- Applicant status (i.e. College graduate (AS, BS, Masters)
- College placement scores (H.S. students are not eligible to apply).

If I am not accepted this year, will I automatically be accepted next year?

No, you are not guaranteed acceptance. Applicants who are not granted a seat in the program must reapply again the following year.

Can I work and attend classes full-time?

Physical Therapist Assistant coursework is complex and requires a personal commitment. Part-time employment may be appropriate, but will need to be flexible in order to accommodate school requirements. Students are encouraged to balance their employment and school responsibilities.

Where do I attend a clinical setting or placement, and how do I get there?

Physical Therapist Assistant students are responsible for their own transportation to clinical sites which are located throughout central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. A student may be asked to travel up to 75 minutes from their home to attend clinical. A complete listing of clinical sites is available to PTA students from the program's Clinical Coordinator.

Is there an interview for admission?

An interview is not required for admission, however attendance at a Healthcare Information Session is mandatory.

Can I apply for Financial Aid?

Yes. Inquire at the Financial Aid Office, 978-630-9169 or financialaid@mwcc.mass.edu.

I still have more questions, how do I get them answered?

Applicants are required to attend one of the Healthcare Information Sessions. Contact the Office of Admissions to RSVP at 978-630-9110 or visit our website for dates.

Additionally, what must I be aware of?

- It is up to the applicant to read the Technical Standards and understand that it is his/her responsibility to discuss any accommodation that he/she may need by contacting the Counselor for Students with Disabilities at 978-630-9330.
- The applicant is responsible for ensuring that their application file and proof of minimum requirements are completed and received by the Office of Admissions by the deadline.
- While there has traditionally been no direct transfer route for Physical Therapist Assistant graduates, they may choose from a variety of higher level degrees such as exercise physiology, exercise science, biology and pre-physical therapy. Consult with your academic advisor.
- Special requirements: Physical Therapist Assistant students are required to keep pace with the incoming class and must take courses in sequential order. Applicants must meet all requirements for consideration before entering the program. Students must meet technical standards and additional requirements including immunizations, CPR certification, liability insurance, and a Criminal/Sexual Offender Records Information (CORI/SORI) check. Students must maintain a C+ (77 percent) or better in all PTA & BIO courses to maintain good standing.

In compliance with the Clery Act (20 U.S.C. 1092(a) and (f)), all prospective students are entitled to review the MWCC Annual Security Report. This report may be accessed online at www.mwcc.edu or by request through the Office of Admissions.

Mount Wachusett Community College seeks to provide equal educational and employment opportunities and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, physical or mental disability, sex, national origin or ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, or veteran status.



Physical Therapist Assistant

Estimated Cost and Classroom/Clinical Schedule

Outlined below are estimated expenses and classroom/clinical schedule requirements associated with the PTA program. This estimate is based upon Fall 2020 Massachusetts resident tuition and fee day rates of \$222/credit. College semester fees include a registration fee, technology access fee, student activity (if applicable), and LEM - Library, equipment and materials fee (if applicable). Tuition and fees are subject to change and tuition/fee rates may vary based on course selection.

Prerequisite Semester

		Credits	Tuition Cost
BIO152	Essentials of Anatomy & Physiology	4	888
PSY105	Introduction to Psychology	3	666
MAT143	Statistics I	3	666
	College Fees		170
	Approximate Tuition/Fee Cost:		\$2,390

Approximate classroom/clinical schedule for PTA courses only:

Semester I

PTA103	Introduction to Physical Therapy Assisting	4	888
PTA104	Applied Anatomy and Kinesiology	4	888
PTA120	Integrated Clinical Experience I	2	444
ENG101	College Writing I	3	666
	College Fees		170
	Approximate Tuition/Fee Cost:		\$3,056

Fall - Year 1
Academics

Spring - Year 1
Academics

Semester II

ENG102	College Writing II	3	666
PTA111	Clinical Orthopedics for the PTA	10	2,220
PTA121	Integrated Clinical Experience II	1	222
PTA139	Human Disease and Pathology	4	888
	College Fees		170
	Approximate Tuition/Fee Cost:		\$4,166

Fall - Year 2
Academics

Spring - Year 2
7 weeks - Clinical (full-time)
3 weeks - Academics
7 weeks - Clinicals (full-time)

Semester III

PSY110	Human Growth and Development	3	666
PTA112	Therapeutic Modalities	4	888
PTA113	Advanced Rehabilitation Techniques	3	666
PTA114	Neurophysiological Techniques	4	888
	College Fees		170
	Approximate Tuition/Fee Cost:		\$3,278

This schedule is an estimated schedule only. Classes/clinicals are not held on weekend days.

Semester IV

PTA116	Clinical Practicum I++	5	1,110
PTA118	Clinical Mgmt & Healthcare Issues	1	222
	Humanities Elective	3	666
PTA119	Clinical Practicum II++	5	1,110
	College Fees		170
	Approximate Tuition/Fee Cost:		\$3,278

Approximate Total Tuition/Fee Cost: \$16,168

College Health Insurance Plan \$2,390/yr

Note: If you already have health insurance, you will not need to purchase college insurance.

Miscellaneous Program Expenses: \$3,000
Equipment, Liability Insurance, CPR, Textbooks & Misc Materials

APPROXIMATE TOTAL PROGRAM COST \$23,948

* These courses must be taken concurrently or prior to PTA courses specified for that particular semester
++ 280 hours in a clinical setting

Career options: PTAs assist PTs in acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, long-term care, private practices, school systems, and home care/visiting nurse associations.

Earning potential: \$35,000 - \$45,000 per year.



Physical Therapist Assistant

Application & Information Packet

Application for Entrance: September 2021

Application Deadline: May 15, 2021

Contact & Campuses

Office of Admissions

Tel: 978-630-9110
Fax: 978-630-9554
Email: admissions@mwcc.edu
Web: mwcc.edu/admissions

Financial Aid Office

Tel: 978-630-9169
Fax: 978-630-9459
Email: financialaid@mwcc.mass.edu
Web: mwcc.edu/financial

Student Accounts Office

Tel: 978-630-9386
Fax: 978-630-9459
Email: bursar@mwcc.mass.edu
Web: mwcc.edu/student-accounts

Gardner

444 Green Street
Gardner, MA 01440
978-630-9110

Devens

One Jackson Place
27 Jackson Rd.
Devens, MA 01434
978-630-9569

Leominster

100 Erdman Way
Leominster, MA 01453
978-630-9810

Fitchburg (Dental Only)

326 Nichols Road
Fitchburg, MA 01420
978-630-9413



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