ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

ADMISSIONS GUIDE

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Helping people regain or attain the ability to walk and carry out daily activities can be very satisfying. As a physical therapist assistant, you play an important role in a rehabilitation team that helps patients improve their quality of life by restoring physical function or preventing permanent disability.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

(Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee admission)

Term	Applications Accepted	Application Review	Student Notified by Email: xxxxxx#@live.spcollege.edu
Fall: August	March 1 – May 15	May 16 – July 31	Refer to **Selection** on page 3

☐ **New** students must complete the St. Petersburg College Admission Application and pay the non-refundable fee. **Returning** students must complete the online Readmission steps in MySPC if you have not enrolled in the previous six semesters. Admissions and Readmissions

A secondary Health Program Application is required for limited access Health Programs (link below)

☐ Submit official, unopened (sealed) high school or GED transcripts indicating completion of a standard high school diploma or equivalency. ***See Transcripts/Transfer Credit**
If you completed an A.A.S. degree or higher at an institutionally accredited college/university, we do not need your high school/GED transcript or Home School Affidavit.

☐ Submit official, unopened (sealed) transcripts from all institutionally accredited college(s) and/or universities currently or previously attended (outside of St Petersburg College). ***See Transcripts/Transfer Credit**
To confirm posted credits: log into MySPC > My Academics > View Unofficial Transcript > Other/Transfer Credits

☐ Students must demonstrate they are at college level in Writing, Reading, and Math either through appropriate test scores or through appropriate course completion.

☐ Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale in all postsecondary coursework. Your Academic Standing may have an impact on your admission, enrollment, and financial aid eligibility. See the SPC Academic Standing Policy for details. Academic Standing Policy

☐ Completion of the following Pre-Entry-Support courses, or currently enrolled in them at SPC, and a completion with a "C" or better:

- **BSC 2085 and BSC 2085L Human Anatomy & Physiology 1 and Lab**
- **PHI 1600 Applied Ethics**
- **HSC 1531 Medical Terminology**
- **Computer/Information Literacy**

☐ Students must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.00 scale in all Physical Therapist Assistant program pre-entry, general education and support courses completed at the time of application. (DEP 2004 is not included)

St. Petersburg College is committed to equal access/equal opportunity in its programs, activities, and employment.
For additional information visit www.spcollege.edu/eaeo

☐ Complete a *minimum* of 24 hours of observation, volunteer service or paid work experience in a physical therapy department verified by a Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapist Assistant. This requirement must include at least two different clinical settings. Some hours must be completed in **inpatient** (hospital/skilled nursing facility, inpatient rehab facility) and some hours must be completed in **outpatient** (sports medicine, private practice). **This requirement must be completed within two years preceding the application deadline.** The **Physical Therapist Assistant Observation/Experience Record** (Page 6 of this Admissions Checklist) should be printed, completed, and uploaded into the Health Program Application at the time of application.

***2027 Applicants** unable to complete observation hours prior to the application deadline of May 15th will be permitted to complete and submit their Observation/Experience Record on or before **July 30, 2027.** If observation hours are in progress at the time of application, write "in progress" on the Observation/Experience Record and upload into the Health Program Application. When observation hours are complete, email a completed Observation/Experience Record to HealthAdvising@spcollege.edu on or before July 30, 2027.*

☐ I have reviewed the Technical Standards (Essential Functions) of my selected health program. I agree that I can meet the Technical Standards with or without accommodation(s). If you feel that you cannot meet these requirements due to a disability, please contact the Health Education Center Accessibility Services office to set up a confidential consultation at (727) 341-3432 or visit www.spcollege.edu/accessibility.

☐ VECHS/FDLE Authorization forms: Applicants admitted will be required to print, hand sign, scan (either by scanner or mobile PDF app), and upload properly prepared signature pages in the Notice of Intent (NOI) Survey. If admitted, further details on completing the background, drug testing and fingerprint screening process will be sent in the offer of admission email.

☐ Submit a Health Programs Application: Health Programs Application
It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all admission requirements are satisfied and posted accurately to their student record by the application deadline for admission consideration.
For questions about these admissions requirements: Visit Career & Academic Advising

Admission notifications will be sent through SPC student email (xxxxxx#@live.spcollege.edu)
If you are not sure how to access your SPC student email, please visit How do I Access My SPC Email

***Transcripts/Transfer Credit:** Submitting Official Transcripts

- Transcripts must be received and evaluated by St. Petersburg College prior to the application deadline to ensure consideration. Please allow 30 days.
- We do not accept unofficial copies or unsealed official copies.
- International students, please refer to Submitting Official Transcripts
- Transcripts for course credit earned by exam(s) (e.g., AP, CLEP) must be provided from the originating testing agency.
- **If you have submitted updated transcripts from one institution, please verify that your most recent coursework is evaluated and posted to your SPC record.**

***Alternative Satisfaction**

- Transfer courses for which there is no direct SPC equivalent will be posted as elective credit and designated with a number ending in "999"; additionally, upper division (300/3000 level or higher) transfer credits do not automatically post to your SPC record.
- Upper division coursework (transfer or SPC) will not automatically satisfy admission requirements; it must be requested by the student.
- If you believe a course posted as an elective should satisfy a degree requirement, or you would like an upper division course be used to satisfy a lower division course, please complete the Alternative Satisfaction Survey
  A copy of your transcript from the former institution and a course syllabus will be required.
  *All transcript/transfer credit questions can be directed to Advising at SPC || St. Petersburg College

Program Information and Schedule

- The A.S. Physical Therapist Assistant degree will prepare students for the PTA National Physical Therapy Licensing Exam through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.
- One cohort is available each year: Fall
- Completion of the program allows a student to apply to SPC's B.A.S. Health Services Administration.
- Clinical facilities may prohibit students who do not have an assigned social security number from participating in clinical experiences which are a mandatory component of the curriculum. If other placement options are not available, the student would need to withdraw from that semester and would not be able to progress in the program.
  These factors must be taken into consideration prior to pursuing admission to the program.

- PTA classes are typically held 3-4 days per week. The schedule below is subject to change.

First Year Students (Fall Semester):
Lectures: Monday 9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. and Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Labs: Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 3:10 p.m. and Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.
Open Lab: Friday mornings
First Year Students (Spring Semester):
Lectures: Tuesday 8:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and Thursday 8:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Labs: Monday 8:45 a.m. – 2:25 p.m. and Tuesday 12:30 p.m. – 4:05 p.m.
Open Lab: Wednesday mornings, Thursday afternoons, and Friday mornings
Second Year Students
The schedule fluctuates due to clinical affiliations. Please contact the Program Director with questions.
In addition, three times during the two-year program, students will go offsite for a clinical affiliation:
1) 5½ weeks summer term after student's first year
2) 5 weeks in January of second year
3) 6 weeks in mid-March of second year

Each clinical requires a minimum of 40 hours/week and may include weekend and/or early morning or evening hours. Admitted students will need to make financial, work schedule and arrangements to accommodate these time periods.

Selection Criteria, Selection Process and Admissions

- **All application requirements must be satisfied by the closing of the application window, except courses taken at SPC during the summer term –** *including pre-entry, support, and general education courses.*
- Up to 34 students admitted. Approximately 50 students apply.
- The average GPA for acceptance varies for each applicant pool but typically falls between 3.5 and 4.0.
- Selective criteria are used to determine which applicants are admitted.
  This criterion is based on a point system using the pre-entry course GPA, the number of pre-entry, general education, and support course credits completed as well as the interview score. In the case of a tie, a lottery will be used.
  - **29 points** may be awarded based on the number of health program pre-entry, general education and support coursework credits completed. (DEP 2004 is not included in the selection criteria calculation.)
  - **40 points** may be awarded based on the GPA earned from **pre-entry** coursework, excluding Computer/Information Literacy.
  - **30 points** may be awarded based on participation in an academic group interview. The interview includes a group discussion and individual essay.
- Current enrollment in summer courses at St Petersburg College **only** will be included in the calculation.
- **Selection Process**
  - **May 16** (or first business day after the window closes) All applicants will receive an Admissions Timeline email summarizing the process
  - **June 1** (or first business day after) All applicants will receive one of the following three emails:
    1) Email for applicants with a **PTA Pre-Entry GPA of 3.5 or higher** indicating they will be offered the opportunity to participate in the interview segment of the application process.
    2) Email notifying applicants whose **PTA Pre-Entry GPA is below 3.5** indicating they will not be admitted to the program to allow time for students to make other plans.
    Historically, no one has been admitted to the PTA program with an admissions GPA below 3.5.
    3) Email to **Incomplete** applicants (missing transcripts, coursework, or other application requirements)
  - **Mid-June** PTA Interviews held for applicants who received an invitation (email #3).
  - **Late June** All interviewees will receive an email. The email will be one of the following:
    1) Email for candidates with an Interview score below 24 to allow students to make other plans.
    Historically, no one has been admitted to the PTA program with an Interview score below 24.
    2) Email for candidates with an Interview score of 24 or above indicating they will continue in the application process with final notification after the summer term ends.
  - **Late July** SPC Summer Term ends
  - **Early August** Acceptance and Denial emails sent to all applicants who are still being considered.
  - **Early August** Mandatory Program Orientation

If you are admitted, you will need to complete the following pre-enrollment requirements to maintain eligible status.

- Complete the Notice of Intent survey by the date indicated in the admission email.
- Successfully pass a background check and drug screening by the date indicated in the admission email.
- Complete the Health Education Program orientation on the date indicated in the admission email.
- Complete any required immunizations.

If you are not admitted, please discuss admissions requirements with an Academic Advisor and consider reapplying during a future application cycle.

Estimated Cost

Detailed program cost information can be found in the College's Academic Catalog.

Accessibility Services

St. Petersburg College is committed to providing quality education and services to all students by ensuring that admission, academic programs, support services, student activities, and campus facilities are accessible to and usable by qualified students with disabilities. Each specific health program has its own technical standards which all students must meet with or without accommodation(s). To help students achieve success, Accessibility Services works with students, faculty, and staff to coordinate the provision of reasonable accommodations. To put your accommodations in place, please contact the Health Education Center Accessibility Services at (727) 341-3432 or visit http//www.spcollege.edu/accessibility

A.S. Physical Therapist Assistant

PRE-ENTRY - SUPPORT COURSES (10 credits) A grade of "C" or higher is required. (May **not** be satisfied by an Associate in Arts or higher degree) Admission GPA calculated from 9 credits; computer/information literacy competency excluded.	**CREDIT POINTS**
BSC 2085 HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY 1	3
BSC 2085L HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY LAB 1	1
HSC 1531 MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	2
PHI 1600 or PHI 1600H (Honors) **APPLIED ETHICS** 3 credits from the approved General Education ETHICS coursework	3
COMPUTER/INFORMATION LITERACY COMPETENCY *not included in GPA; but used in credit count* Competency may be demonstrated by completing the Computer Information and Literacy Exam OR by successful completion of one of the approved Computer/Information Literacy Competency courses.	1
Pre-Entry GPA Calculator Click Here Include BSC 2085, BSC 2085L, HSC 1531 and PHI 1600 only **GPA multiplied by 10 = GPA points for example, 4.0 X 10 = 40 GPA points** Students with a **Pre-entry GPA of 3.5 or higher** will be offered the opportunity to participate in the interview segment of the application process	GPA: x10 = GPA Pts:
SUPPORT COURSES (10 credits) A grade of "C" or higher is required. (May **not** be satisfied by an Associate in Arts or higher degree)	
BSC 2086 HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY 2	3
BSC 2086L HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY LAB 2	1
PSY 1012 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
DEP 2004 DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY OF THE LIFESPAN *Not included in selection calculation*	0
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES A grade of "C" or higher is required. (May be satisfied by an Associate in Arts or higher degree) *A.S. General Education Requirements*	
COMMUNICATIONS: Composition 1 3 credits from the approved General Education COMPOSITION coursework ENC 1101 – Composition 1 or ENC 1101H (Honors)	3
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES 3 credits from the approved General Education SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES – CORE *Recommended: a CORE Social and Behavioral Science that meets the Civic Literacy requirement**	3
HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS 3 credits from the approved General Education HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS – CORE *Recommended: a CORE Humanities that meets the Enhanced World View* *See **Enhanced World View** below* **	3
MATHEMATICS 3 credits from the approved General Education MATHEMATICS – CORE	3
Health Program GPA Calculator Click Here **minimum 2.5 required** Include all pre-entry, general education and support courses, but not including DEP 2004.	
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	
***CIVIC LITERACY:** A.S. Physical Therapist Asst Program of Study A.S. General Education Requirements – Civic Literacy Students entering an A.S. Degree program in the 2022-2023 academic school year, or thereafter, must demonstrate competency through successful completion the Civic Literacy requirement. This may include a course and exam, or an alternative accelerated mechanism. This course may also be used to satisfy another General Education Requirement (Social & Behavioral Sciences)	
****ENHANCED WORLD VIEW:** Complete at least one 3-credit course intended to enhance the student's world view considering an increasingly globalized economy. This course may also be used to satisfy another General Education Requirement (Humanities and Fine Arts)	
MAXIMIUM POINTS = 29 CREDIT POINTS **+ 40** GPA POINTS **+ 30** INTERVIEW POINTS **= 99 POINTS**	

To view approved General Education courses, please refer to A.S. General Education Requirements

SPC St. Petersburg College
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Physical Therapist Assistant Observation/Experience Record

Complete a *minimum* of 24 hours of observation, volunteer service or paid work experience in a physical therapy department verified by a Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapist Assistant.

This requirement must include at least two different clinical settings:

- **inpatient** (hospital, skilled nursing facility, inpatient rehab facility)
- **outpatient** (sports medicine, private practice)

Applicants are to dress in accordance with the dress code of the facility. Please inquire when calling to arrange your scheduled visit.

Applicants should print and complete this form to be uploaded into the Health Program Application.

APPLICANT NAME (Please print)**:** _____

INPATIENT HOURS (hospital, skilled nursing facility, inpatient rehab facility)

Date(s) MM/DD/YY	Facility	Name of Health Provider	Professional License Number	# of Hours	(O) Observation (V) Volunteer (P) Paid

OUTPATIENT HOURS (sports medicine, private practice)

Date(s) MM/DD/YY	Facility	Name of Health Provider	Professional License Number	# of Hours	(O) Observation (V) Volunteer (P) Paid

Confidentiality of patient records: According to the HIPPA guidelines, information regarding the names of individuals and/or treatment they are undergoing must be treated with strict confidence and must not be communicated in any manner. Any unauthorized viewing, discussion or disclosure of an individual's healthcare information could result in litigation and/or prosecution.