



Wharton County Junior College

911 Boling Highway • Wharton, Texas 77488 • (979) 532-4560

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. We accept 16 students into our 21 month program every August. Once completed you will be eligible to sit for the National Licensing Exam. We are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

The PTA Program is only offered on the Wharton Campus.

In this packet you will find all the requirements and deadlines to apply to the PTA program. It is important that all documentation be submitted in your **COMPLETED PTA application packet** by the deadline, **LAST THURSDAY IN MAY**. You may submit your completed application prior to the deadline but no later than the **LAST THURSDAY IN MAY**. If you have any questions or would like to check on your application for completeness, you may call the PTA Program secretary.

You will be sent an email of our decision regardless of the outcome. Please use your student email.

You may mail, or deliver in person your **COMPLETED** application to:

By Mail:

Wharton County Junior College
Attn: PTA Program
911 Boling Hwy.
Wharton, Texas 77488

In Person:

Wharton County Junior College
911 Boling Hwy.
Johnson Health Occupations
Building, Room J206, Parking Lot #5
Wharton, Texas 77488

Thank you,

Kelly Wallace, PT, DPT
Program Director
979-532-6374

Carol Riley
Program Secretary
979-532-6491
carolr@wcjc.edu

Wharton County Junior College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, marital status, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.



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The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at WCJC is designed to prepare the students in the skills needed to effectively assist physical therapists while working under their supervision. The program includes study in anatomy and physiology, social science, technical physical therapy courses, and practical experience in area health care facilities. Upon successful completion of the 21-month program, the graduate is awarded an Associate in Applied Science degree and is eligible to take the national licensing examination.

To be considered for acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, you must submit all required documentation and information in your COMPLETED application packet by the LAST THURSDAY IN MAY.

- 1. Admission to WCJC:** Applicant must apply to the college at: www.applytexas.org.
- 2.** You must satisfy all WCJC admissions requirements to be eligible to apply to the PTA Program. Acceptance into WCJC does not guarantee acceptance into the PTA Program.
- 3. TSI:** You must be TSI complete in all components of the TSI. If you are not sure if you are TSI satisfied you may contact the Office of Admissions and Registration, or you may look on your college transcript.
- 4. Application to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program:** Applicant must complete the Application to the program and submit all required documentation and information requested by the program in a COMPLETED application packet. Do not print front and back. The application packet can be submitted to the program by mail or in person **prior to but no later than the LAST THURSDAY IN MAY**. Emailed applications will not be accepted.
- 5. Transcripts:** You must submit **unofficial** transcripts from each and every college you have attended. Including WCJC. These need to be in your completed application packet. That can be a copy of an OFFICIAL or one that you can print off of your student portal. The Office of Admissions and Registration will require an OFFICIAL transcript from each college you have attended, excluding WCJC, be sent to them. They are not responsible for sending your transcript to the program. It is your responsibility to include your **unofficial** transcripts in your packet.

- 6. Transcript Evaluation Form:** If you have attended any colleges other than WCJC you will need to have a Degree Evaluation Request form filled out and sent to the Office of Admissions and Registration so an evaluation of your classes can be done on classes taken at other colleges. If you have only attended WCJC, you do not need to have an evaluation be done. This must be requested prior to the application deadline. Preferably 30 days prior to submitting your PTA application. They will complete your evaluation and email a copy to the PTA Program and a copy to you. The link for the Evaluation form is:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScEaW-W22C7a3cS1yiS8ogjpxuX08k0X2DZq36kOibyL8MTgg/viewform>.
- 7.** The PTA Program does not have Pre-Requisite courses but do have Required General Education Courses. These courses can be taken at WCJC. It is “highly recommended” to have as many of these courses completed prior to the program, or taking the course at the time of your application. Preference is given to the applicant that has credit in the Required General Education Courses. All Required General Education Courses must have at least a grade of “C” or better to qualify. Applicants must have a 2.5 GPA or higher in the Required General Education Courses to qualify. BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402 can be no older than 10 years old. There is no time frame on the other Required General Education Courses. Required General Education Courses are listed below: BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, MATH 1314, ENGL 1301, PSYC 2314 and any Language, Philosophy, and Culture or Creative Arts Elective on the AAS General Education Course List.
- 8. TEAS Test (Test of Essential Academic Skills) Score:** You must take the TEAS test and your scores must be current within the last 2 years prior to the application deadline. Print out and include in your application packet the Individual Performance Profile Score Sheet. Do not turn in ATI transcript with overall Individual Score only. You may register for the TEAS test at www.ATItesting.com. The scores needed are at least 70% on the Math, 70% on Science Reasoning and 70% on Reading Comprehension to qualify for our program. It is recommended you schedule one month before planning on taking the test.
- 9. Observation Hours:** You must have 20 hours observing in a Physical Therapy setting. An observation form is attached to have completed by the Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant that you observed.
- 10. Essay:** Write a one page typed essay summary of what techniques you observed, your likes, dislikes about becoming a PTA.
- 11. Medical Work Experience or Volunteer:** Write an essay summarizing any medical work experience you may have, including volunteering. (if applicable). Admission points will be given to those who have at least 6 months medical work or volunteering experience.

- 12. Hepatitis B Requirement:** Applicants must show proof of the completion of the Hepatitis B vaccine series. If you cannot find your record of having the Hepatitis B series you may go to your doctor and request a serologic Titer be done to confirm immunity. If you have not ever had the shots or are negative, you will need to restart the series. We will accept a copy of your shot record, and or, copy of your titer results.
- 13. Information Session:** We offer information sessions starting in January and ending in April. They are held the last Tuesday of the month from 4:00-5:00 p.m. You will need to contact the Program Secretary to set up an appointment for the information session.
- 14.** Please use the check off sheet at the end of the application to make sure you have submitted all documentation in your packet. If you have any questions or concerns about any part of this process please call the program secretary. It is your responsibility to make sure your PTA Application Packet is complete.
- 15.** Applicants will be notified by email of the accepted, alternate, or not accepted status in June. Should a position become available, that position will be filled with an alternate from the alternate list. Applicants in the alternate pool will be re-evaluated by the selection committee and the best available alternate will be selected to fill any vacant position. The technical courses for the physical therapist assistant program are not designed to transfer to four-year institutions. Students who are planning to pursue a physical therapist degree should consult with an advisor from the four-year institution to plan an appropriate selection of classes to ensure all requirements are met.

If you are accepted into the PTA Program, it is contingent upon the passing of the Background check and Drug Test. You will receive more information about these two requirements after the class has been chosen and all have accepted their positions in the class.

Criminal Background Check: Most clinical facilities require that criminal background checks be completed prior to allowing students to participate in clinical training at their facilities. Applicants conditionally accepted into the WCJC PTA program will be required to complete a criminal background check. Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon a satisfactory background check, which will be completed by an approved agency. An applicant with an unsatisfactory criminal background check will only be eligible to receive full acceptance and enroll in the PTA program if, 1) the applicant has their background check information reviewed by the chief investigator of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and, 2) the applicant provides a letter from the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners stating that the applicant would be currently eligible for state licensure. The cost of the criminal background check will be at the applicant's expense. The anticipated cost for the criminal background check is approximately \$55.00.

Drug Testing; Applicants accepted into the WCJC PTA program will also be required to complete a negative drug screen. Only drug screens conducted through the College approved agency will be accepted. An applicant with a positive drug screen will not gain acceptance into the program for that application period and all future applications will not be considered for admission into the program. Refusal to submit to a drug screen will result in non-acceptance to the program.

The estimated cost of the drug screen is \$50.00. For more information regarding drug testing contact the PTA program director.

Proof of Immunization: The college must verify immunity by way of a titer and lab results for all healthcare students for the following: Varicella, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Hepatitis B. The student must also present documentation of an ADULT dose of TDAP within the last ten years, a Tuberculin Test and Flu vaccine which is required annually. Documentation of immunizations will be submitted to and monitored through Castlebranch. Additional information will be included in the acceptance letter.

COVID Vaccine: Some clinical affiliates may require students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to attending a clinical site. If a student elects to not get vaccinated, the student may not be able to complete clinical course requirements thus may not complete the program. WCJC focuses on efforts to ensure the health and well-being of our students and the community; therefore, WCJC urges students to be fully vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

CPR Requirement: If you are accepted into the PTA Program, you will need to become CPR Certified. It must be an American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) course. This class is offered through the colleges Continuing Education Department. Check their schedule for times and dates. Or you may take the course at any location that offers this CPR Certification.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES:

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT INFORMATION:

Physical Therapist Assistant	Price
<i>AAS Degree: 46 Hours</i> General Education Courses Excluded	
Tuition/Fees In-District	\$4370.00
Tuition/Fees Out-District	\$6716.00
Tech Fee/Lab Fees	\$825.00
DrugScreen/CriminalBackground/PhysicalExam/Immunizations/CPR/Castlebranch	\$670 Approx.

Books	\$1511.00
Uniforms/Supplies	\$200
Licensure Fees	\$720
Total Estimate for 2 years	
In-District	\$8296.00
Out-District	\$10642.00
Clinical cost of parking and travel is not included in this estimate. Tuition and Fees are subject to change with Board of Trustees Approval.	

*Fee added to PTHA 1413 and PTHA 2435 courses. **Fee added to the PTHA 1360 course
The estimated cost for the entire program is approximately is \$8296.00 for in-district students and approximately \$1064.20 for out- of- district students. This does not include travel or relocation expense associated with clinical education.

FINANCIAL AID

Loans, scholarships and grants are available through the Financial Aid Office to qualifying students. Additional information is located on WCJC’s home page section on scholarships. Information on housing may be found in the college catalog.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Information regarding graduation rate, employment rate, and licensure examination pass rate can be obtained either by contacting the PTA Program Director at (979) 532-6491 or by visiting the PTA Program web page at <http://www.wcjc.edu/Programs/allied-health/physical-therapist-assistant/student-outcomes.aspx> and selecting “Student Outcomes”.

Accommodations for Disabilities while the Student is in the Program

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out the coursework, please contact the ADA Coordinator at 979-532-6384. All information and documentation pertaining to personal disabilities/diagnoses is confidential.

Essential Performance Functions for PTA Students

There are several important factors for you to consider when you are determining your future career directions. Physical Therapist Assistant students must be able to perform, with or without reasonable accommodations, each of these essential functions in order to fully participate in our program and successfully complete the requirements of the PTA Program.

1. Attend class approximately 10-15 hours per week, including lecture and lab. Attend clinic 40 hours/week for 3 six week sessions.
2. Meet class standards for successful course completion as described in the student handbook, student manual and course syllabi.
3. Safely and reliably perform or instruct others in a timely manner with the following procedures: transfers, gait training, physical agents, activities of daily living, therapeutic exercises, and/or activities, endurance training, data collecting procedures, movement patterns, development skills, functional abilities, assistive technology and balance and coordination training.
4. Demonstrate the ability to observe and practice universal/standard precautions.
5. Demonstrate the ability to perform CPR and emergency first aid.
6. Use auditory, tactile and visual senses to assess physiological status of an individual.
7. Engage in respectful, non-judgmental interactions with individuals from various lifestyles, cultures, beliefs, races, socioeconomic classes and abilities.
8. Professionally communicate to patients of all ages and cognitive abilities the name of the treatment being delivered, the purpose of the treatment, any precautions, any commands associated with the treatment, the call system and the intended response to the treatment.
9. Coordinate verbal and manual instructions.
10. Professionally communicate in staff and interdepartmental meetings by providing patient treatment information.
11. Write a grammatically correct progress note that includes the patient's age, gender, behavior, diagnoses, subjective complaints, objective observation and treatment rendered, patient's response to treatment, patient's improvements and recommendations to the supervising therapist.
12. Maintain classroom work area, equipment, supplies, personal appearance and hygiene conducive to the professional setting as appropriate.
13. Accept responsibility for all actions, reactions, and inactions.

Physical requirements for the PTA program include the need to occasionally, frequently, or continually:

1. Sit 1-4 hours per day with lecture blocks up to 3 hours.
2. Stand 1-6 hours with lab time blocks up to 3 hours.
3. Travel 1-1 ½ hours to clinic or be willing and /or financially able to relocate for 6 weeks.
4. Lift up to 60 pounds without producing pain.
5. Push/pull up to 50 pounds of force exerted at waist level.
6. Kneel, kneel-stand, and half kneel.
7. Squat or stoop.
8. Demonstrate good standing and unsupported sitting balance.
9. Reach above shoulder level.
10. Use hands repetitively demonstrating good finger dexterity and a firm grasp.
11. Safely and reliably read meters, dials, printouts, and goniometers.
12. Manipulate and operate physical therapy equipment and monitoring devices.
13. Demonstrate appropriate body mechanics and react safely and appropriately to sudden or unexpected movements of patients/classmates.
14. Demonstrate the ability to work in an environment that requires significant physical activity and mobility throughout the workday in a way that does not compromise patient or PTA safety.

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College

**STUDENT APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO
THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ Maiden or Previous Name _____

Permanent Address: Street Number _____ City, State _____ (Zip) _____

Mailing Address: Street Number _____ City, State _____ (Zip) _____

Telephone –Home _____ Telephone-Cell _____

Date of Birth _____ Email _____

Social Security Number _____ WCJC Student ID _____

Emergency Contact; _____ Phone Number _____

Completed WCJC application on file in the Registrar’s Office Yes No

Have you previously applied to this program? Yes No Date _____

EMPLOYMENT: (Begin with most recent years or attach a resume)

Employer	Phone	Date	Reason for Leaving

EDUCATION: List name and location of all schools attended (most recent first)

Name of School	Locations	Hours Earned/ Degree	Dates Attended

***ALL TRANSCRIPTS MUST BE SUBMITTED, with the exception of high school transcripts.
OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS SENT TO THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS OF REGISTRATION, UNOFFICIAL IN
PTA APPLICATION PACKET.***

- A. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that all information has been turned in to the PTA Program Office **BEFORE BUT NO LATER THAN THE LAST THURSDAY IN MAY**. The application packet must be **COMPLETE**.
- B. If accepted to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program:
1. You will be responsible for your own transportation to campus and all clinical assignments.
 2. You will be responsible for purchasing uniforms and supplies as necessary.
 3. You will be responsible for purchasing student liability and accident medical insurance that will be assessed with tuition fees each fall semester while enrolled in the program.
 4. You will be responsible for providing proof of immunity by way of a titer and lab results for all the following: Varicella, MMR, and Hepatitis B. You must also provide documentation of an ADULT dose of Tdap within the last ten years, a Tuberculin test (TB), Flu vaccine which is required annually and a current CPR Certification (**American Heart Association Provider only) Basic Life Support (BLS)**).
 5. You will be provided specific procedures for obtaining the prescreening criminal background check and drug test. Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon a satisfactory background check and a negative drug screen which will be completed by an approved agency at the students' expense.
- C. **Please note:** If you have a history of a felony conviction, it may not be possible for you to achieve licensure in the State of Texas. For more information, contact the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners of the State of Texas at (512)305-6900 or www.ptot.texas.gov to request a criminal history evaluation form.
- D. Applications for students not selected into the PTA Program will be held for 2 years. If a student wishes to re-apply during those 2 years, a letter or email must be sent to the PTA department requesting that their file be re-activated. It is the applicant's responsibility to update any information in the packet. Including transcripts, grades, test scores, and personal information.

Confirm by signing below that you have read the above information and the information you have provided in this application is true and complete to the best of your knowledge. Understand that any misrepresentation or falsification of information is cause for denial of admission and/or expulsion from Wharton County Junior College.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Please mail completed application packet to:
Wharton County Junior College
Attn: PTA Program
911 Boling Hwy.
Wharton, Texas 77488



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STUDENT OBSERVATION FORM

As part of the application process, the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Wharton County Junior College requires a **minimum** of 20 hours of observation attained in a **clinical or hospital** setting.

This form is to be completed by a Licensed Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant.

Please fill in the appropriate spaces below for each facility indicating the hours of observation along with the required signature. **In addition, prepare a one-page typed summary of what you learned during your observation.**

Be advised that some clinics may require documentation of a recent TB test (within one year) in order to observe in their clinic.

Due to the COVID pandemic it is possible that the clinical or hospital settings may require a COVID Vaccine to do the observation hours.

It is the responsibility of each applicant to return this form and the summary to the PTA department at WCJC by the deadline as stated in the college catalog.

1. Student Name _____ Hours
observed _____

Facility Name _____ Date

PT/PTA

2. Student Name _____ Hours
observed _____

Facility Name _____ Date

PT/PTA

3. Student Name _____ Hours observed _____

Facility Name _____ Date _____

PT/PTA _____

4. Student Name _____ Hours observed _____

Facility Name _____ Date _____

PT/PTA _____

COMMENTS:

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Physical Therapist Assistant Program Checklist

It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that all information has been turned in to the PTA office, or postmarked by mail **ON OR BEFORE THE LAST THURSDAY IN MAY**. Any information received after this date will not be considered. ALL documents listed below should be included in your packet upon submission to the PTA department.

WCJC Application

TSI Complete

PTA Application

All College Transcripts-UNOFFICIAL in your Application Packet

Evaluation Form to Office of Admissions and Registration

TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) scores
Individual Performance Profile Sheet

Essay (PTA)

Summary (Medical work /volunteer-Optional)

Proof of Hepatitis B Shots

Information Session _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

SUPPORT COURSE INFORMATION

A= 4 Points B= 3 Points C= 2 Points In Progress= 1 Point

COURSE	SEMESTER COMPLETED	GRADE	CREDIT HOURS	GRADE POINTS	ADMISSIONS POINTS AWARDED
BIOL 2401					
BIOL 2402					
ENGL 1301					
MATH 1314					
PSYC 2314					
LP&C or Creative Arts					
OTHER					

Grade Points = Credit Hours X Admissions Points awarded

GPA = Grade Points ÷ Credit Hours

Admissions Points Awarded: _____

Required General Education Courses GPA

(must be 2.5 in order to qualify)

4.0 – 3.5 4 Points

3.4 – 3.0 3 Points

2.9 – 2.5 2 Points

GPA: _____

Points Awarded: _____

DEGREE COMPLETION DATA

Certificate1 Point

Associate2 Points

Baccalaureate.....4 Points

Masters.....6 Points

Doctoral8 Points

Degree: _____

Points Awarded: _____

Overall College GPA: _____

TOTAL POINTS THIS SIDE: _____

Total Points Other Side: _____

TEAS SCORES DATA

Date Taken: _____

70%-70.9%.....1 point

71%-72.9%.....2 points

73%-74.9%.....3 points

75%-76.9%.....4 points

77%-78.9%.....5 points

79% & above.....6 points

Math	_____	=	_____	Points
Reading	_____	=	_____	Points
Science Reasoning	_____	=	_____	Points

TEAS Points Awarded: _____

Other Data

Related Work Experience: (min. 6 mo.) (4 points) _____

PTA Essay (0-3) _____

Attended Information Session (3 points) Date: _____

18 TEAS points or above and a GPA of 3.0 in co-requisite courses (10 points) _____

In District (2 points) _____

Points Awarded: _____

Total Admission Points: _____

Admission Status

Accept _____

Alternate _____

Other _____