



Physical Therapist Assistant Application

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2012-2013

The Physical Therapist Assistant program begins once a year, in the fall quarter, with 32 students.

APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 17, 2012

Applications will be accepted from individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Applicant has completed pre-requisite courses (except AP 2 may be in progress)
- Completion of a minimum of 20 hours of job shadow/volunteer or work experience in physical therapy.

Pre-requisite Courses

Course Title	GRCC Course Number	Specific Information
Anatomy and Physiology 1	AP 103 <u>or</u> BIOL& 241	The two-quarter sequence of A&P should be taken at the same level (100 or 200) from the same college and should have been completed after 8/31/2007.
Anatomy and Physiology 2	AP 104 <u>or</u> BIOL& 242	The two-quarter sequence of A&P be taken at the same level (100 or 200) from the same college and should have been completed after 8/31/2007.
Speech Communications	CMST 100 <u>or</u> &210 <u>or</u> &220 <u>or</u> &230 <u>or</u> 238	Please be advised that CMST100 may not transfer to a university. (5 quarter credits required.)
English Composition	ENGL 109 <u>or</u> ENGL& 101 <u>or</u> ENGL 126 <u>or</u> 127 <u>or</u> 128	Please be advised that Engl 109 may not transfer to a university. (5 quarter credits required.)
Mathematics (College Level)	Any college level course numbered 100 or above	This requirement may also be met by eligibility for Elementary Algebra (Math 72) <u>and</u> completing one of the following courses (Acomp100N, Bus E 110 or B A 145).

Application Requirements

Experience: A minimum of 20 hours of work, volunteer, or job shadow experience **in physical therapy** must be documented in writing on the letterhead of the institution and submitted at the time of application.

In addition to the minimum 20 hours, the following will be considered (see grid below):

- Additional work, volunteer, or job shadow in physical therapy
- Experience in more than one type of physical therapy environment (outpatient, skilled nursing, hospital, rehab center, school, etc.)
- Employment in a closely related field (nursing, athletic training, exercise physiology, massage)

We strongly encourage more than 20 hours of experience in more than one setting. Applicants will be evaluated based on extent and variety of experience in physical therapy and related fields. Experience as a part of another degree or training program must be completed in a physical therapy clinic and meets the minimum hours only.

Experience Evaluation (example only): points awarded for one category in each column.

Minimum requirement: 20 hours in PT	Additional points	Additional points
May be met by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volunteer/job shadow • employment in a PT clinic • internship for another degree if minimum of 20 hours and supervised by a PT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 hours in a different PT setting Examples of settings: <i>outpatient, skilled nursing, hospital, rehab center, school, etc. Not to include two different clinics of the same type</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 60 additional hours volunteer/job shadow in PT OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment in PT OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment in a closely related field (massage, nursing assistant, athletic trainer, etc.)

Grade point average: Applicants will be evaluated based on overall academic performance (GPA), and grades in pre-requisite courses. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 for all college level work is required to apply to the program. Required supporting courses must be completed with a minimum grade of 2.3 (or a “C+” if not a decimal grade).

Essay: Complete an essay, not to exceed one page (prefer word processed, standard font, 10 or 12 point), that explains your interest in becoming a PTA.

Transfer Applicants

Students transferring from other colleges must first complete a Green River Community College admissions application online at www.greenriver.edu or at the Zgolinski Welcome Center. If transfer credits are to be considered, official transcripts and a [Transcript Evaluation Request](#) form must be submitted to Enrollment Services prior to applying. **Unofficial Transcripts must also be submitted with the application.**

Additional Requirements

Background Checks: The Physical Therapist Assistant program requires a Washington State Patrol background check of each student to be in compliance with the Child/Adult Abuse Information Act (RCW 43,43,830-43.43.840). Since clinical placements, employment and licensure in a physical therapy generally require a minimum of this background check, the background check will be conducted on applicants at the time an offer of admission into the program is accepted by the applicant. Since a criminal background may limit, or prevent clinical placement and/or employability, applicants with negative findings will be required to meet with the PTA Program Coordinator to discuss options prior to beginning the program.

Essential Functions: Applicants are expected to read the Essential Functions of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, and return the signature page along with the PTA application.

Anatomy & Physiology 2: Candidates who have not completed AP 2 at the time of application must successfully complete by July 1st, 2012

Application Completeness: Applicants assume responsibility for knowing and meeting all requirements. They are expected to read and understand the college catalog and PTA Department website (<http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/PTA/>) for specific details regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

Other: If applicants have courses in progress that will be completed and posted on the transcript by the April 17th deadline, please turn in the application after these courses are complete. You should not be turning in additional paperwork after the application is submitted.

Application Process

Applicants will be evaluated based on academic preparation (completion of prerequisites and academic performance), demonstrated familiarity with physical therapy (experience in PT and closely related fields), the statement of interest (essay), and submission of a **complete** application packet per these directions. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

When the class is filled, qualified applicants will be placed on the alternate list. If admission is offered to an applicant who has not completed AP 2, the admission will be provisional until the course is completed satisfactorily.

Applications should be submitted after **March 1, 2012** and before the printed deadline to:

GRCC Enrollment Services
C/O Physical Therapist Assistant Application
12401 SE 320th St
Auburn, WA 98092

Submitted applications become the property of Green River Community College and materials will not be returned to the applicant.

Checklist

Failure to follow directions will put your application at risk.

Before You Turn in the Application:

- / ""Apply to Green River: www.greenriver.edu/future
- / ""Complete the required prerequisite courses with a 2.3 or higher
- / ""Have a minimum college-level GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 system)
- / ""Submit all official transcripts for non-GRCC courses to Enrollment Services
- / ""Submit [Transcript Evaluation Request](#) form to Enrollment Services if you submit official transcripts

What must be in your Application Packet (in this order):

- / ""Physical Therapist Assistant Program Application Form (Pg. 5)
- / ""PTA Application Essential Functions Acknowledgment (Pg. 32) (Pg. 6-; : keep for your records)
- / ""Signed Washington State Patrol clearance form (Pg. 13)
- / ""Copy of valid photo ID
- / ""**All unofficial transcripts (GRCC included if attended) with pre-requisites highlighted**—*Even though you may have turned in official transcripts, you still need to turn the unofficials with the packet.*
- / ""Essay of intent (instructions on pg 2)
- / ""Verification of all job shadow and/or related work experience (hours documented on the letterhead of the institution).

Please Do Not:

- Use **report covers** or **folders** – a staple will suffice
- Attempt to turn in documentation after submitting the application
- Leave job shadow documentation and unofficial transcripts in envelopes.
- Turn application in before March 1 or after April 17



Health Sciences Division / Physical Therapist Assistant
12401 SE 320th St., Auburn, WA 98092-3622
(253) 833-9111 Auburn • (206) 464-6133 Eastside
(253) 924-00180 Tacoma • Fax: (253) 288-3467
www.greenriver.edu

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Application Form
Admissions Deadline April 17, 2012

NAME: _____ GRCC SID NO _____

PHONE: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

(All communication with applicants will be done via email. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the email address is current and communication from "@greenriver.edu" is not blocked. We recommend using your GRCC Student Account.)

Have you previously been accepted to or been on the alternate list for the GRCC PTA Program?

Yes _____ Year _____

By signing below, I verify that this application packet for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is accurate and has been completed to the best of my knowledge. I hereby authorize GRCC to perform Washington State Patrol criminal background checks, maintain the record(s) until I graduate or withdraw from the program, and share the information as requested by clinical sites. In addition, my signature acknowledges that I have reviewed the document "Essential Functions for the Physical Therapist Assistant Student" and am familiar with its content. I understand that I may request reasonable accommodation in order to meet the standards. Applications submitted become property of Green River Community College.

Print Name (First) (Last)

Signature Date

This form along with required documentation must be submitted:
(Do NOT submit the form to the PTA department as it may delay its receipt and processing)

GRCC Enrollment Services
c/o Physical Therapist Assistant Application
12401 SE 320th St.
Auburn, WA 98092



Essential Functions

for the Physical Therapist Assistant Student

Becoming a physical therapist assistant requires the completion of an education program that is both intellectually and physically challenging. The student will be expected to acquire knowledge, motor skills, behavior and attitudes that are necessary to provide ethical, safe, effective, compassionate patient care. The purpose of this document is to inform candidates to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program of the demands that they can reasonably be expected to meet, with or without reasonable accommodation, while participating in the program.

Decisions made by the candidate to this program should be made with consideration of the following standards. These standards reflect reasonable expectations of the PTA student for the performance of common physical therapy functions encountered in the program. They are also reasonable expectations of employers; however, employers may have different standards. The ability to meet these standards with or without reasonable accommodation does not guarantee employment upon graduation.

Each candidate in this Associate in Applied Science degree program should possess the following abilities and skills:

- **Motor:** The candidate needs sufficient motor capabilities to execute the movements and skills necessary to provide safe and effective physical therapy treatment. This includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Sufficient coordination, speed, strength and agility to assist and guard (protect) patients who are walking, exercising or performing other activities.
 2. Ability to adjust, move and position patients and equipment which involves bending, twisting, pushing, pulling, and reaching in order to guide, transfer and lift equipment and individuals.
 3. Ability to guide, resist, and assist patients, and to provide emergency care, which involves activities including standing, kneeling, sitting, walking and crawling.
 4. Ability and dexterity to manipulate the devices used in physical therapy, in order to adjust gauges, dials, small nuts/bolts, and equipment settings.
 5. Sufficient endurance to move about a classroom or clinical environment steadily throughout the workday including movement across distances, movement from one floor to another and the negotiation of small spaces.

- **Sensory:** Candidate should have sufficient sensory abilities to assess and monitor patients, observe physical movement, participate in physical measures, and recognize and respond to patient needs and unsafe situations. Candidate should have the ability to obtain information in classroom, laboratory or clinical settings through observation, auscultation, palpation and other measures. This requires abilities including, but not limited to:
 1. Visual ability (corrected as necessary) to recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language, identify normal and abnormal patterns of movement, to read or set parameters on physical therapy equipment, to discriminate color changes, and to interpret and assess the environment.
 2. Auditory ability (corrected as necessary) to recognize and respond to verbal directions and requests, auditory timers, equipment alarms, safety mechanisms in the environment, to effectively use devices for measurement of blood pressure, and for effective communication with patients/families/caregivers and coworkers.
 3. Tactile ability to palpate pulses and muscle contractions, to detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin temperature, body segment contour, muscle tone, and joint movement.
- **Communication:** Candidate will need to communicate effectively and efficiently with peers, faculty, patients and their families, and other health care providers orally, in writing, and non-verbally. This includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Ability to read and write at a level that allows the essential functions of an assignment to be completed safely and effectively.
 2. Ability to effectively articulate and interpret information to patients, family members, other health care professionals and third party payers as appropriate.
 3. Ability to recognize, interpret, and respond to nonverbal behavior of self and others.
- **Behavior:** Candidate should be capable of exercising good judgment, developing empathic and therapeutic relationships with patients and others, working in stressful situations, and tolerating close physical contact with co-workers and patients. This includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Ability to work with multiple patients/families and colleagues at the same time.

2. Ability to work with lab partners, patients, families and others under stressful conditions including but not limited to medically or emotionally unstable individuals, situations requiring rapid adaptations.
 3. Ability to work with individuals of varying socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
 4. Ability to consistently act in the best interests of patients/clients and promote a therapeutic environment.
 5. Ability to work collaboratively with all (both male and female) PTA students and with program faculty in classroom, lab and clinical settings. Among other things, participation in lab situations which require the student to “role play” both the care provider and patient for common physical therapy conditions is required. This will involve exposing areas of the body for treatment simulations including the hip, neck, upper and lower back, ribs, abdomen, shoulder, knee, foot, elbow, wrists, and hands.
 6. Ability to accept feedback and appropriately modify behavior in response to supervisory feedback
 7. Ability to demonstrate values, attitudes and behaviors consistent with The Guide for the Conduct of the PTA and The Standards of Ethical Conduct for the PTA.
- **Critical Thinking:** Candidate should possess sufficient abilities in the areas of calculation, critical problem solving, reasoning, and assessment to be able to comprehend and process information in a timely manner. Candidate will be asked to prioritize, organize and attend to tasks and responsibilities efficiently. This includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Ability to collect and interpret data.
 2. Ability to prioritize multiple tasks, integrate information and make decisions.
 3. Ability to apply knowledge from basic and technical education to the provision of physical therapy care.
 4. The ability to problem solve in order to act safely and ethically in the physical therapy lab and clinic.
 - The **capstone experience** of this educational program occurs during the final quarter, when the candidate provides physical therapy care in clinic settings under the supervision of physical therapists. The candidate should have the capacity to complete eight to ten hour days, and 40-hour weeks, in clinical education experiences for twelve consecutive weeks. The clinical education experience

provides for an integrative measure of the candidate's capabilities, requiring that the candidate consistently demonstrate skill and proficiency of performance at the level of a physical therapist assistant.

Additional information: In order to be eligible for placement at a clinical education site, students admitted to the program will need to:

1. Obtain certification (health professional level) in cardiopulmonary resuscitation through an approved course for health care providers.
2. Complete an approved 7-hour course for health care providers on blood borne pathogens.
3. Provide proof of health status including but not limited to proof of MMR and chicken pox vaccination, hepatitis B vaccination (or signed waiver), current tetanus immunization, and current TB test.
4. Complete a Washington State Patrol background check (Children and Vulnerable Adults Act) and a national background check.

Candidates for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program are required to certify that these standards have been provided to them. Applicants may request reasonable accommodation to meet the standards. Accommodation is arranged through the Disability Support Services office. Additional information about requesting accommodation is available at <http://www.greenriver.edu/DSS/>.

Students with disabilities are expected to perform all the essential functions of the program with or without reasonable accommodation. The PTA Program faculty will work with the student and the campus disability office to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations. While every effort will be made to accommodate disability-related needs, it is important to note we are not required to provide accommodations that fundamentally alter the essential functions or technical standards of the program.

Please sign and return the next page of the document to the admissions coordinator with the application packet. It is a required part of a complete application packet.

PTA APPLICATION

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Please sign and return this portion of the document to the admissions coordinator with the application packet.

My signature acknowledges that I have reviewed the document “Essential Functions” for PTA students, am familiar with its content, and believe I am able to meet the standards. I understand that I may request reasonable accommodation in order to meet the standards.

Name (please print): _____

SID Number _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

