

OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Application Checklist

Updated 3/20/2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

- **USE THE ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL TO APPLY:** apply.otc.edu
- **September 15** – This cohort begins in the spring semester (January)
- Location: Richwood Valley campus, located on Highway 14, approximately 1.5 miles west of Highway 65, at 3369 W. Jackson Street, Nixa, MO

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is a selective admission program, and admission is determined by a points-based system. Points are awarded on grades made in preadmission requirements, degrees & certificates, honors & awards, service industry experience, and personal interview.*

**A total GPA of 3.0 and a grade of C or higher in all pre-requisite coursework is required to be considered a viable candidate for the PTA Program.*

Complete the following by the application deadline. An incomplete application will not be considered.

- Complete the OTC admissions process. Visit www.otc.edu/start-here
- Attend an informational session. Visit [here](#) for dates and times.
- Complete or be currently enrolled in the preadmission courses. See Preferred Course Sequence [HERE](#) for specific requirements. Students should email healthsciences@otc.edu if:
 - a passing grade of “C” or better is not achieved after two attempts in any program preadmission requirement, **OR**
 - their anatomy and physiology sequence will be more than 5 years old at the time of your application deadline.
- Students are advised to complete BCS 210 before beginning PTA program-specific courses. If a waiver is needed for BCS-200-Microbiology (PTA degree-seeking students), please contact healthsciences@otc.edu.
- Official transcripts from accredited schools attended other than OTC must be received by OTC Admissions before the application deadline.**
- Submit the Physical Therapist Assistant application using the online application portal, apply.otc.edu, **by the application deadline**. It is highly recommended to apply 1-2 months **prior** to the application deadline.
- Complete 20 hours of clinical observation (10 hours in an In-Patient* setting, 10 hours in an Out-Patient** setting). During the online application process, upload the [Clinical Observation Information Form](#) **by the application deadline**.
- ¹Submit a resume during the online application process **by the application deadline**.
- Complete TOEFL testing if English is not student’s native language and submit **by the application deadline**.

*In-patient refers to a facility where a patient will be staying overnight to receive treatment.

**Out-patient refers to a patient receiving treatment but not staying overnight.

¹RESUME INSTRUCTIONS (5-year history):

- Name and address
- Educational background (institution, dates, area of study, graduation date, degree)
- Employment records (employer, location, position, dates, supervisor)
- Volunteer work (organization, nature of work, dates, supervisor)
- Membership in professional/honor societies (name & dates)
- Honors/awards received
- Organization/boards/committees served
- Primary interests/extracurricular activities

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

Students whose first language is not English must document their English language proficiency. This requires:

- Minimum TOEFL iBT passing score of 81, with a minimum speaking score of 24. **Program will waive TOEFL requirement if the student has already obtained a bachelor's degree from a US regionally accredited University**
- Student must satisfy this requirement by submitting a current TOEFL iBT score (Test of English as a Foreign Language) with their online application **by the application deadline**.
- Testing is completed through the [TOEFL](#) website.
- The TOEFL report scores are valid for 5 years from the test date.
- This is separate from the test taken to be admitted to OTC.

SELECTION FOR INTERVIEW PROCESS:

The PTA Program is a selective admission program. The Preferred Course Sequence outlines the pre-admission courses.

- A score is given for the grade made in all the preadmission requirements.
- All pre-admission courses must be completed by the end of the semester in which the applicant is applying.
- Mid-term grades will be checked in the fall semester when the student is applying.
- A total GPA of 3.0 and a grade of C or higher in all pre-requisite coursework is required to be considered a viable candidate for the PTA Program.
- Degree or certificate completion (highest degree is used)
- Honors/awards - located on resume
- Experience in the health service industry (more than 6 months)

INTERVIEW PROCESS:

- An email regarding the date, time, and location of the interview will be emailed to the student's OTC email account approximately 2 weeks in advance.
- Notify the Health Sciences office of any change in name, email address, or phone number.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE:

- Based upon accumulated points given for the selection of the interview process and the interview points, the 24 applicants with the highest scores will be offered a position in the program and will receive information on the necessary steps to complete the program admission.
- Students will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance into the program via the online application portal.
- The accepted students will receive an acceptance packet task list through their OTC email account to complete the admission process.
- Five alternates will receive an email sent to their OTC account regarding their alternate status.
- Alternates will be notified if a position in the cohort becomes available.

REAPPLICATION:

- ✓ Applicants and alternates not selected for admission will need to reapply online for the next deadline.

ADVISING POST INTERVIEW:

Applicants not accepted into the program are invited to a group advising session. Click [here](#) for the informational session webpage for information.

OTC cannot guarantee that students classified under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program will receive approval to take the licensure exam after program completion. Please contact the state or national agency that administers the professional licensure exam to inquire about licensure exam requirements.

Background Check – Students with a felony or a significant criminal history may not be able to participate in clinical experiences at some of our sites and may not be able to apply for a license to practice. Contact the Health Sciences Office for additional information (healthsciences@otc.edu).