

**Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Connecticut State Community College Norwalk
188 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854**

If you would like to speak with an advisor*, please contact:

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*Please be sure to thoroughly read through this packet of information before contacting counselors, advisors, or faculty.

This information is subject to change at any time.
Please consult the program's website/administration for the latest updates.

Version: 2023-2024

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at CT State Norwalk is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Avenue, Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call (203) 857-7198 or email jbresnick@norwalk.edu.

Curriculum

PTA courses must be completed in the sequence indicated below. Students may not “combine” semesters to complete the PTA degree in under two years, regardless of academic/professional background. PTA courses are only offered in the semesters indicated below (i.e., PTA 1200 offered in fall only). Students must complete the technical education (PTA) courses in three years or less.

Pre-requisites	Course Title	Credits
BIO 1210**	General Biology I*	4
ENG 1010	Composition	3
MAT 1200	Statistics I*	3
PSY 1011	General Psychology	3
CCS 1001	College and Career Success	3
Total:		16
Fall 1		
PTA 1200	Introduction to Physical Therapy	3
PTA 1250	Foundational Skills in Physical Therapy	4
PTA 1300	Clinical Anatomy & Kinesiology	3
BIO 2111**	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
Total:		14
Spring 1		
PTA 1450	Physical Agents in Physical Therapy	3
PTA 1500	Physical Therapy Interventions in Orthopedics	4
PTA 1550	Pathology for the PTA I	3
BIO 2112**	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
Total:		14
Summer		
PTA 2580	PTA in the Healthcare Arena	1
Total:		1
Fall 2		
PTA 2500	Physical Therapy Interventions in Special Populations	3
PTA 2550	Pathology for the PTA II	3
PTA 2694	PTA Part Time Clinical Experience I	1
ARHX	Arts & Humanities elective***	3
WRIX	Written Communication II elective	3
Total:		13
Spring 2		
PTA 2794	PTA Full Time Clinical Experience I	3
PTA 2894	PTA Full Time Clinical Experience II	3
PTA 2990	Physical Therapy Seminar	3
Total:		9
Degree total:		67

*Course must be taken within 5 years of program application.

**Final grade earned must be C+ or higher.

***Must meet diversity requirement if CCS 1001 is waived/substituted.

Please see the college catalog for general education (non-PTA) course descriptions:

<http://ct.catalog.acalog.com/>

PTA Course Descriptions

PTA 1200: Introduction to Physical Therapy

3 credits: lecture: 3 hours per week

Pre-requisites: Acceptance into PTA Major

Course description: Learning opportunities in this course assist the student to recognize the roles of physical therapy within various practice settings. Students differentiate functions of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants as members of the health care team through study of the history of physical therapy, documentation, ethical & legal principles, evidence-based practice, and medical terminology important to the provision of services. Learning also includes development of knowledge and abilities within the domains of professional conduct, interpersonal and professional communication, and sensitivity to individual and cultural differences.

PTA 1250: Foundational Skills in Physical Therapy

4 credits: lecture: 3 hours per week; lab: 3 hours per week

Pre-requisites: Acceptance into PTA Major

Course description: This lecture and lab-based course provides the student with introductory concepts and techniques regarding physical therapy interventions for function and mobility. Emphasis is placed on enhancing the students' problem-solving abilities and comprehension of the physical therapist assistant's role in delivering the plan of care. The importance of modification of physical therapy interventions within the plan of care developed by the supervising physical therapist is highlighted. The laboratory section of this course allows the student to develop psychomotor skills, critical thinking, and affective skills through simulated patient scenarios.

PTA 1300: Clinical Anatomy and Kinesiology

3 credits: lecture: 2 hours per week, lab: 3 hours per week

Pre-requisites: Acceptance into PTA Major

Course description: This course is designed to enable students to identify the structure and function of the human body including the spine, upper, and lower extremities through computer simulation and application. The course includes the study of skeletal, muscular, connective tissue, nervous, and circulatory structures involved in human movement. Students will understand movement control and elements of movement dysfunction. The student will also gain an understanding of biomechanical forces, neuromuscular control, and pathological influences through analysis of biomechanical forces on the body.

PTA 1450: Physical Agents in Physical Therapy

3 credits: lecture: 2 hours per week; lab: 3 hours per week

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) in PTA 1200, 1250, and 1300

Course description: This course is designed to enable students to identify the structure and function of the human body including the spine, upper, and lower extremities through computer simulation and application. The course includes the study of skeletal, muscular, connective tissue, nervous, and circulatory structures involved in human movement. Students will understand movement control and elements of movement dysfunction. The student will also gain an understanding of biomechanical forces, neuromuscular control, and pathological influences through analysis of biomechanical forces on the body.

PTA 1500: Physical Therapy Interventions in Orthopedics

4 credits: lecture: 2 hours per week; lab: 6 hours per week

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) in PTA 1200, 1250, and 1300

Course description: This course uses a case study approach to enhance problem solving skills and provide integration of various patient examination, goal setting, and intervention techniques within the scope of physical therapist assistant practice. Topics covered include foundational PT skills of goniometric and muscle strength assessment and exercise prescription. The student will achieve competency in the following patient care techniques: data collection skills, exercise prescription, communication and documentation skills including appropriate billing, and patient safety. Manual muscle testing and goniometric measurement of joint range of motion will be incorporated into laboratory exercises. Professionalism, verbal and written communication skills, and ethics are considered throughout.

PTA 1550: Pathology for the Physical Therapist Assistant I

3 credits: lecture: 3 hours per week

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) in PTA 1200, 1250, and 1300

Course description: This is the first course of a two-course pathology sequence designed to provide the physical therapist assistant student with the knowledge of human pathology of selected body systems including implications for patient management and the effects of exercise. Topics covered include inflammation, lab tests & values, and the immune, lymphatic, cardiovascular, respiratory, integumentary, and musculoskeletal systems. This foundational course promotes an understanding of the disease processes and guides the student in application and analysis of medical pathology to evidence-based patient care. Emphasis is placed on the relationship of medical presentation signs/symptoms/treatment and its implication on physical therapy treatment.

PTA 2500: Physical Therapy Interventions in Special Populations

3 credits: lecture: 2 hours per week; lab: 3 hours per week

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) in PTA 1450, 1500, and 1550

Course description: This course uses a case study approach to enhance problem solving skills and provide integration of various patient intervention techniques within the scope of physical therapy practice. Topics covered include interventions for special populations such as status post amputation, neurological diagnoses, and pediatric conditions. The student will achieve competency in advanced patient care techniques and will expand on knowledge from previous courses. Emphasis will be placed on appropriate application of advanced treatment techniques, critical thinking, and progression in order to facilitate patient recovery with the goal of improving functional outcomes.

PTA 2550: Pathology for the Physical Therapist Assistant II

3 credits: lecture: 3 hours per week

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) in PTA 1450, 1500, and 1550

Course description: This is the second course of a two-course pathology sequence designed to provide the physical therapist assistant student with knowledge of human pathology of selected body systems including implications for patient management and the effects of exercise. Topics covered include disorders of the nervous system, the hepatic, pancreatic and biliary systems, the endocrine and gastrointestinal systems, the male and female reproductive systems, as well as amputation, oncology, and hematology. This foundational course promotes an understanding of the disease processes and guides the student in application and analysis of medical pathology to evidence-based patient care. Emphasis is placed on the relationship of medical presentation signs/symptoms/treatments and its implication on physical therapy treatment.

PTA 2580: PTA in the Healthcare Arena

1 credit: lecture: 3 hours per week for 5 weeks

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) in PTA 1450, 1500, and 1550

Course description: This course is an introduction and preparation to clinical education experience for the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) student. Students will learn about the different types of Physical Therapy settings and become oriented with the clinical education process. Students will learn about legal and professional standard practices, PTA reporting responsibilities, responses to ethical situations, effective communication as healthcare providers, accurate and timely billing, and professional development opportunities to remain current in the Physical Therapy field.

PTA 2694: PTA Part Time Clinical Experience

1 credit: Approximately 8 hours per week of clinical experience

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) in PTA 1450, 1500, 1550, and 2580.

Course description: This course is an integrated part-time clinical experience. Students will apply principles of the curriculum and physical therapy services as a Student Physical Therapist Assistant (SPTA). Students will implement general skills, data collection, and interventions in a physical therapy clinical setting under the direction and supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist.

PTA 2794: PTA Full Time Clinical Experience I

3 credits: Approximately 40 hours per week of clinical experience

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) of PTA 2500, PTA 2550, PTA 2580, and PTA 2694.

Course description: This course is an advanced clinical experience designed for students to integrate and apply physical therapy concepts to effectively perform interventions and data collection as a physical therapist assistant under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Students will develop daily organizational and management skills of a patient caseload and effectively contribute to the health care team. This course is a full-time clinical experience (approximately 40 hours per week) in the first half of the semester.

PTA 2894: PTA Full Time Clinical Experience II

3 credits: Approximately 40 hours per week of clinical experience

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) of PTA 2794

Course description: This course is the final clinical experience designed for students to integrate and apply physical therapy concepts to effectively perform interventions and data collection as a physical therapist assistant under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Students will develop daily organizational and management skills of a patient caseload and effectively contribute to the health care team consistent with entry-level performance. This course is a full-time clinical experience (approximately 40 hours per week) in the second half of the semester.

PTA 2990: Physical Therapy Seminar

3 credits: lecture: 3 hours per week

Pre-requisites: Successful completion (C or better) of PTA 2500, PTA 2550, PTA 2580, and PTA 2694

Course description: This course will provide the physical therapist assistant student with the necessary knowledge for understanding the healthcare processes of the clinical setting as well as facility standards and design. Research based decision-making will also be covered. Other topics such as licensure, continuing education, data collection, and problem-oriented management will be discussed.

Frequently Asked Questions: the merger

The Board of Regents that oversees the Connecticut State Community College system has merged all 12 colleges into one college with 12 separate campuses.

When did this transition take place?

Norwalk Community College ceased to exist on July 1, 2023. On that date, the college became an extension campus of CT State Community College (CT State Norwalk).

Where can I find more information about the merger of all 12 Connecticut Community Colleges?

This website has more information: <https://www.ct.edu/merger>.

Are there any substitute courses for CCS 1001?

Yes. If you have taken FYE 101 (Freshman Seminar) at the former Norwalk Community College, this will fulfill the CCS 1001 requirement.

I took courses based on the old curriculum, and now I'm finding out about the new curriculum. What do I do if I took the wrong courses?

Given that this is an extensive transition, we are able to offer appropriate waivers for students who followed the old curriculum. Please contact the PTA program director, Jennifer Bresnick (jbresnick@norwalk.edu) for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions: the program and careers in physical therapy

What is a Physical Therapist Assistant?

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. PTAs help people of all ages who have medical problems, or other health-related conditions that limit their ability to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. Care provided by a PTA may include teaching patients/clients exercise for mobility, strength and coordination, training for activities such as walking with crutches, canes, or walkers, manual therapy, and the use of physical agents and electrotherapy such as ultrasound and electrical stimulation.

What do Physical Therapist Assistants Earn?

The national median income for a physical therapist assistant is \$60,408 depending on position, years of experience, degree of education, geographic location, and practice setting. In Norwalk, PTAs earn a median salary of \$74,603 according to salary.com (accessed: 9/12/2023).

Where do Physical Therapist Assistants work?

Today, PTAs provide health care services to patients of all ages and health conditions in a variety of settings, including:

- Outpatient clinics or offices
- Hospitals and inpatient rehabilitation facilities
- Skilled nursing, extended care, or subacute facilities
- Homes, schools and hospices
- Education or research centers
- Industrial, workplace, or other occupational environments
- Fitness centers and sports training facilities

What are the licensure requirements for becoming a PTA?

All 50 states (plus the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories) require PTAs to be licensed, registered, or certified. The state of Connecticut requires PTAs to be licensed after graduating from an accredited PTA program (such as the one at CT State Norwalk) and passing the national exam (www.fsbpt.org). Check with the state you plan to work in to find out specific requirements.

What is the employment outlook for Physical Therapy?

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, PTAs are one of the top ten fastest growing occupations. Employment of physical therapist assistants is expected to grow “much faster than the average” for all occupations through the year 2032. (BLS.gov accessed 9/12/2023)

What type of degree will I receive?

Upon completion of the program, graduates receive an Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant. Earning that degree makes you eligible to sit for the national licensure exam (www.fsbpt.org).

Is this a part-time or full-time program?

Although it is preferable to complete the program in a two-year span, it is sometimes difficult to fit a full-time class schedule into an already busy life. You may choose to complete all general education requirements on a part-time basis in the first two years and then progress part-time through the technical education (PTA) classes the next four semesters, for a total of four years (keep in mind the final semester consists of full-time internships). Once a student begins the technical education portion of the curriculum (PTA courses), he or she has three years to complete the two-year program.

Is this an online or on-ground program?

It is a mix of both. Some courses are completely online (PTA 2990, e.g.). Some courses are hybrid, with an online and an on-ground component (PTA 1200, e.g.). Some courses are completely on-ground (PTA 1250, e.g.). There are no fully online semesters. Each semester will have a mix of online, hybrid, and traditional PTA courses.

What is the difference between a PTA and a physical therapist (PT)?

To become a PT, in general you must earn a bachelor's degree, and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from an accredited institution. PTs perform patient/client examinations and evaluations, which leads to a diagnosis, prognosis and plan of care. The PTA follows the plan of care working under the direction and supervision of a PT. Certain clinical skills are considered "PT-only." For more information please visit the website of the American Physical Therapy Association: www.APTA.org.

I want to become a PT, not a PTA. Can you help?

If you wish to become a PT, the best way to proceed is to research PT programs and determine the requirements for those programs. CAPTE has a list of accredited PT and PTA programs (www.capteonline.org). Contact the programs you wish to attend if you have questions about how to apply, or what courses to take. While the CT State Norwalk PTA staff/faculty can provide general advising about a career in physical therapy, we are unable to provide detailed advice about specific courses required for PT programs outside of CT State.

What is the difference between a physical therapist assistant (PTA) and a physical therapy aide?

To become a PTA, one must graduate from a CAPTE-accredited program, pass a national exam, and obtain a license from the state in which one wishes to work. A physical therapy aide is an unlicensed individual who may assist a PT or PTA in providing physical therapy care, but is never, by law, the provider of that care. CT State Norwalk has a PTA degree program and physical therapy aide certificate course. If you are interested in the degree program, this packet provides that information. Please contact the department of Continuing Education for more information about the physical therapy aide certificate course: <https://norwalk.edu/extended-studies/>

Can I transfer my PTA credits to a PT program?

PTA credits are earned at the undergraduate level. PT credits are earned at the graduate level. Generally, undergraduate credits do not count toward a graduate degree. PTA credits (Math, English, electives, etc.) may count toward undergraduate credits that lead to a bachelor's degree, which is required for entrance into a Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

How much does the program cost?

Information about tuition and fees can be found on the CT State Norwalk website: <https://norwalk.edu/business/tuition-and-fees/>. The cost of the entire program (if the student takes all courses listed in the PTA program curriculum) is approximately \$15,500 for an in-state student. This amount is just an estimate. Students should verify tuition and fees with the business office/bursar. If you have completed some of the general education courses required for graduation from the PTA program, the cost will be lower. Financial aid may be available. Please contact the Financial Aid Office for details: <https://norwalk.edu/finaid/>

Admissions Policies and Procedures

Important Dates

Admissions decisions are made on the following annual cycle (if any of the dates fall on a weekend/holiday, the following business day is used):

Program application available	October 1
Program application due	July 1
Students notified of admissions decisions	August 1
Orientation	3 rd Tuesday of August
Enrollment begins	Fall semester

Admissions Criteria and Procedure

Admission to the program is selective and competitive; a limited number of students are admitted per cohort. Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the program.

The program at CT State Norwalk has a fall semester start to each cohort. Applications are accepted each year between October 1st and July 1st. Late applications may be accepted after July 1st if open seats remain. Applications are only accepted online through CRM Recruit. Please visit the links below to get started:

- Application: [CT State application \(https://ctstate.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Apply/Account/Login\)](https://ctstate.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Apply/Account/Login)
- Application instructions: <https://ctstate.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Apply/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fApply>

As of the 2023-2024 academic year (for admission in the fall of 2024), the admissions requirements are as follows:

1. Complete all college admission requirements.
2. Complete PTA Application. Must be submitted by the posted deadline, including supporting materials.
3. Completion of the prerequisite courses:
 - a. BIO 1210: General Biology I (or equivalent course at another institution) with a C+ or better within 5 years of the application deadline. Please note: for the 2023-2024 application cycle (for admission in fall 2023), students may take any course that is listed as a pre-requisite course for BIO 211 (Anatomy & Physiology I), such as BIO 105 or CHE 111. Please contact the program director for details and a written waiver, which will be due by the application deadline.
 - b. MAT 1200: Statistics I (or equivalent course at another institution) with a C or better within 5 years of the application deadline. Please note: for the 2023-2024 application cycle (for admission in fall 2023), students who have taken MAT 172 (College Algebra or equivalent) prior to August 1, 2022 may use MAT 172 in place of MAT 201. Please contact the program director for details and a written waiver, which will be due by the application deadline.
 - c. ENG 1010: English Composition (or equivalent course at another institution) with a C or higher
 - d. PSY 1011: General Psychology (or equivalent course at another institution) with a C or higher
4. Have a minimum admissions GPA of 2.5. The four admissions requirements listed above are used in the calculation of this GPA.
5. Complete the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) exam with a minimum score of 60%. There are no exemptions from this entrance exam based on prior education. Students may register for the exam and find additional information about the test at www.atitesting.com. For the PTA

program, the TEAS test expires after 3 years. Students may take the nursing or allied health version of the test, as the content of both is the same. Students may take either the in-person or online version of the TEAS test. Students may take the TEAS test at any school, in any state; just remember to have your TEAS test scores sent to CT State. If the student takes the test at a location other than CT State, there is a fee to send the score to CT State. For information about future TEAS testing dates at CT State Norwalk contact Thalia Moshoyannis (203-857-7077 or tmoshoyannis@norwalk.edu).

6. Documented volunteer/observational experience totaling at least 20 hours in two different settings. Please see below for specific requirements.
7. Students must be able to perform common physical therapy functions as defined in the program's Technical Standards.

Candidates will be ranked according to the following formula:

- 20% Science GPA (BIO 1210: General Biology I grade)
- 20% Math GPA (MAT 1200: Statistics I grade)
- 40% Pre-requisite GPA (BIO 1210, MAT 1200, ENG 1010, PSY 1011 grades)
- 20% TEAS score

This is a competitive admissions program. Not all who apply will be offered admission. The students with the top scores will be offered enrollment into the PTA program. The remaining candidates will be placed on a wait list in ranked order. If accepted candidates decide not to enroll in the program, then candidates on the wait list are notified of the opening starting with the highest ranked candidate.

Observation Hours

Understanding and appreciating the field of physical therapy as you are preparing to apply to the PTA Program is very important. If you are accepted into the program, it is imperative that you are certain that this is the career path you want to pursue. In addition to applying to the PTA Program, you are required to have a minimum of 20 hours of observational experience in physical therapy. You will need to have at least 10 hours in an in-patient setting and 10 hours in an out-patient setting.

This experience can be through shadowing a PT or PTA (observation) for both in- patient and out-patient settings. Volunteering in a PT setting may also meet the requirements. Documentation will be submitted on observation hours log found on the website or on company letterhead from a facility that has been verified by a PT or PTA at each facility. The documentation (for either criterion) should be submitted with your application to the PTA Program.

In-patient settings may include acute care hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing homes/facilities, "sub-acute care" facilities, or home care agencies.

Out-patient settings may include private practices, out-patient services provided by hospitals or skilled-nursing facilities, PT services in orthopedic surgeon's offices, school systems, American Heart Association cardiac rehabilitation programs, and aquatic physical therapy services. Experiences in athletic training settings, exercise physiology settings, or chiropractic offices will not fulfill this requirement.

The PTA Program is not able to facilitate these experiences for the students and it is the student's responsibility to complete this pre-admission requirement. Documentation of the observation experience is due by the application deadline.

Re-Application in Subsequent Years

Revised 9/12/2023 – disregard all previous versions of this information packet.

If a student is not accepted to the program (either initially or from the wait list) in a given year, he or she may reapply the following year. A student's previous application will have no bearing on future applications. All students begin each year with zero admissions points.

Special Requirements and Information:

- If you think any of your previous college courses will count toward the PTA degree, have your transcripts evaluated by the CT State transcript evaluation team. The PTA staff/faculty cannot make the determination about whether courses from other schools will transfer. We can better serve you if you complete this step first (i.e., we can't tell you which courses to take until we know which courses you have). This process is not automatically triggered by sending one's transcripts to CT State. Students must fill out a Transcript Evaluation Form, and follow the directions on that form. Information and the form can be found here: <https://ctstate.edu/accepted-students>. You will know the process has been completed when the transferred courses appear in your online CT State transcript. Check your online transcript at <https://My.CTState.edu>.
- Students are required to access, understand, and abide by the policies and procedures of the CT State College Catalog. It is available online (<https://catalog.ctstate.edu/>).
- Students are required to access, understand, and abide by the policies and procedures of the CT State Student Handbook. It is available online (<https://ctstate.edu/uploads/Forms-Documents/CTS-Student-Handbook.pdf>).
- Only those students accepted into the program may declare the PTA major.
- Students must earn a C or better in all technical education (PTA) courses. If the student earns a C- or below in a PTA course, that course must be repeated.
- Once you enroll in the first PTA program semester, you have three years to complete the two-year program.
- A grade of C or better must be achieved for all general education courses before or during the program (ENG 1010, MAT 1200, PSY 1011, Arts and Humanities elective, and Written Communication II elective) except biology courses (BIO 1210, BIO 2111, and BIO 2112). Students must earn a C+ or better in BIO 1210, BIO 2111, and BIO 2112. General education courses must be satisfactorily completed before or during the semester in which they are scheduled in the curriculum. Students who fail to successfully complete required general education courses as delineated will not be able to progress in the program.
 - To progress to the second semester (Spring 1) of the revised curriculum, you must complete BIO 2111 (Anatomy & Physiology I). Therefore, it is highly recommended that if you have not yet completed BIO 2111 prior to applying to the program, that you attempt to register for this course during the summer semester prior to joining the program, or the first semester of the program (Fall 1).
 - In order to progress to the third semester (Fall 2) of the revised curriculum, you must complete BIO 2112 (Anatomy & Physiology II). Therefore, it is highly recommended that if you have not yet completed BIO 2112 prior to applying to the program, that you attempt to register for this course during the summer semester prior to joining the program, or the first (Fall 1) or second (Spring 1) semester of the program.
- The student has two opportunities to complete the PTA program within the Connecticut State Community College system. A student may re-apply to either PTA program (Norwalk or Naugatuck Valley) one time. For example, if a student separates from the Norwalk campus program, the student may re-apply to the Norwalk campus or Naugatuck Valley campus program once more (final time).
- Courses taken at Cortiva, formerly Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy, (i.e., anatomy, kinesiology) do not transfer to CT State Norwalk because Cortiva is not accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (i.e., NECHE). For more information about this, please contact the Counseling Center at CT State Norwalk (203-857-7133) or Cortiva.

- For students of Southern Connecticut State University's (SCSU) Exercise Science programs: EXS 281 (Anatomy & Physiology I) and EXS 282 (Anatomy & Physiology II) are 3-credit, non-lab courses, and as such, are not equivalent to BIO 2111 (Anatomy & Physiology I) and BIO 2112 (Anatomy & Physiology II) at CT State Norwalk, which are 4-credit courses with a lab component. SCSU's BIO 200 and BIO 201 (Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II) are 4-credit courses with a lab and are equivalent to BIO 2111 and BIO 2112 at CT State Norwalk.
- The PTA Program at CT State Norwalk does not accept transfer students or credits toward PTA courses from other U.S. or international programs, including PT, OT, PTA, OTA, or any other similar program (including the PTA program at CT State Naugatuck Valley). There is extensive variability between programs across the country and around the world. It is nearly impossible to determine, by looking at international or domestic course descriptions and/or syllabi, whether a student has adequately covered concepts at another institution, and in what timeframe, and then match this to our curriculum to determine which courses a student must complete and which can be waived. Therefore, all students wishing to graduate from the PTA program at CT State Norwalk must complete the entire technical portion of the program at CT State Norwalk. This does not exclude individuals from completing general education (non-PTA) courses at another institution.
- If you receive information from someone about the PTA program (especially someone not directly connected with the PTA program, i.e., individuals in the Counseling Center, Admissions, and/or faculty who teach in other programs/departments), and that information appears to conflict with the information found in this document, please follow the information in this document, and contact a PTA program advisor if you need to clarify the information.
- Graduation from CT State Norwalk with an Associate of Science (major in PTA) does not guarantee licensure to practice as a PTA. You must meet all requirements of the state you plan to practice in prior to licensure. The state of Connecticut requires successful completion of the National Physical Therapy Examination for PTAs administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (www.fsbpt.org) prior to application for licensure.
- Student membership with the American Physical Therapy Association (www.apta.org) is required during the first year of the program. Currently, annual dues are approximately \$90.
- Student membership with PhysioU.com is required during the program. Please visit physiou.health for information about membership rates.
- Certain clinical facilities may require uniforms, and other related equipment. Costs associated with these items are the responsibility of the student.
- On the PTA licensure application for the state of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), graduates will be asked about prior and pending disciplinary actions, dismissals, suspensions, terminations, fines, reprimands, complaints, charges, investigations and convictions with regard to professional organizations, insurance providers, healthcare providers, schools and government agencies. For more information about this application, students should contact the state of Connecticut DPH.
- If a student has prior convictions for one or more misdemeanors or felonies, he or she may not be able to complete any or all of the PTA internship courses required for graduation. Clinical facilities are under no obligation to accept all students and may deny an internship slot based on findings in a student's background check. The PTA program will contact at least, but no more than, three internship sites for each clinical education course (PTA 2694, PTA 2794, and PTA 2894), to attempt to place the student in each internship. However, if no internship is available due to the student's history of convictions, the program is under no obligation to contact more than three clinical internship sites for each internship. For more information, please contact the program's Clinical Education Coordinator Dr. L. Roger Silva (203-857-7199 or lsilva@norwalk.edu).
- All PTA students are required to be covered by Professional Liability Insurance while enrolled in internship courses (PTA 2694, PTA 2794, and PTA 2894), because the PTA student intern is practicing

hands-on interventions with the patient, providing actual physical therapy care under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. This insurance must be in force for the duration of any and all internships and proof must be on file with the Clinical Education Coordinator. CT State Norwalk will provide such liability insurance for all students. Students are encouraged to obtain their own private liability insurance in addition to the school policy.

- The college requires that students show proof of high school graduation or GED completion, and immunization against measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella to comply with state law.
- The PTA program requires that all students have a physical examination and show proof of additional vaccines (such as Hepatitis B and COVID-19) or tests (such as tuberculosis). Costs associated with these tests and medical examinations are the responsibility of the student. The PTA program uses an independent compliance organization to monitor student health records, at a cost to the student. If a student refuses to complete health requirements (i.e., flu or COVID-19 vaccination), he or she may not be able to complete any or all of the PTA internship courses required for graduation. Clinical facilities are under no obligation to accept all students, and may deny an internship slot based on findings in a student's health records. The PTA program will contact at least, but no more than, three internship sites for each clinical education course (PTA 2694, PTA 2794, and PTA 2894), to attempt to place the student in each internship. However, if no internship is available due to the student's health history, the program is under no obligation to contact more than three clinical internship sites for each internship. At this time, all clinical facilities require full vaccination against COVID-19. For more information, please contact the program's clinical education coordinator Dr. L. Roger Silva (203-857-7199 or lsilva@norwalk.edu).
- In general, the PTA (non-internship) courses take place during daytime hours, Monday through Friday. The PTA courses are not offered in evenings or on weekends. For an idea of when PTA courses are scheduled, please visit the CT State Norwalk course search page (<https://norwalk.edu/academics/course-search/>) and search for PTA courses. Historically, we have tended to keep a similar schedule year after year, but we do not guarantee that the schedule will be the same in future semesters.
- The clinical internship schedule is at the discretion of the program coordinator and the supervising PT/PTA at the clinical education site and may include evenings and weekends. The third (Fall 2) semester of the program includes a one-day-per-week internship. The final semester of the program (Spring 2) consists of two, seven-week, full-time internships. Students are expected to arrange work and personal priorities around the internship schedule.
- In addition to college tuition, lab fees, clinical fees and textbooks, students may be required to arrange and pay for parking at and transportation to clinical internships, as well as required uniforms/attire. Every attempt will be made to place students in an area that is within a reasonable driving distance from Norwalk, or the student's home, however students may be required to attend clinical internships or learning experiences outside those areas.
- Given the intense workload associated with the program, students are strongly advised to consider reducing work and personal commitments to a manageable level prior to beginning the program. Classroom and clinical expectations and schedules will not be altered to accommodate student employment or other commitments. These recommendations are made to ensure the success of the student:
 - In most cases, it is advantageous to complete all general education courses before applying to the PTA program. This allows the student to be able to concentrate solely on the PTA courses during the program.
 - The student can expect to commit to spending a minimum of two hours of study time/academic preparation for every hour spent in class. Some of these hours will need to be spent on campus, in the PTA laboratory to facilitate familiarity with various learning models and equipment.

- Students should be aware that the PTA laboratory is only accessible during daytime hours on weekdays, some weekday evenings, and possibly Saturdays. It is important to plan your schedule to maximize the ability to study in the PTA lab as needed.
- Students should be aware that retakes of competencies and lab practicals take place outside of class time. Students should be prepared to adjust their personal schedules to ensure compliance with retake policies and procedures.
- For the first and second semesters, the time commitment equates to approximately 24 hours per week of study time. During the final semester, when the student is participating in full time internships and completing an online capstone course (PTA 2990), there will again be an expectation that the student will spend time outside of the internship hours researching/studying clinical concepts, or other obligations as assigned by the clinical instructor.
- PTA program applicants should be aware that a mandatory orientation takes place each year on the third Tuesday of August. Students who are not able to attend this orientation will forfeit their seat in the program.
- Students are responsible for their own learning. The PTA program requires a higher degree of self-directed learning than your previous college courses likely did. PTA students are expected to learn concepts and content using skills such as research, reading, and working in groups outside of class/lab, to fulfill the mission of the program, which is to graduate lifelong learners, with self-study skills. The instructor provides learning materials and direction, but does not provide all information needed within lectures, or unlimited tutoring to students outside of class/lab time.
- Students should avoid delegating their responsibilities related to the PTA program to parents, spouses, or others during the pre-PTA/application process. This includes, but is not limited to advising, the submission of documents, and non-emergency communication with program personnel. During the program, especially in the internship environment, and while employed as a PTA, students and graduates will be expected to perform responsibilities independently, without the assistance of parents, spouses, or others. If the student cannot demonstrate the skill of independent functioning, then the student cannot meet the mission, goals, and outcomes of the program, and thus, in accordance with accreditation standards, may not graduate.

Helpful Resources

- The program's website has other helpful information and is available at <https://norwalk.edu/pta>.
- Copies of this packet are available at <https://norwalk.edu/pta/info>. This packet is updated annually in the summer.
- American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) www.apta.org.
- For information about PTA licensure in the state of Connecticut: <https://portal.ct.gov/dph>
- For information about PTA licensure outside the state of Connecticut: www.fsbpt.org
- For information about the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination: www.fsbpt.org

Internationally-Trained Physical Therapists Seeking U.S. Licensure

The PTA program at CT State Norwalk does not assist individuals with an international physical therapy degree in applying for state licensure. Individuals should seek information from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (<https://www.fsbpt.org/>), the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners for the state in which you plan to practice, and/or the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (<http://www.fccpt.org/>).

Technical Standards

Physical therapy education and practice requires essential functions to safely, appropriately and effectively manage patients/clients. Physical therapy education programs are required to make reasonable accommodations to any student with a disability according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. A student need not divulge the existence of a disability or request an accommodation prior to acceptance to the program. Reasonable accommodation is not intended to guarantee that students will be successful in meeting the requirements of any one course or clinical education.

It is required that students display the characteristics described in the Technical Standards (with approved reasonable accommodations) prior to, and during, placement in a clinical environment. If the student is deficient in one or more of these characteristics before or during clinical internships, the PTA program disciplinary process will be triggered.

Category	The student must be able to:
Critical Thinking & Academic/Clinical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apply critical thinking processes in the classroom and the clinic, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ identify cause-effect relationships; ○ respond to emergencies; and, ○ interpret and synthesize knowledge to answer case-based questions on an exam. ● Retain and use information in order to solve problems, assess patients, and document patient encounters. ● Analyze physical, biomechanical, pathological, behavioral, and environmental factors in a timely manner. ● Use information to formulate and execute an appropriate intervention in a timely, safe, and effective manner appropriate for the problems identified. ● Apply teaching/learning theories and methods in health care and community environments. ● Demonstrate clinical competence in a variety of settings including acute, outpatient, and neurological settings. ● Participate in the process of scientific inquiry. ● Meet class standards for course completion throughout the curriculum including lecture, laboratory and clinical requirements.
Interpersonal Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborate with fellow PTA students during and outside of class/laboratory sessions to facilitate learning. ● Establish rapport with patients/clients, faculty and colleagues. ● Recognize psychosocial impact of dysfunction/disability. ● Integrate the needs of the patient and family.
Communication Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Effectively communicate with other students, faculty, patients, peers/other health care professionals, staff and families. Communication shall require the student to ask questions, explain conditions and procedures, teach home programs, and to maintain safety. ● Receive, write, and interpret written communication effectively in both academic and clinical settings. ● Receive, send and interpret verbal communication effectively in emergency situations. ● Demonstrate interpersonal skills as needed for productive classroom discussion, respectful interaction with classmates and faculty, and development of appropriate

	<p>therapist-patient relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written communication with patients, families and others.
Mobility Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class up to approximately 23+ hours per week, which includes lecture, laboratory, and integrated clinical experiences. • Sit and maintain upright posture for approximately 2-6 hours in an average academic day. • Stand and maintain upright posture for approximately 1-3 hours in an average academic day. • Walk or travel approximately two hours in an average academic day. • Get to lecture, lab and clinical locations in a timely manner. • Move within rooms as needed for changing groups, lab partners and work stations. • Perform assigned clinical tasks and in a timely manner • Safely maneuver self or move another individual's body parts. • Safely move another individual's body in transfers, gait, positioning, and mobilization techniques. • Safely maneuver or move clinical equipment in all directions. • Safely and effectively guide, facilitate, inhibit, and resist movement and motor patterns. • Manipulate common tools used for screening tests of nerves, joints, and muscles which would include sensation, range of motion, and muscle testing procedures. • Perform CPR using guidelines by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. • Legibly record/document evaluations, and progress notes in medical charts. • Legibly record thoughts for written assignments and tests. • Apply and adjust therapeutic modalities. • Apply and position hands to apply soft tissue and mobilization/manipulation techniques.
Hearing Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform effective auscultation/auditory assessment, such as lungs, heart, apical pulse, blood pressure, joint noises, etc. • Hear and monitor alarms, emergency signals and cries for help and respond to a timer.
Visual Ability/Observation Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe lecture and laboratory demonstrations. • Observe patient/client responses; obtain visual information from patients/clients. • Obtain visual information from treatment equipment and environment.
Tactile Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform palpation, physical examination or intervention, resistance during exercises. • Palpate changes in an individual's muscle tone, soft tissues, skin quality, joint play, kinesthesia, and temperature, and sense the individual's response to environmental changes and treatment.
Coping Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate appropriate behaviors and attitudes in order not to jeopardize the emotional, physical, mental, and safety of patients, fellow students, faculty and other individuals in the academic and clinical settings. • Cope with the mental and emotional rigors of a demanding educational program within the set time constraints, which includes both the academic and clinical aspects. • Work within a schedule and under deadlines. • Document in the medical record within a specific time frame, reflective of industry

	<p>standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete written and psychomotor exams within a specific time frame.
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with the ethical standards of the American Physical Therapy Association. • Acknowledge and respect individual values and opinions in order to foster harmonious working relationships with colleagues, peers, faculty and patients. • Judge and value professionalism in physical therapy. • Demonstrate responsibility for lifelong professional growth and development. • Perform self-evaluation. • Engage in self-directed learning. • Maintain general good health, self-care, and hygiene in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and individuals with which one interacts. • Arrange transportation and living accommodations for/during off campus clinical assignments and classes. • Recognize and respond appropriately to individuals of all race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, marital status, or nationality, socioeconomic, and cultural background.

This information is based on the following:

- Rangel A, Wittry A, Boucher B, Sanders B. A Survey of Essential Functions and Reasonable Accommodations in Physical Therapist Education Programs. [*Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. Spring 2001](#), Vol:15, Iss:1.
- Technical Standards/Essential Functions. Stockton University, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. <http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/gradstudies/content/docs/DPT%20Technical%20Standards.pdf> Accessed July 10, 2015.

If you have any questions about the Technical Standards, please discuss them with a PTA program administrator. If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services. Requesting an accommodation for a disability, or the disclosure of a disability, is not required before the student is admitted to the program.