CT STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Naugatuck Valley

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Why should you be involved in physical therapy?

- Exciting
- Rewarding
- Working with people
- Teamwork
- Endless opportunities

TO HELP OTHERS

“You Can Be Me!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r35FQT3u0J4

”

What is a PTA?

A Physical Therapist Assistant is…

- A licensed health care provider who works under the direction and supervision of a Physical Therapist (PT).

- 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.

- The education of a PTA requires that the candidate earn an Associate Degree meeting criteria set by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Accreditation Status

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Naugatuck Valley Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), American Physical Therapy Association, 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100Alexandria, VA 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 203-596-2168 or email janet.gangaway@ctstate.edu.

Why should you choose CT State – Naugatuck Valley?

Our Mission

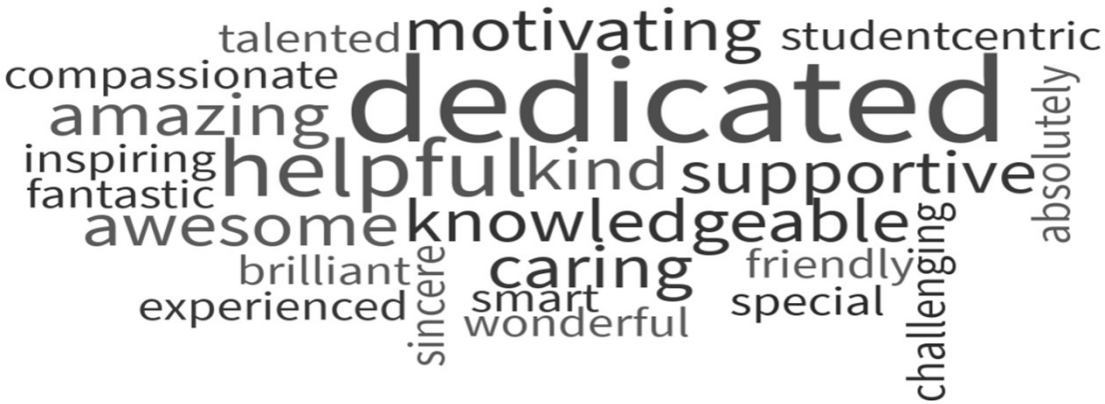
The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program is committed to high standards as it educates students with the knowledge, clinical skills, professional behaviors, and core values essential to evidence-based and culturally competent contemporary physical therapy care.

Our Vision

The program emphasis on innovative and data-driven teaching methods, technology, and communication facilitates learning in the classroom and the clinic as the program endeavors to educate students who:

- Strive for excellence as physical therapist assistants by providing safe and effective interventions.
- Commit to high ethical standards.
- Appreciate and value racial, social, economic, and cultural diversity.
- Utilize critical reflection.
- Invest in community involvement.
- Engage in lifelong learning.
- Provide patient-centered interprofessional collaborative care.

Our Faculty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kind
wonderful
funny
helpful
supportive
fantastic
experienced
flexible
stupendous
approachable

Our facilities

F211 – acute care room

F208 Skills lab

F207 models

What will you learn?

Associate of Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant

- Five semester program
  - Including admission requirements
- Two year curriculum in PTA Program
  - Art and science courses integrated with specialized physical therapy studies
  - Academic and clinical coursework
  - Critical thinking and decision-making
  - Professional behaviors
  - Effective communication skills
  - Documentation

First Semester (Spring)

PTA 1200	Introduction to Physical Therapy	3 credits
PTA 1250	Physical Therapy for Function	4 credits
PTA 1300	Clinical Anatomy/Kinesiology	3 credits
BIO 2111	Anatomy & Physiology I#	4 credits
		14 credits

Must be completed with a C+ or higher.

Second Semester (Fall)

PTA 1450	Physical Agents in Physical Therapy	3 credits
PTA 1500	PT Interventions in Orthopedics	4 credits
PTA 1550	Pathology for the PTA I	3 credits
BIO 2112	Anatomy & Physiology II#	4 credits
		14 credits

Must be completed with a C+ or higher.

Third Semester (Spring)

PTA 2500	PT Interventions in Special Populations	3 credits
PTA 2550	Pathology for the PTA II	3 credits
PTA 2580	The PTA in the Healthcare Arena	1 credit
PTA 2694P	PTA Part Time Clinical Experience	1 credit
WRIX	Written Communication II	3 credits
ARHX	Arts & Humanities (must meet diversity requirement)	3 credits
		14 credits

Fourth Semester (Fall)

PTA 2990P	Physical Therapy Seminar	3 credits
PTA 2794P	PTA Internship II	3 credits
PTA 2894P	PTA Internship III	3 credits
		9 credits

General Education Credits	30 credits
PTA Credits	37 credits
Total Program Credits	**67 credits***

How do I apply?

PTA Application

It is your responsibility to carefully read the PTA Application

- All admission requirements must be completed by **8/1/2025**, including submission of proof of documentation of meeting the requirements.
  - Including but not limited to any CLEP test, course substitutions, and credit by exam.
  - Courses may NOT be in progress.

- Official final transcripts from **all** previously attended colleges/universities, regardless of age of transcripts and applicability to the PTA Program must be submitted by the deadline. This includes college credits earned while in high school.

Admission Requirements*

BIO 1210	General Biology I#	4 credits
ENG 1010	English Composition	3 credits
MAT 1200	Statistics^	3 credits
PSY 1011	General Psychology I	3 credits
CCS 1001	College & Career Success	3 credits
		16 credits

Must be completed with a C+ or higher.
^ Must be completed with a C or higher.

PTA Admission Requirements for the January 2026 cohort

- Statistics:
  - MAT 1200 (3 credits)
  - Minimum C

- General Biology I
  - Bio 1210 (4 credits)
  - Minimum C+

PTA Admission Requirements for January 2026 cohort

- English Composition, ENG 1010
  - Minimum C
- Introduction to Psychology, PSY 1011
  - Minimum C
- College and Career Success, CCS 1001
  - Minimum C
    - May be waived if transferring in 24+ credits

PTA Admission Requirements for January 2026 cohort

- ATI TEAS
  - Nursing OR Allied Health version
  - ATI TEAS with score equivalent to 60% or higher required.
  - Official test scores must be submitted by the application deadline, if not taken at a CT Community College. Test scores will be valid for three (3) years and must be taken between **8/1/22 to 8/1/25**.
  - Students with higher scores on these tests are stronger candidates.
  - Students can take test multiple times – highest score utilized.

PTA Admission Requirements for January 2026 cohort

ATI TEAS Test Info

Testing schedules and registration info, visit: www.atitesting.com

A study manual for the test visit: www.atitesting.com

Any further questions, contact the testing center @ NV: 203-575-8048

PTA Admission Requirements for January 2026 cohort

- PTA GPA: 2.5 Minimum
  - Calculation specific to PTA applicants
  - May differ from your college GPA
  - Calculated according to courses required for admission
    - BIO 1210, MAT 1200, PSY 1011, ENG 1010

PTA Admission Requirements for January 2026 cohort

- Documented observation hours:
  - Minimum 10 hours in an in-patient physical therapy setting
  - Minimum 10 hours in an out-patient physical therapy setting
  - Totaling **minimum 20 hours**
    - More hours does not give you an advantage!
  - Form can be found at: https://nv.edu/Portals/0/Documents/AcademicPrograms/PTA/Observation_Hours_Log-2022.pdf
  - If you cannot get the hours contact the PTA Program Director
  - Must be handed in by the application deadline or you will not be eligible for admission

Submit with your application.

Ranking Formula for Admission*

PTA GPA	40%
BIO 1210	20%
MAT 1200	20%
ATI TEAS	20%

Applicants will be ranked according to final score with <u>up to</u> the top 30 accepted into the program.

Admissions Decisions

- Competitive selective admissions program
- Up to 30 applicants admitted each year
- Any student denied admission this admission cycle, will need to REAPPLY in the following application cycle.

What do I need to know if I'm accepted?

Accepted Students

- Must declare intent to attend by deadline

- Understand the requirement: Before clinical experiences (Fall / semester 2) you will:
  - Complete a criminal background check
  - Complete a substance screening

- Students who do not pass the **background check** may be excluded from clinical sites and may not be able to meet the competencies required for the program.

- Students who do not pass the **substance screening** may be excluded from clinical sites and may not be able to meet the competencies required for the program.

Program Requirements

- A grade of "C" or higher must be attained in all physical therapy courses and all courses required for the degree.

- Students must maintain a 2.3 or higher PTA GPA while in the program.

- A grade of "P" (pass) must be attained in all clinical education components to meet the degree.

Program Requirements

- Complete & submit all health and training requirements according to deadlines given.
- Become student member of the American Physical Therapy Association. ($90/year)
- Obtain certification in First Aid & Healthcare Provider CPR.
  - American Heart Association or American Red Cross

Additional Requirements / costs

- Tuition & Fees
- Books
- Criminal background check & drug test (annual)
- Professional attire for clinical education experiences
- Licensure review courses
- Transportation
- Physical / PPD test (annual)
  - Immunizations
    - Hep B, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, Covid-19 w/booster
    - Flu vaccine (annual)
- Purchase of PTA 'kit' 1st and 2nd semester

What is the total cost of the program?

As of the 2024 graduating class, the total cost was ~$21,600.

A detailed breakout of the expenses can be found on the website at: https://ctstate.edu/academics/programs/physical-therapist-assistant

Clinical Education

- Clinical learning is held at a variety of healthcare sites throughout Connecticut (CT) and these clinical sites are assigned at the discretion of the PTA faculty.

- Students may be required to travel over seventy- five (75) minutes to their experiences.

- Students are required to provide their own transportation, living expenses (as necessary), and any other expenses while on clinical education experiences.

Considerations for Success

- You are entering a healthcare career **program of study-** not just taking additional classes. Knowledge is cumulative.
- You will be preparing to take a national licensure exam.
- You will have the responsibility for caring for patients.
- In addition to learning knowledge and skills, you will be expected to demonstrate professional behaviors in all classes & clinical experiences.

Considerations for Success

- Sufficient reading time, study time and practice.
  - Attendance at Open Lab.
  - Additional 2-3 days on campus outside of class time.
    - ~2-3 hours of preparation, studying, practicing <u>per hour</u> of on campus time
- Curriculum becomes more challenging each semester.
- Work hours to minimum – students who work more than 20 hours per week, in general, struggle and have difficulty continuing to be successful in the program.

Observation of a PTA Laboratory Class

- Meet PTA faculty
- Interact with current PTA students
- Appreciate the type of information & skills you will be learning
- Not required but recommended

Please contact Cheryl Marie at 203-596-2157 or Cheryl.marie@ctstate.edu to schedule an observation.

Guided Pathways Advisor

Angela Skyers

Angela.skyers@ctstate.edu

Kinney Hall Room 520
203-596-8649

Selective Admissions Specialist

Reuben Cartagena

Reuben.Cartagena@ctstate.edu
860-906-5319

Reminders

Please note: this information is in regard to the 2025 application cycle for the cohort starting January 2026.

Admission requirements may change without notice.

It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of the most updated information.

PTA Program Information Sessions

- Check PTA webpage, https://ctstate.edu/academics/programs/physical-therapist-assistant, for upcoming information sessions.

- Sessions are held at NVCC in Founders Hall, F 207 (PTA Classroom) or virtually at https://bit.ly/ptaliveinfo (depending on the date – check the website for virtual dates)
  - enter via the East Entrance, go up the hill to the left, part in front of Founders Hall on the right

- RSVP not required but appreciated.

Remember…….

OPPORTUNITIES

ARE ENDLESS!!!!!!!

Thank You For Your Time

Good Luck in Your Future Goals!!

The PTA Faculty & Staff

<u>Program Director</u>: Dr. Janet Gangaway PT, DPT
Janet.gangaway@ctstate.edu