



## Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program Overview

Welcome and congratulations on choosing a health career that will give you the knowledge and skills to rehabilitate patients while working under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. With this degree you can work in a variety of settings such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient clinics, school systems and home health where you will treat patients from children to the elderly. This degree prepares you to take the National Physical Therapy exam to qualify for a licensed/certified PTA.

Applicants are encouraged to review the PTA curriculum and schedule of course in the [College Catalog](#).

[Estimated Cost of Attendance](#) is located on the PTA program website.

Note: Annual costs are estimates and may be subject to increases. Students should contact the program for further information related to costs.

This document will **explain the application process** that is required for this degree. The program is limited to 20 students each fall semester and as such has a selective admissions process. The application must be completed online, and the link is provided below.

**It is suggested that you read all the information BEFORE applying to make sure you understand what documents are required, how you are evaluated, and the process for final selection.**

Good luck, and we hope to see you in Fall 2026.

## Physical Therapist Program Application Information Fall 2026

The PTA program admission application will be open **November 15, 2025 – March 31, 2026**.

Those interested in pursuing a degree in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Pueblo Community College, must complete this application and it must be submitted by the deadline stated above. All applicants must have a **MINIMUM** cumulative college GPA of 2.25 to apply. **No** applications with a cumulative college GPA below 2.25 will be accepted.

- The PTA Program is five semesters, **starting each fall semester. This application is valid only for Fall 2026 admissions, with an anticipated graduation in May 2028.**
- Applications must be received by 5:00 PM on May 31, 2025, and must be current and complete with all required materials attached.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all the application materials are received by the deadline.
- Incomplete or late applications will NOT be accepted.
- Applicants are urged to contact Lori McGill, PTA Director at 719-549-3433 or [Lori.McGill@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Lori.McGill@pueblocc.edu) for advisement and/or assistance before or during the application

period. You may also contact Jenny Dunnington, Academic Excellence Administrator: 719-549-3198 or [Janelle.Dunnington@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Janelle.Dunnington@pueblocc.edu).

## Physical Therapist Assistant Application Instructions

PTA Applications must be submitted online at the Physical Therapist Assistant webpage. **No** paper applications are accepted.

**BEFORE** you begin your application, please make note of this important application procedural information:

- All **uploaded** documents must be submitted in **PDF format**. [FREE PDF CREATOR](#)
- If you start your application and would like to save it and come back to it later, you may use the "**Save and Resume Later**" feature found at the bottom of each page.
- If this feature is used, a **link** to your application will be provided. It is recommended that you provide your **email address**, where prompted, to receive the **link by email**.
- Please note that a **new link** is provided each time an applicant uses the "Save and Resume Later" feature. To return to the most recent version of your application, **use the most recent link provided**.
- Unfortunately, the application **does not save** any documents you may have uploaded when you use the "**Save and Resume Later**" feature. You will be required to **re-upload** the documents each time you use this feature.
- After the application is **submitted**, the applicant **will not** be able to make changes to any of the information or attachments.

## What do I need to apply?

1. Apply for Admission to Pueblo Community College, meeting all college admission requirements.
  - a. Admission forms may be completed online at the [PCC Admissions](#) webpage (<https://pueblocc.edu/apply>). For assistance with the admission application, go to the New Student Studio on the second floor of the Student Center for the Pueblo campus; for the Fremont campus, go to room A-103; and for the Southwest campus, go to the Main Building.
  - b. You can also schedule a virtual appointment by clicking [here](#). (<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/PreEnrollmentAppointments@cccs.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>) or Contact Janelle Dunnington at 719-549-3198 or email [Janelle.Dunnington@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Janelle.Dunnington@pueblocc.edu).
2. Complete the online [PTA Application](#).
3. Read and sign the [Essential Functions Form](#).
4. Read and sign the [Attestation Form](#).
5. Provide copies of **ALL college transcripts from EACH institution attended that include** required PTA general education courses with a "C" or higher and from a regionally accredited college.
  - a. Copies of unofficial transcripts will be accepted for review with the PTA application.
    - i. **NOTE:** Official transcripts from all colleges **MUST** be submitted to PCC Registrar before graduation is granted.
  - b. Highlight all completed general education courses on your transcripts.
  - c. Highlight the program pre-requisite courses with a "C" or higher and from a regionally accredited college.
    - i. A 4-credit college-level BIO1004 Biology: A Human Approach OR Human Anatomy & Physiology (BIO 2101) course within the last five years

- ii. A 4-credit college-level Physics (PHY 1105) course
  1. Completion of program prerequisite courses BIO 1004 or BIO 2101 and PHY 1105 **must be done before final acceptance** into the PTA Program. It is recommended these courses be completed or in process by the application deadline (March 31, 2025). They must be completed for final acceptance into the PTA program.
  2. Both courses need to include a lab portion.
  3. Exemptions or substitutions may be made at the approval of the department chair. For questions, please contact Lori McGill at 719-549-3433 or by email at [Lori.McGill@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Lori.McGill@pueblocc.edu).
6. Submit a two-page essay explaining why you are pursuing the Physical Therapist Assistant degree. Include the reasons you have chosen Pueblo Community College to help reach your goal of becoming a PTA. The essay should be double-spaced, 12 pt. Arial font, with 1-inch margins.
7. Submit two (2) forms of recommendation. Recommendation forms need to be completed by college faculty and/or an employer (former or current) who is NOT RELATED TO YOU. You will email the link that is provided in the online application to your recommending individuals.

Only complete applications will be reviewed and evaluated after the deadline. Applicants **may not** be notified of missing application information.

### After I apply, what should I expect?

Applicants will be notified by e-mail of their interview status during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April if application is received by March 31<sup>st</sup>. If the applicant is selected for an interview, the e-mail will indicate the interview date. Interviews will be held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April 2026.

Interviews will be conducted in person; no telephone interviews will be scheduled. Virtual interviews may be scheduled on an exception basis only. Applicants are responsible for all travel or other expenses incurred to participate in the interview.

The interview will assess the applicant's desire and motivation to pursue the field of physical therapy, communication skills, commitment to learning, and interpersonal skills needed for success in the program and the field of physical therapy.

After interviews have taken place, the applicant will be notified of their acceptance status, which will be **conditional acceptance or not accepted**.

**All conditionally accepted applicants will be informed of the conditions and definitive deadline to be completed for final admittance into the PTA program.** Conditions for final acceptance maybe completion of the pre-requisite courses with a "C" or higher and for all applicant's completion of all requirements described below.

All Colorado Community College health students (including PTA students) must complete a **background check, pass a drug screening, and sign an online payment agreement** before they can advance their acceptance and begin/register for the health program. You will receive the information and procedure for completing these requirements once you have been **conditionally accepted** into the program (after the interview process). The approximate cost of \$80 for the background check and drug screen is the responsibility of the student.

## Evaluation and Selection of Applicants

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program has a selective admissions policy due to the limited number of clinical sites available to the program. A maximum of twenty (20) applicants will be chosen for each Fall Semester. Final admission of all applicants will be awarded at the discretion of the PTA Admissions Committee.

Using the following information, applicants may estimate the total for their application in categories A through E to assess their own qualification status. However, the final awarding of points in every category will be the responsibility of the PTA Admissions Committee.

Points will be based on the following:

**A.** 15 Points (maximum) - The GPA of the PTA general education and related courses.

4.0-3.9 = 15 pts	3.0 = 7 pts
3.8- 3.7 = 14 pts	2.9 = 6 pts
3.6 = 13 pts	2.8 = 5 pts
3.5 = 12 pts	2.7 = 4 pts
3.4 = 11 pts	2.6 = 3 pts
3.3 = 10 pts.	2.5 = 2 pts
3.2 = 9 pts,	2.4-2.26 = 1 pt
3.1 = 8 pts	

**B.** 5 Points (maximum) - **College cumulative GPA**

3.6 or higher = 5 pts; 3.0- 3.5 = 4 pts; 2.5-2.9 = 3 pts; 2.8-2.5 = 2 pts; 2.4-2.26=1 pt.

**C.** 4 points (maximum) - Completion of **PTA general education and related courses** (non-prerequisite courses); 1 point for each course completed with a "C" or higher.

ENG 1021, COM 1015 or 1250 PSY 1001 or 1002 or 2440, HPR 1078

Students are advised to complete these courses prior to beginning the PTA curriculum. However, ONLY biology and physics courses are required to be completed for final acceptance.

**D.** 20 Points (maximum) - **Forms of Recommendation**

Two (2) recommendation forms from the college faculty and/or recent employer who are not related to you worth up to 10 points each.

**E.** 10 Points (maximum): **Essay** as to why you are pursuing the physical therapist assistant degree at Pueblo Community College. Include why you have chosen Pueblo Community College to help reach your goal of becoming a PTA. The essay should be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. Arial font, with 1-inch margins. This is scored on spelling, grammar and content.

Categories A through E listed above need to be received by 5 PM, **March 31, 2026**, to be considered and will be tallied after the application deadline. Applicants will be notified by email and a letter of their interview status and the interview process.

**Interviews will be conducted in person; no telephone interviews will be scheduled. Virtual interviews may be scheduled on an exception basis only. Applicants are responsible for all travel or other expenses incurred to participate in the interview.**

**F. 50 Points (maximum) - Personal interview for finalists.**

The interview will assess the applicant's desire and motivation to pursue the field of physical therapy, communication skills, commitment to learning, and interpersonal skills needed for success in the program and the field of physical therapy.

### Who should I contact with additional questions?

- Lori McGill, Department Chair PTA Program: 719-549-3433, [Lori.McGill@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Lori.McGill@pueblocc.edu)
- Jenny Dunnington, Academic Excellence Administrator: 719-549-3198, [Janelle.Dunnington@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Janelle.Dunnington@pueblocc.edu)

### Student Attestation & Acknowledgement: Professional Licensure Programs

Some careers, like teaching, speech pathology, law, psychology, and physical therapist assistant require state licensure or certification alongside your degree to work in those fields. These requirements vary by profession and state. Each state and U.S. territory has its own agency responsible for overseeing these rules.

According to U.S. federal regulation 34 CFR § 668.14(b)(32)(i) and (ii), if the professional licensure or state certification does not meet the educational requirements for the state or territory where the student is physically located, the student must complete an attestation before initial enrollment of the professional licensure or state certification program.

#### Why do I need to complete an attestation?

If you're in a state where our program doesn't meet all the educational requirements for professional licensure, you need to fill out the Student Attestation Form before enrolling. This form acknowledges that you've been informed that the program does not meet the state requirements where you currently reside, and you have signed an attestation that you will be seeking employment in another state where the requirements are met. If you're unsure about licensure or want to discuss your choices before filling out the form, contact Angela Brubaker at [angela.brubaker@pueblocc.edu](mailto:angela.brubaker@pueblocc.edu).

For students entering licensure programs, it's important to regularly consult with advisors and departments throughout your time at Pueblo Community College. This helps ensure you complete the necessary educational steps for licensure exams and understand any additional requirements in your state or territory.

Details about which programs lead to licensure and where you can pursue it after graduation are available on our Professional Licensure website: [Pueblo Community College NC-SARA](#)

Completing a program at Pueblo Community College does not guarantee that you will receive licensure, certification, or employment in your chosen field. Pueblo Community College cannot be held responsible if you do not meet the requirements for licensure or certification in any location.

The attestation requires students to:

- Share their intentions and plans for obtaining professional licensure after graduating from Pueblo Community College, including outlining educational goals and future employment plans.
- Acknowledge that Pueblo Community College has informed them that the program they intend to enroll in may not meet the educational requirements for licensure or certification in the state where they are currently located.
- Confirm their intention to seek employment in a state that meets the educational requirements for licensure or certification.

## Licensure Disclosure

Students enrolling or continuing at the institutions above have a right to certain information that the colleges are required by law to provide. As a student applying for or attending the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, you have the right to know that the program meets the applicable state prerequisites for certification in Colorado. PTA graduates are Certified by the Colorado Board of Physical Therapy. They must graduate from a CAPTE-accredited school and pass a national board exam (FSBPT) prior to the state granting their certification.

As a CAPTE-accredited program, the Physical Therapist Assistant Program meets applicable state prerequisites for licensure or certification in states other than Colorado. Students must apply for a license/certification in each state or territory in which they want to practice. Other states include: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. U.S. Territories, including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## Licensing Board

- Colorado State Physical Therapy Board PTA Certification [Physical Therapy HOME | Division of Professions and Occupations](#) | 303.894.7800
- Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy [Licensing Authorities and Contact Information](#) | 703.299.3100

## Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Pueblo Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave, Suite 100, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone 702-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); [CAPTE website](#). If you need to contact the program directly, please call 719-549-3433 or email [Lori.McGill@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Lori.McGill@pueblocc.edu)

## Essential Skills:

The following physical, cognitive, and environmental performance standards are encountered and expected of physical therapist assistant students in classroom, lab, and clinical activities. A student must be able to perform each of the essential functions to be successful in the PTA Program.

<b>ESSENTIAL FUNCTION</b>	<b>TECHNICAL STANDARD</b>	<b>REQUIRED COMPONENTS</b>
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Thinks critically and problem-solves by assessing and utilizing scientific evidence for safe and effective physical therapy practice.	Questions, logically recognizes, and differentiates facts, illusions, and assumptions and distinguishes the relevant from the irrelevant. Able to measure, calculate, analyze, reason, and synthesize information. Identifies and prioritizes issues in a responsive manner.
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>	Interacts effectively with patients, families, colleagues, other health professionals, and the community in a culturally aware manner.	Establishes rapport and interacts professionally with patients/families, colleagues, faculty, and other health care providers. Utilizes therapeutic communication techniques (attending, clarifying, and coaching). Reacts with empathy, compassion, and sensitivity to the diverse needs of others.
<b>Observation Skills</b>	Observes, comprehends, interprets, and participates in demonstrations, laboratory activities, and clinical experiences for safe and effective clinical practice.	Through functional use of vision, olfactory, hearing, and somatic abilities is able to assess the patient, comprehend and interpret the information, and report the results to the supervising physical therapist.
<b>Communication Abilities</b>	Communicates effectively with diverse audiences and for a variety of purposes and situations.	Utilizes appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication skills. Utilizes correct grammar, expression, accurate spelling, and legible handwriting as applicable in oral, written, and electronic formats. Provides effective, concise, and organized oral and written information and education to all pertinent individuals.
<b>Physical/Motor Abilities</b>	Possesses sufficient motor function and endurance to safely perform data collection skills and therapeutic interventions in a physical therapy setting.	Regularly lift and move 25-50 pounds and exert enough pushing and pulling force to position or move patients and equipment, assist and resist a patient in exercise interventions using proper body mechanics. Assist with lifting heavier weights (150-350 pounds). Spend prolonged periods of time performing sustained activities of up to 4 hours at a time without rest. These activities may include walking, standing, bending, reaching, pushing and pulling. Ability to endure 8–10-hour shifts, 5 days per week during the clinical education component of the program. Possess the coordination, speed, agility necessary to assist and safely guard a patient who is walking (gait training), exercising, or performing other rehabilitation activities.



<b>ESSENTIAL FUNCTION</b>	<b>TECHNICAL STANDARD</b>	<b>REQUIRED COMPONENTS</b>
<b>Hearing Ability</b>	Possesses sufficient auditory ability to safely perform data collection skills and therapeutic interventions in a physical therapy setting.	Hears patient concerns and emergency signals. Hears and interprets verbal instructions from others.
<b>Visual Ability</b>	Possesses sufficient visual acuity to safely perform data collection skills and therapeutic interventions in a physical therapy setting.	Observes patient conditions; observes patient/responses; reads charts, computer screens, dials, labels, and gauges. Observes laboratory and clinical demonstrations. Displays visual/spatial skills sufficient for patient safety and comfort.
<b>Tactile Ability</b>	Possesses sufficient tactile and fine motor abilities to safely perform data collection skills and therapeutic interventions in a physical therapy setting.	Discriminates muscle tone, tissue temperature, soft tissue changes and performs appropriate hands-on interventions such as soft tissue mobilization, facilitation, or passive range of motion. Fine motor skills for effective and efficient patient management such as handling of therapeutic equipment and accurate documentation.
<b>Professionalism</b>	Exhibits appropriate professional attitude, appearance, conduct, and responsibility.	Respects others' opinions and beliefs. Abides by all aspects of student codes of conduct and professional code of ethics. Appropriate grooming, hygiene and dress for the healthcare setting. Complies with all legal and ethical standards and guidelines. Seeks out, utilizes, and provides constructive feedback. Demonstrates effective use of time and resources. Tolerates and reacts calmly to stressful situations. Exercises professional judgment when prioritizing other's needs. Demonstrates flexibility and teamwork. Exhibits accountability for outcomes and actions. Follows through on commitments. Self-assesses, self-corrects, identifies personal needs, seeks resources for own learning and personal/professional growth.
<b>Cognitive Abilities</b>	Demonstrates organizational and time management skills.	Able to carry out multiple treatment plans on a daily basis and within the established productivity requirements and time constraints. Ability to work with multiple patients, families, and colleagues all at the same time. Ability to prioritize multiple tasks.
<b>Behavioral Attributes</b>	Functions effectively under stress.	Adapts to an environment that may change rapidly, without warning and/or in unpredictable ways.
<b>Environmental Safety</b>	Recognizes and protects self, patients, and others	Follows universal precautions, safety/security procedures and protocols; works safely with



ESSENTIAL FUNCTION	TECHNICAL STANDARD	REQUIRED COMPONENTS
	from environmental risks and hazards.	potentially hazardous body fluids; utilizes disinfectants and cleaning agents; tolerates frequent hand washing and tolerates wearing of gloves, masks and safety eyewear.