



## Wharton County Junior College

911 Boling Highway • Wharton, Texas 77488 • (979) 532-4560

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your recent inquiry about the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Wharton County Junior College. We have enclosed the items that will start the admission process into the next Physical Therapist Assistant class, which will begin in the Fall at the main campus in Wharton. Catalogs may be requested from the Registrar's Office and an application for admission to WCJC is enclosed in the back of the catalog.

Consideration for acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is based upon the submission of the following information to the Physical Therapist Assistant Department *prior to* the application deadline which is the **LAST THURSDAY IN MAY**:

1. Completed PTA Program application.
2. Completion of 40 hours of clinical observation in at least two (2) different clinical settings. (Note: Student Observation Form verifying hours is attached)
3. A transcript from each college you have attended.
4. "Transcript Evaluation Form" if you have attended institutions other than WCJC. The transcript(s) should be evaluated by Susan Hoelscher in the Registrar's Office and a copy of the evaluation turned into the PTA program along with your completed application. (Note: PTA Department will not be responsible for securing transcripts from the WCJC Registrar's Office)
5. Completion of both semesters of Human Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 2401 & 2402) prior to admission is highly recommended. Preference will be given to those applicants meeting this recommendation. Completion of BIOL 2401 & 2402 must be current within ten (10) years.
6. Copy of ACT scores with a *Composite* score of at least 18 (Enhanced) and a minimum score of 18 on the *Science Reasoning* section. ACT scores must be current within the last five (5) years. (If scores are too low, it will be up to the applicant to re-take the test. You may contact our Testing Dept. at 979-532-6386 for testing dates.) Regarding ACT test scores, the Local Enhanced ACT is administered by the WCJC Testing Office once each month, can be used only at WCJC and includes scores for English, Math, Reading Comprehension, *Science Reasoning*, and *Composite*. The national ACT is given every 60 days and can be used at ANY college or university. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that both the Composite and Science Reasoning scores are forwarded to the PTA department.
7. **Deadline for application is the LAST THURSDAY IN MAY.**

The above items should be mailed to Wharton County Junior College, ATTN: Physical Therapist Assistant Program, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, TX 77488. ***It is the applicant's responsibility to monitor the completeness of their file.*** Do not hesitate contacting our department should you have questions regarding receipt of any of the items mentioned above. Again, we appreciate your interest in our program.

Sincerely,

*Phil Carter*

Phil Carter, PT, MEd  
Program Director  
(979) 532-6491



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## **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT INFORMATION SHEET**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at WCJC is designed to prepare the students in the skills needed to effectively assist physical therapists while working under their supervision. The program includes study in anatomy and physiology, social science, technical physical therapy courses, and practical experience in area health care facilities. Upon successful completion of the 21-month program, the graduate is awarded an Associate in Applied Science degree and is eligible to take the state licensing examination.

The WCJC PTA Program selects a new class in the Fall semester each year. Applicants must have submitted **ALL** the requirements directly to the PTA Department before the **LAST THURSDAY IN MAY** to be eligible for admission into the program. Listed below are the non-PTA courses in the PTA curriculum. These courses (along with the PTA courses) must be completed prior to graduation with a grade of “C” or higher.

### **HUMANITIES / FINE ARTS ELECTIVE (3 HOURS)**

**ENGLISH 1301 (3 HOURS)**

**ENGLISH 1302 or 2311 (3 HOURS)**

**PSYCHOLOGY 2314 (3 HOURS)**

**BIOLOGY 2401 (4 HOURS)**

**BIOLOGY 2402 (4 HOURS)**

**MATH 1314 (3 HOURS)**

**COMPUTERS 1301 (3 HOURS)**

Admission points will be awarded for those non-PTA courses (listed above) that are completed with a grade of “C” or higher. If you are in the process of taking one of these courses and would like to receive credit (1 point for each course) towards the admissions point total, provide our office with a “Registration Permit” showing these courses in progress. Additional admission points will be awarded for ACT test scores (minimum score of 18 Composite & Science Reasoning) and completion of academic degree.

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**

Most clinical facilities require that criminal background checks be completed prior to allowing students to participate in clinical training at their facilities. Applicants conditionally accepted into the WCJC PTA program will be required to complete a criminal background check. Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon a satisfactory background check, which will be completed by an approved agency. An applicant with an unsatisfactory criminal background check will only be eligible to receive full acceptance and enroll in the PTA program if 1) the applicant has their background check information reviewed by the chief investigator of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and 2) the applicant provides a letter from the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners stating that the applicant would be currently eligible for state licensure. The cost of the criminal background check will be at the applicant’s expense. The anticipated cost for the criminal background check is approximately \$55.00.

### **DRUG TESTING**

The student enrolled in the PTA program may also be subject to drug screen testing if required by a clinical facility or if the student is suspected of substance abuse at any time during a clinical affiliation.

### **ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION TO THE PTA PROGRAM.**

Applicants will be notified of the accepted, alternate, or not accepted status in June. Should a position become available, that position will be filled with an alternate from the alternate list. Applicants in the alternate pool will be re-evaluated by the selection committee and the best available alternate will be selected to fill any vacant position.

The technical courses for the physical therapist assistant program are not designed to transfer to four-year institutions. Students who are planning to pursue a physical therapist degree should consult with an advisor from the four-year institution to plan an appropriate selection of classes to ensure all requirements are met.

Wharton County Junior College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, marital status, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.

It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to request and secure from the Registrar's Office information such as test scores and transcripts well in advance of stated deadlines. The Registrar's Office will NOT fax or send via interoffice mail test scores or transcripts to the PTA Program. Prior to the stated deadline, applicants are encouraged to follow-up with the PTA Program director or secretary and determine if their application is complete.

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## **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT INFORMATION**

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### **EXPENSES**

1. Tuition & Fees – consult WCJC college catalog
2. Books & Supplies – approximately \$500.00
3. Physical Examination with proof of immunizations (Hepatitis B required)
4. CPR certification
5. Uniform, name tag, watch with second hand
6. Parking (required at some clinics)
7. Travel – students may be required to leave the Wharton area to complete their full-time clinical affiliations, resulting in additional travel and housing costs
8. Graduation Cap and Gown – approximately \$30.00
9. Criminal Background Check- approximately \$55.00
10. Drug Screen- approximately \$40.00
11. Student Liability Insurance fee - \$20. (This will be added to PTHA 1413 and PTHA 2435 courses.)
12. Student Accident Medical Insurance fee - \$15. (This will be added to the PTHA 1360 course.)

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Loans, scholarships and grants are available through the Financial Aid Office to qualifying students. Information on housing may be found in the college catalog.

### **PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION**

Students entering Allied Health Programs are required to provide proof of immunization against measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, and tetanus/diphtheria.

### **PROGRAM STATISTICS**

Information regarding acceptance rate, matriculation and graduation rate, employment rate and licensure examination pass rate can be obtained either by contacting the PTA Program Director at (979) 532-6491 or by visiting the PTA Program web page at [http://www.wcjc.edu/ed\\_programs\\_n/allied\\_health/physical\\_therapist\\_assistant/default.asp](http://www.wcjc.edu/ed_programs_n/allied_health/physical_therapist_assistant/default.asp) and selecting "Program Statistics".

## Essential Performance Functions for PTA Students

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There are several important factors for you to consider when you are determining your future career directions. To be successful in the PTA classroom and in your job following graduation, you should be able to meet all of the following expectations:

1. Attend class approximately 10-15 hours per week, including lecture, lab and 40 hours/week in clinic.
2. Complete all assignments on time.
3. Participate in classroom discussions.
4. Perform or instruct others in the following procedures (learned in class) in a timely manner: transfers, gait training, physical agents, activities of daily living, therapeutic exercises or activities, data collection procedures.
5. Use sound judgment and safety precautions; exposure to blood-borne pathogens and/or infectious disease may occur as a part of the educational experience. Students are trained in safety/infection control and are expected to follow these guidelines to avoid contracting or transmitting disease.
6. Meet class standards for successful course completion.
7. Use critical thinking when making decisions.
8. Follow standards stated in PTA Student Manual.
9. Address problems or questions to the appropriate person at the appropriate time.
10. Maintain classroom work area, equipment, supplies, personal appearance and hygiene conducive to professional setting as appropriate.
11. Behave in a competent, professional manner.

Physical requirements for the PTA program include the need to occasionally, frequently, or continually:

1. Sit 1-4 hours per day with lecture blocks up to 3 hours.
2. Stand 1-6 hours with lab time blocks up to 3 hours.
3. Travel 1-1 ½ hours to clinic or be willing and/or financially able to relocate for 6 weeks.
4. Lift up to 60 pounds.
5. Push/pull up to 50 pounds of force exerted at waist level.
6. Squat or stoop.
7. Use auditory, tactile, and visual senses to assess physiological status of an individual.
8. Demonstrate good standing and unsupported sitting balance.
9. Demonstrate good finger dexterity.
10. Coordinate verbal and manual instructions.
11. Communicate effectively with a variety of people through written and verbal methods.
12. Use hands repetitively.
13. Shift weight in sitting or standing.
14. Use a firm grasp.
15. Reach above shoulder level.
16. Kneel, kneel-stand, and half kneel.
17. Use equipment that emits electrical, ultrasonic, and thermal energy.
18. Physically move and transfer patients.

Students who have concerns about their ability to perform any of these functions should contact the PTA Program Director at 979-532-6491. Individuals with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations or information by calling the ADA Coordinator at 979-532-6384.

Students interested in the program are encouraged to observe physical therapy treatments to see personally the physical requirements of work as a PTA. For more information, call the PTA Program Director at 979-532-6491.

Wharton County Junior College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, marital status, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.



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## STUDENT OBSERVATION FORM

As part of the application process, the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Wharton County Junior College requires a **minimum** of 40 hours of observation attained in **at least** two (2) different clinical settings.

This form is to be completed by a Licensed Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant.

Please fill in the appropriate spaces below for each facility indicating the hours of observation along with the required signature.

It is the responsibility of each applicant to return this form to the PTA department at WCJC by the deadline as stated in the college catalog.

1. Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hours observed \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

PT/PTA \_\_\_\_\_

2. Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hours observed \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

PT/PTA \_\_\_\_\_

3. Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hours observed \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

PT/PTA \_\_\_\_\_

4. Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hours observed \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

PT/PTA \_\_\_\_\_

Wharton County Junior College

**STUDENT APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO THE  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  

Last
First
Middle
Maiden or Previous Name

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  

Street Number
City, State
Zip

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  

Street Number
City, State
Zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  

(Home)
(Work)
(Cell)

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  

Name
Number

Completed WCJC application on file in the Registrar's Office  Yes  No

Have you previously applied to this program?  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ Date

**EMPLOYMENT:** (Begin with most recent years or attach a resume)

Employer	Phone	Date	Reason for Leaving

**EDUCATION:** List name and location of all schools attended (most recent first), including high school.

Name of School	Location	Hours Earned	Dates Attended

*All transcripts must be submitted, with the exception of high school transcripts.*

- A. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that all information has been turned in to the PTA office ***BEFORE the last Thursday in May.*** Any information received after this date will not be considered.
- B. If accepted to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program:
1. you will be responsible for your own transportation to campus and all clinical assignments
  2. you will be responsible for purchasing uniforms and supplies as necessary
  3. you will be responsible for purchasing student liability and accident medical insurance that will be assessed with tuition fees each fall semester while enrolled in the program.
  4. you will be responsible for providing proof of immunizations, completion of the Hepatitis B immunization series and CPR certification before participating in the clinical education component of the curriculum. The Hepatitis B immunization series is received over a 3-6 month period of time and must be completed before direct patient contact.
  5. you will be provided specific procedures for obtaining the prescreening criminal background check and drug test. Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon a satisfactory background check and drug screen which will be completed by an approved agency at the student expense.
- C. ***Please note:*** If you have a history of felony conviction, it may not be possible for you to achieve licensure in the State of Texas. For more information, contact the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners of the State of Texas at (512) 305-6900.
- D. Applications for students not selected into the PTA program will be held in-active for 2 years. If a student wishes to re-apply during those 2 years, a letter must be sent or emailed to the PTA department requesting that their file be re-activated.

Confirm by signing below that you have read the above information and the information you have provided in this application is true and complete to the best of your knowledge. Understand that any misrepresentation or falsification of information is cause for denial of admission and/or expulsion from Wharton County Junior College.

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***Signature of Applicant***

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***Date***

Return this form to:

Program Director, Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Wharton County Junior College  
911 Boling Highway  
Wharton,, TX 77488