



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 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 **May deadline**:

1. Copy of WCJC application (original in back of the College Catalog); \$10 application fee to the Registrar's Office. To order a WCJC catalog, please call 979-532-6516
2. Completion of 40 hours of clinical observation in at least two (2) different clinical settings (Student Observation Form verifying hours attached)
3. High School Transcript or GED scores
4. ALL College Transcripts (PTA program 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.
6. Copy of ACT scores with a *Composite* 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*. 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 first Monday 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., MS
Program Director
(979) 532-6491

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT INFORMATION SHEET

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Wharton County Junior College 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 **May** deadline 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 1371/2311 (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 CHECKS

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 \$48.50.

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.

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT INFORMATION

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 \$50.00

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.

PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESS

The following information is provided to assist you in achieving a better understanding of the cognitive and physical demands of the PTA program and of the abilities needed to successfully work as a PTA. These criteria are based on cognitive and physical abilities identified as being essential job functions for physical therapist assistants and as such, closely match the abilities needed to successfully complete the clinical and lab components of the PTA curriculum.

1. Physical demands, this includes but is not limited to the ability to perform the following activities:
 - a) OCCASSIONALLY (½ to 2-1/2 hrs/day) sit, stand in place, walk, twist (knees/waist/neck), climb, push/pull, and lift.
 - b) FREQUENTLY (2-1/2 to 5 hrs/day) crouch (bend at knees), stoop (bend at waist), turn/pivot, reach overhead, pinch or grasp small objects.
 - c) CONTINUOUSLY (5-1/2 to 8 hrs/day) be mobile, grasp large objects.
2. Cognitive demands, this includes but is not limited to the ability to:
 - a) Adapt to frequent changes in work environment and patient/client population.
 - b) Concentrate and attend to detail amidst a variety of environmental distractions.
 - c) Process information accurately, thoroughly, and quickly.
 - d) Carry out complex sequences of instructions.
 - e) Provide clients with clear instructions that are adapted to their cognitive levels of communication needs.
 - f) Generalize learning from one situation and patient to another, as appropriate.
 - g) Adapt treatment style in order to work with a variety of different supervisors.
 - h) Interact positively with many professionals possibly including members of a multidisciplinary team.
 - i) Prioritize tasks.
 - j) Read and write therapy reports, clinical notes, and communications to and from other professional team members.
 - k) Deal with a variety of patient/client ages, behavior, cognitive abilities, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds both individually and in groups.
 - l) Learn and apply new information on methods of treatment, equipment, pathologies, etc., on an ongoing basis.



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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 _____

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