

# Physical Therapist Assistant

## Associate of Applied Science Degree

**Program Director: Brad Bechard**  
**Program Faculty: Michael Hansell**

Program Website (<http://www.gfcmsu.edu/webs/pta/>)

Program Application ([http://www.gfcmsu.edu/webs/pta/documents/PTA\\_Application.pdf](http://www.gfcmsu.edu/webs/pta/documents/PTA_Application.pdf)) (Fall 2023 Application available February 15th)

The formal portion of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program begins fall semester with a limited enrollment of 20 students. There are 30 credits of prerequisite courses, which may take one year or longer to complete. All prerequisite coursework must be completed with a grade of C or higher (not a C-). The student must apply for acceptance into the formal portion of the PTA program and be accepted. A grade of 76% or Pass is required for all coursework within the PTA program after formal acceptance.

The formal portion of the PTA program is challenging and consists of fall, spring, and summer semesters, taking one full year. This time includes built-in clinical experiences, which may or may not be in the Great Falls area. Upon completion of the PTA program, the graduate is prepared to take the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination (NPTAE) provided by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and must receive a passing score in order to become a licensed PTA. Licensure is required to practice as a physical therapist assistant in Montana and is overseen by the State of Montana Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

The PTA program is designed to graduate individuals who are knowledgeable, competent, self-assured, adaptable, and service-oriented patient/client care providers performing their duties within the ethical and legal guidelines of the physical therapy profession as an entry-level PTA having successfully passed the NPTAE. Graduates are prepared to work in a variety of healthcare settings including acute care, outpatient, rehabilitation, and extended care.

The Great Falls College Montana State University Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

## Outcomes

### PTA Program Goals

#### The Great Falls College PTA Program: Developing Quality Skills with Unwavering Ethics

##### Student Goals:

1. The student will develop an entry level skill set, who is prepared both didactically and clinically for passing licensure while demonstrating quality provision of services under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. **Developing Quality Skills**

##### **Student Outcomes:**

A. 85% of students will maintain a 2 year average ultimate pass rate in the NPTE.

B. 100% of students will utilize peer review research within at least two assignments while in the program.

2. The student will identify evidence based practice to relate to their clinical decision making. **Developing Quality Skills**

##### **Student Outcome:**

A. 100% of students will utilize peer review research within at least two assignments while in the program.

3. The student will demonstrate commitment to the profession by serving the needs of the community through ethical practice and participation in service related activities. **Unwavering Ethics**

##### **Student Outcome:**

A. 100% of students will have participated in at least one service related activity within the community prior to graduation.

B. 100% of students will demonstrate through at least one assignment that addresses appropriate education, communication, and treatment towards various special populations in regards to their cultural, community, or individual need prior to graduation.

C. 100 % of students will demonstrate through at least one assignment that addresses an area of need within the PTA scope of practice utilizing audio and visual aids to accommodate different learning styles of the patient or community prior to graduation.

## Estimated Cost

### Estimated Resident Program Cost \*

Tuition and Fees	\$8,829
Application Fee	\$30
Lab/Course Fees	\$1,073
Program Fee	\$138
Books/Supplies	\$2,250
Total	\$12,320

\*

**Fall 2022 MUS Student Health Insurance Premiums may be changing. Please check the Health Insurance website (<http://students.gfcmsu.edu/insurance.html>) and/or Student Central for confirmed premium rates. Students will be charged an additional fee of \$21 per credit for online/hybrid courses.**

## Program Requirements

Many students need preliminary math, science, and writing courses before enrolling in the program requirements. These courses may increase the total number of program credits. Students should review their math and writing placement before planning out their full program schedules.

The Great Falls College PTA Program is a limited enrollment program, accepting 20 students each year. Interested students are urged to contact the PTA Program Director or Advising and Career Center Advisors for student advising specific to admission requirements and criteria for program acceptance.

## Prerequisites Courses

Background in basic sciences and proficiency in keyboarding are essential to success in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program.

Prior to fall admission into the PTA program students must:

- Computer literacy and keyboarding are assumed.
- Be admitted to GFC MSU and be in good academic standing. Application information may be acquired at the College, or by calling Admissions at 406-268-3700 or online at <http://www.gfcmsu.edu>.
- Complete 40 hours or more of observation with a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Please note that higher point values for admission to the PTA Program are awarded at 10 hour intervals. Refer to section "Observation Hours" in the application packet (<http://www.gfcmsu.edu/catalog/Programs/ProgramApplications/PTA%20Application%20Fall%202014.pdf>).
- Science courses with labs must be completed within five (5) years of application to the program, and other courses must be completed within 15 years of applying to the program.
- Earn a grade of C or higher (not a C-) in all pre-requisite courses:

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
AHPT 105	Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting +	3	_____
BIOH 201	Human Anatomy Phys I w/ Lab (= 301) **,+	4	_____
BIOH 211	Human Anatomy Phys II w/ Lab (=311) **,+	4	_____
NOTE: UM Western students may substitute BIOB 160, BIOH 365 & BIOH 370 for GFC MSU BIOH 201 & BIOH 211. All 3 classes are required and must have a grade of C or higher (not C-) within the last 5 years of application.			
M 140	College Math for Healthcare (OR any math course in the MUS Core) **,+	3	_____
PSYX 100	Introduction to Psychology +	3	_____
Any additional course in the social sciences			
WRIT 101	College Writing I **,+	3	_____
PHSX 105	Fundamentals of Physical Science w/ Lab (OR a college level physics AND college level chemistry courses) +	4	_____
Select one of the following:			
COMX 111	Introduction to Public Speaking +	3	_____
COMX 115	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication +	3	_____
Subtotal		30	_____

\*  
Indicates prerequisites needed.

\*\*  
Placement in course(s) is determined by placement assessment.

+  
A grade of C (not C-) or above is required for graduation.

## Program Course Requirements after Formal Acceptance

A grade of 76% or better is required to pass each class within the professional phase of the program:

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
<b>First Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
AHPT 101	Physical Therapist Assisting I / Lab **,+	5	_____
AHPT 205	Anatomy and Kinesiology for the PTA **,+	6	_____
AHPT 206	Pathophysiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant **,+	3	_____
AHPT 210	Clinical Experience I **,+	3	_____
AHPT 218	Therapeutic Exercise for the PTA **,+	2	_____
<b>Credits</b>		<b>19</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
AHPT 201	Physical Therapist Assisting II / Lab **,+	5	_____
AHPT 213	Neurorehabilitation for the PTA **,+	6	_____
AHPT 215	Introduction to Orthopedics **,+	4	_____
AHPT 220	Clinical Experience II **,+	3	_____
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>	
<b>Summer</b>			
AHPT 225	Seminar and Project in Physical Therapist Assisting **,+	1	_____
AHPT 230	Clinical Experience III **,+	7	_____
<b>Credits</b>		<b>8</b>	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>45</b>	

**TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS: 75**

\*  
Indicates prerequisites needed.

\*\*  
Placement in course(s) is determined by placement assessment.

+  
A grade of 76% or above is required for graduation.