

# 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 2018 application available February 15))

The formal portion of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program begins fall semester with a limited enrollment of 20 students. There are 32 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. 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

### Graduates are prepared to:

- Demonstrate a combination of critical thinking skills, provision of skilled interventions, documentation, patient safety awareness, confidentiality, and ethical guidelines under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist as outlined in the Guide to Physical Therapy Practice.

*Effective Communication, Critical Thinking, Effective Citizenship, Workmanship.*

- Demonstrate appropriate education, communication, and treatment towards various special populations in regards to their cultural, community, and individual needs.

*Effective Communication, Technical Literacy, Critical Thinking, Engaged Citizenship.*

- Address an area of need within the PTA scope of practice utilizing demonstration, audio and visual aids to accommodate different learning styles of the patient or community.

*Effective Communication, Technical Literacy, Engaged Citizenship, Workmanship.*

- Apply the use of evidence based practice through current healthcare literature and research studies to augment best practice standards.

*Critical Thinking Skills, Workmanship, Technical Literacy.*

- Display a commitment to lifelong learning, ongoing professional development, and high quality care in the realm of physical therapy practice.

*Critical Thinking Skills, Effective Citizenship, Workmanship.*

## Estimated Cost

### Estimated Resident Program Cost \*

Tuition and Fees	\$8,544
Application Fee	\$30
Course Fees	\$856
Program Fee	\$123
Books/Supplies	\$2,880
Total	\$12,433

\* **Fall 2018 MUS Student Health Insurance Premiums will 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 a restricted number of 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.

## GFC MSU Additional Graduation Requirement

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
COLS 103	Becoming a Successful Student	1	_____

## Prerequisites

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:

- Have completed high school physics AND chemistry with a C or better (students without high school coursework in these areas should consult

the PTA Program Director as to the appropriate college courses needed to meet this requirement).

- Provide proof of keyboarding or CAPP 131 completed at the high school or collegiate level with a C or better. If these courses are to be taken at the collegiate level, contact the PTA program director to ensure that you take the appropriate course(s) to meet the requirements for admission to the formal PTA program.
- Be admitted to GFC MSU and be in good academic standing. Application information may be acquired at the College, or by calling Student Central at 406.771.4414 or toll free at 1.800.446.2698, 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>).
- Earn a grade of C or higher in all pre-requisite courses:

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
AHMS 144	Medical Terminology +	3	_____
AHPT 105	Intro to Physcl Thrpist Assist +	3	_____
BIOH 201	Human Anat Phys I/Lab (= 301) **,+	4	_____
BIOH 211	Human Anat Phys II & Lab(=311) **,+	4	_____
M 140	College Math for Healthcare (OR any math course in the MUS Core) **,+	3	_____
PSYX 100	Introduction to Psychology +	3	_____
PSYX 230	Developmental Psychology +	3	_____
SOCI 101	Introduction to Sociology +	3	_____
WRIT 101	College Writing I **,+	3	_____
Select one of the following:			
COMX 111	Intro to Public Speaking +	3	_____
COMX 115	Intro to Interpersonal Communc +	3	_____
Subtotal		32	_____

- \* Indicates prerequisites needed.
- \*\* Placement in course(s) is determined by placement assessment.
- + A grade of 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	Physcl Thrpist Assist I / Lab **,+	5	_____
AHPT 205	Anat and Kinesio for the PTA **,+	6	_____
AHPT 206	Pathophysiology for the PTA **,+	3	_____
AHPT 210	Clinical Experience I **,+	3	_____
AHPT 218	Therapct Exercise for the PTA **,+	2	_____
Credits		19	
<b>Spring</b>			
AHPT 201	Physcl Thrpist Assist II / Lab **,+	5	_____
AHPT 213	Neurorehab for the PTA **,+	6	_____
AHPT 215	Introduction to Orthopedics **,+	4	_____
AHPT 220	Clinical Experience II **,+	3	_____
Credits		18	
<b>Summer</b>			
AHPT 225	Semnr in Physcl Thrpist Assist **,+	2	_____
AHPT 230	Clinical Experience III **,+	6	_____
Credits		8	
Total Credits		45	

**TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS: 77-79**

- \* Indicates prerequisites needed.
- \*\* Placement in course(s) is determined by placement assessment.
- + A grade of 76% or above is required for graduation.