ADMISSION INFORMATION

Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is a competitive process. To be considered for admission, applicants should:

- Obtain admission to Arkansas State University.
- Be aware of the University General Requirements for Associate Degree found in the A-State Undergraduate Bulletin.
- Possess the skills and abilities outlined in the Abilities and Skills of the Physical Therapist Assistant document located in the application packet
- Complete the PTA Prerequisite Coursework

APPLICATIONS

Applications can be downloaded from the program website. The application deadline for any given year is March 1.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Applicants are evaluated on the following factors:

A. Academic/Cognitive Measures
   1. Cumulative GPA (10%)
   2. Prerequisite Coursework GPA (25%)
   3. Reading Comprehension (25%)

B. Non-Cognitive Measures
   1. Observation and Volunteer Forms (20%)
   2. Interview (20%)

C. Bonus credit is given for bilingual applicants who can demonstrate fluency in use of the Spanish language.

Applicants are chosen based on cumulative GPA, prerequisite GPA, reading comprehension and volunteer/observation scores. The top applicants will be invited to participate in a structured interview process. Following the interview, the top 30 applicants will be chosen for the program. The remaining applicants will be designated as alternates. In the case of a tie, the final decision shall be made by the PTA faculty in conjunction with the chair of the Physical Therapy department.

Admissions policies and procedures are reviewed/updated annually. Applicants should check with a PTA adviser to make sure they have the most current materials. If you have additional questions about the application or admissions process, please feel free to contact the Physical Therapy department.

PROGRAM COSTS

For current estimated cost information visit the program website at AState.edu/PTA



Physical Therapist Assistant Program

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE **PHYSICAL THERAPY**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training
College of Nursing and Health Professions
Arkansas State University
P.O. Box 910, State University, AR 72467

AState.edu/CoNHP/PT

/ArkansasState



ACCREDITATION:
Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE),
3030 Potomac Avenue, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22305-3085
Tel: 800-999-2782

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Nursing and Health Professions

9/2026

College of Nursing and Health Professions, Room 102
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YOUR EDUCATION:
Our Mission

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

PTA PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training at Arkansas State University is to provide excellent and affordable education for physical therapy and athletic training professionals through unique educational experiences that enhance and enrich the overall health of people in the Mississippi Delta region and beyond.

THE PTA PROGRAM

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at A-State is an associate-level program that results in the awarding of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. The program is designed to prepare a generalist physical therapist assistant and to foster lifelong learning and development. The program includes one year of prerequisite coursework and one year of professional coursework. The prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to admission to the professional coursework.

WHAT IS A PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT?

The physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a healthcare provider who assists the physical therapist in the provision of physical therapy and may perform physical therapy interventions selected by the supervising physical therapist. The physical therapist assistant works under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist, helping manage conditions such as back and neck injuries, sprains/strains, fractures, arthritis, burns, amputations, stroke, multiple sclerosis, birth defects, injuries related to work and sports, and others.



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS WORK IN A BROAD RANGE OF SETTINGS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

- Hospitals
- Outpatient clinics
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Skilled nursing, extended care, or sub-acute facilities
- Homes
- Education or research centers
- Schools
- Industrial, workplace, or other occupational environments
- Fitness centers and sports training facilities



PTA PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK

General Education Courses (15 credit hours):

ENGL	10103	Composition I
ENGL	10203	Composition II
MATH	11003	College Algebra
PSYC	11003	Intro to Psychology

One of the following:

PLSC	11003	Intro to U.S. Government
HIST	21103	U.S. History to 1876
HIST	21203	U.S. History since 1876

Required Support Courses (11 credit hours):

BIOL	24003/21001	Human Anatomy & Physiology I with lab
PTAP	11003	Making Connections in Rehab Services *(Waived for transfer students)*
PHSC	10043/10031	Physical Science with Lab

Total Prerequisite Hours = 26 hrs



PTA PROFESSIONAL COURSEWORK

Summer

PTAP	22003	Patient Handling
PTAP	22153	Clinical Kinesiology
PTAP	22132	Basic Anatomical Systems

Fall

PTAP	22203	Musculoskeletal PT I
PTAP	22253	Physical Agents and Massage
PTAP	22233	Neuromuscular PT I
PTAP	22252	Clinical Education I*
PTAP	23003	Pathophysiological Conditions
PTAP	22271	PT Documentation

Spring

PTAP	22303	Neuromuscular PT II
PTAP	22353	Seminar
PTAP	22333	Clinical Education II*
PTAP	22343	Clinical Education III*
PTAP	22363	Musculoskeletal PT II

Professional Program Hours = 38
Total Hours for Degree = 64

*Completion of the professional program requires the student to participate in three full-time clinical experiences. Clinical Education I occurs at the end of the fall semester. Clinical Education II and III occur at the end of the spring semester. Clinical education may require the student to travel away from Northeast Arkansas.

The last number of each course reflects the number of credit hours per course. Students will not be paid for clinical work.