



## LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### ADMISSION INFORMATION AND PROCESS

#### **For Classes Beginning Spring 2015**

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) curriculum at Laramie County Community College (LCCC) is designed to meet all the accreditation requirements for the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The PTA program at LCCC is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703.706.3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: [www.capteonline.org](http://www.capteonline.org).

New applications are available online beginning July 1 of each year. Applications for the PTA class beginning January 2015 will be accepted beginning on August 18, 2014 and will be **due by September 5, 2014 at 5 p.m.** A maximum of twenty (20) students will be accepted into the program for the January 2015 start date. If the class does not fill by the September 5 deadline, applications will continue to be accepted until the class is filled. Full acceptance into the program is contingent upon completed receipt of a completed application, all forms, documented immunizations, a drug screen, satisfactory background check, and successful completion of any remaining pre-requisites. It is the applicant's responsibility to furnish all required paperwork. Failure to provide all required information by the application deadline may cause the applicant to be ineligible for consideration during that term.

This information, the application packet, and all applicable forms are available at the LCCC Health Sciences & Wellness School office (HS 216), the program office (HS 338), and online at our website: [www.lccc.wy.edu](http://www.lccc.wy.edu).

#### **Mission Statement**

The primary mission of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Laramie County Community College (LCCC) is to provide a high quality education in physical therapy in order to produce certified, professional, ethical, competent practitioners in the field with a strong potential for advancement and leadership.

#### **PTA Program Philosophy**

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program philosophy is committed to a high standard of educational excellence while promoting learner responsibility, effective communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. We strive to educate entry level PTA practitioner generalists that adhere to professional, ethical, and legal guidelines of the profession to server our communities. We strive for excellence in all aspects of student education. Student education will be focused on the theory, knowledge and clinical skills essential to the entry level PTA. The curriculum is designed for the optimal use of technical innovation, hands on learning, and thorough practical clinical education. This structure drives our emphasis on technology and communication to facilitate learning in the classroom and

the clinic. Graduates will meet the diverse needs of employers and the community while providing high quality patient care under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.

The foundation for the education of the PTA students is based on criteria and performance expectation described in *A Normative Model of Physical Therapist Education: Version 2007* by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

**For admission consideration to the PTA program, please complete the following steps:**

- Step 1.** Complete an application for acceptance to Laramie County Community College (LCCC). Students who are currently enrolled or have previously attended LCCC need not re-apply. Application to LCCC is free and materials and forms are available online at: [www.lccc.wy.edu](http://www.lccc.wy.edu).
- Step 2.** Completion of, and/or current enrollment in of all pre-requisite classes is required. Courses completed for a previous degree may exempt a student from pre-requisite classes depending upon course work and level of course work completed. All pre-requisites must be completed or should be in progress with a grade of “C” or better by the application deadline. Minimum cumulative GPA requirement for all college level course work is 2.5 or higher.
- Step 3.** Provide a copy of all college transcripts to the LCCC PTA Program Director **and** an official transcript to the Admission Office. All official transcripts should be sent to the Admission Office at 1400 East College Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82007. Unofficial or copies of transcripts may be used for the PTA application only and should be sent to the Program Director.
- Step 4.** Pre-admission observation: Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete a minimum of twenty (20) hours of observation/volunteer or work related time in a physical therapy clinic. It would be to the advantage of the applicant to have some of those hours in a hospital or long term care facility to better understand the role of the PTA. Observation forms should be signed by the supervising clinician and submitted with the application packet. Extra points will be awarded for those who complete the observation/volunteer hours or who are involved in employment related to the health care field.
- Step 5.** Complete and return the PTA Program application (included in this packet) to the program directors office (HS 338) or the School office (HS 216). Include the application, essay question, copies of all transcripts, “in progress” grade report forms. Typewritten responses are preferred and highly encouraged.
- Step 6.** Three (3) letters of recommendation (included in the application packet) must be submitted as part of the completed application process. All references should be professional in nature. Professional references would include former or current supervisors and instructors. No relatives may be used as references. These forms are to be returned directly to the LCCC PTA Program Director under separate cover by the individual completing the form. Reference letter should be signed across the seal.
- Step 7.** All applicants have the option to schedule a pre-admission advising appointment to discuss their academic plan. Faculty members will be available for pre-advising on an appointment basis only. Please call or email to set up pre-advising.
- Step 8.** Submit all application materials to the following address:

Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Laramie County Community College  
Health Science Building  
1400 E. College Drive  
Cheyenne, WY 82007

## **PTA PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Goals:** The PTA program seeks to prepare students to assume a professional and active role within the physical therapy community. The program seeks to:

1. Produce PTA's prepared to competently meet or exceed the entry level duties of a PTA in a variety of settings.
2. Produce PTA's prepared to successfully complete the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination (NPTAE).
3. Develop and deliver an integrated academic program leading to the successful completion of the guidelines developed by the Higher Learning Commission of the North-Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), and the Normative Model of Physical Therapist Assistant Education: Version 2007.
4. Advance the recognition of the field of physical therapy and the role of the PTA within that field.
5. Promote the importance of continued personal and professional development through life-long learning and membership in professional organizations.

**Objectives:** (Graduate will be able to):

1. Work under the supervision of a physical therapist in an ethical, legal, and professional manner.
2. Implement a comprehensive treatment plan developed by the physical therapist.
3. Recognize and implement the use of outcomes for patients in a variety of settings.
4. Demonstrate effective oral, written, and non-verbal communications skills as it relates to a culturally diverse population.
5. Successfully integrate concepts from the pre-requisite course work, basic sciences and PTA programming into physical therapy practice.
6. Demonstrate a commitment to life-long learning, evidence based practice, and ongoing professional growth in physical therapy practice.

### **TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

Graduates of this program, as entry-level physical therapist assistants (PTA's), will be able to provide safe, effective, high quality services to patients/clients under the direction of the physical therapist (PT). One of the program goals are to meet or exceed the entry level skills necessary for the graduate to assume responsibility for patient care within the physical therapy community. On occasion PTA's may be required to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads. The ability to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and function effectively under stress are some of the many "intangibles" required to perform as a PTA. In order to satisfy the requirements of the position and those of the program, certain essential functions/generic abilities must be performed in a satisfactory manner.

## GENERIC ABILITIES

Generic abilities are attributes, characteristics or behaviors that are not explicitly part of the profession's core of knowledge and technical skills but are nevertheless required for success in the profession. Throughout the PTA curriculum, students will self-assess their abilities in these areas using the following as a guideline for self-reflection. Faculty Members and Clinical Instructors will also use the following to provide students with feedback and to help students to achieve personal and professional growth. Ten generic abilities were identified through a study conducted at UW-Madison in 1991-1992. The ten abilities and definitions developed are:

<b>Generic Ability</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Commitment to Learning	The ability to self-assess, self-correct, and self-direct; to identify needs and sources of learning; and to continually seek new knowledge and understanding.
Interpersonal Skills	The ability to interact effectively with patients, families, colleagues, other health care professionals, and the community and to deal effectively with cultural and ethnic diversity issues.
Communication Skills	The ability to communicate effectively (i.e., speaking, body language, reading, writing, listening) for varied audiences and purposes.
Effective Use of Time and Resources	The ability to obtain the maximum benefit from a minimum investment of time and resources.
Use of Constructive Feedback	The ability to identify sources of and seek out feedback and to effectively use and provide feedback for improving personal interaction.
Problem-Solving	The ability to recognize and define problems, analyze data, develop and implement solutions, and evaluate outcomes.
Professionalism	The ability to exhibit appropriate professional conduct and represent the profession effectively.
Responsibility	The ability to fulfill commitments and to be accountable for actions and outcomes.
Critical Thinking	The ability to question logically; to identify, generate, and evaluate elements of logical argument; to recognize and differentiate facts, illusions, assumptions, and hidden assumptions; and to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant.
Stress Management	The ability to identify sources of stress and to develop effective coping behaviors.

If the applicant is unable to perform any of the designated tasks, upon request, LCCC will make reasonable accommodations if these accommodations do not constitute an undue hardship on LCCC and if those accommodations do not interfere with the performance of any essential functions of a PTA's duties.

## LCCC PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM CURRICULUM

MATH 1400 Pre-Calculus Algebra or higher	3-4	3	0	0
ENGL 1010 English	3	3	0	0
ZOO 2010 Anatomy/Physiology I -OR- ZOO 2015 Human Anatomy	4-5	2	2	0
CO/M 1010 Public Speaking -OR- CO/M 1030 Interpersonal Communication	3	3	0	0
HLTK 1200 Medical Terminology	2	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL PREREQUISITE CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>15-17</b>			
ZOO 2020 Anatomy/Physiology II -OR- ZOO 2025 Physiology	4-5	2	2	0
PTAT 1600 Introduction to PTA	3	3	0	0
PTAT 1650 Therapeutic Procedures I	4	2	2	0
PTAT 2030 Functional Kinesiology	4	2	2	0
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>15-16</b>			
PTAT 1660 Therapeutic Procedures II	3	2	2	0
PTAT 1740 Cardiac Rehab	1	.5	.5	0
PTAT 1970 PTA Internship I	4	0	0	4
Computer Literacy (CMAP 1685 or equivalent)	1	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>9</b>			
PTAT 1720 Therapeutic Exercise	4	2	2	0
POLS 1000 American and Wyoming Government -OR- HIST 1211 U.S. to 1865 -OR- HIST 1221 U.S. from 1865 -OR- HIST 1251 Wyoming History -OR- ECON 1200 Economics, Law, and Government	3	3	0	0
EDST 2450 Human Lifespan Development	3	3	0	0
HLTK 2510 Pathophysiology	2	2	0	0
PTAT 2970 PTA Internship II	5	0	0	5
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>17</b>			
PTAT 1800 Neurology	3	1.5	1.5	0
PTAT 1820 Orthopedics	4	2	2	0
PTAT 1840 Specialty Rehabilitation	1	.5	.5	0
Physical Education Activity (PEAC 1295 recommended)	1	1	0	0
PTAT 2971 PTA Internship III	5	0	0	5
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>14</b>			
<b>TOTAL DEGREE CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>70-73</b>			

## Course Descriptions

### **PTAT 1600 Introduction to Physical Therapy**

**3 credits**

Students examine the history and progress of the profession of physical therapy. In addition, students discuss professional ethics, malpractice, and licensure laws related to physical therapy and the specifics related to the PTA. Students also develop professional oral and written communication skills, discuss current issues in physical therapy, utilize basic physical therapy terminology, practice collaboration with other healthcare professionals, and participate in reviewing the basic format of the professional literature.

### **PTAT 1650 Therapeutic Procedures I**

**4 credits**

Students explore and develop skills involving the principles and practices of physical therapy including performing range of motion assessment and measurements, assessing posture, monitoring vital signs, implementing universal precautions, performing and assessing body mechanics during a variety of activities, performing transfers for a variety of patient populations, assessing wheelchair fitting, utilizing assistive devices, developing edema management programs, assessing and applying compression wraps, and demonstrating a variety of taping procedures.

### **PTAT 1660 Therapeutic Procedures II**

**3 credits**

Students examine the principles and practices of physical therapy including assessment and measurement of pain and inflammation, applying a variety of massage techniques, and analyzing and applying principles of gait training. The students also assess and apply a variety of modalities including: thermal agents, continuous passive motion, ultrasound, infrared, electrical stimulation (TENS, FES, IFC, EMG, and Biofeedback), diathermy, mechanical and manual traction, iontophoresis, and phonophoresis.

### **PTAT 1720 Therapeutic Exercise**

**4 credits**

Students explore the theory, principles, and implementation of therapeutic exercise programs for a variety of patient populations. In addition, they apply specific strategies for stretching (sustained hold, contract/relax, strain/counterstrain), strengthening (isometrics, isotonic, open/closed chain, resistive exercises, weight training, aquatics), balance and coordination activities. Students also examine theories of motor control and motor learning, proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation (PNF), neurodevelopmental treatment (NDT) and implement these theories into clinical practice. Lab activities will involve therapeutic exercise programs set up and implementation in the clinical setting.

### **PTAT 1740 Cardiac Rehabilitation**

**1 credit**

Students explore an in-depth description of cardiopulmonary rehabilitation and develop skills to read and assess basic EKGs (normal and pathological), identify cardiac protocols, assess and monitor common cardiopulmonary conditions, review cardiac and pulmonary circuitry, identify cardiac precautions for a variety of patient populations, develop a comprehensive treatment program for patients with cardiopulmonary conditions, assess and perform postural drainage, and establish endurance and wellness programs for healthy and diseased individuals.

### **PTAT 1800 Neurology**

**3 credits**

Students examine multiple pathologies of the nervous system including stroke, demyelinating diseases, spinal cord injury, Parkinson's Disease, and traumatic brain injuries. In addition, students contrast normal structures and function of the nervous system, including motor control centers of the brain and spinal tracts, to a nervous system with specific impairments. Students also develop skills to assess, treat, and manage the neurologically impaired patient based on clinical signs and symptoms of neurological disorders.

**PTAT 1820 Orthopedics****4 credits**

Students examine common orthopedic conditions and the corresponding management/implementation. Students identify common orthopedic conditions, identify components of an orthopedic physical therapy evaluation, analyze the information obtain from the evaluation, and organize treatment interventions. Students are exposed to case studies dealing with orthopedic patients including those with prosthesis related diagnosis. Students will also learn to progress a physical therapy program for a variety of orthopedic and post-surgical conditions.

**PTAT 1840 Specialty Rehabilitation****1 credit**

Students will have an opportunity to explore an in depth overview of vestibular rehabilitation; including identifying a patient with a vestibular disorder, assessment tools utilized in a vestibular evaluation, and implementing intervention strategies to assist patient's in overcoming vestibular disorders. Students will also explore an in depth overview of pediatric rehabilitation; including identifying common pediatric conditions such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, prematurity, and drug addicted children, assessing physical deficits in pediatric disorders, and developing treatment programs to address the specific pediatric disorders.

**PTAT 1970 PTA Internship I****4 credits**

Students will explore a variety of practice opportunities in the clinical setting. Students will gain exposure to the working environment under the supervision of a physical therapist. Students will be expected to perform basic documentation skills in the form of a SOAP note or other format as used in the particular clinical setting. Students will also be expected to begin performing modalities under the direct supervision of a physical therapist.

**PTAT 2030 Functional Kinesiology****4 credits**

Students explore the application of anatomy to the study of human motion as it relates to the field of physical therapy. Students will identify positioning and perform procedures for muscle testing, biomechanics, gait, posture, arthrokinematics, goniometry of the lower extremities, and describe the physiology of muscle contraction.

**PTAT 2970 PTA Internship II****5 credits**

Students will explore a variety of practice opportunities in the clinical setting. Students will gain exposure to the working environment under the supervision of a physical therapist. Students will be expected to perform all documentation for patient care in the form of a SOAP note or other format as used in the particular clinical setting. Students will also be expected to perform all modalities as directed by the physical therapist. Students will be expected to carry a case load of 25-50% of a clinician by the fifth week of the internship with distant (line of site) supervision by the physical therapist.

**PTAT 2971 PTA Internship III****5 credits**

Students will explore a variety of practice opportunities in the clinical setting. Students will gain exposure to the working environment under the supervision of a physical therapist. Students will be expected to perform all documentation for patient care in the form of a SOAP note or other format as used in the particular clinical setting. Students will also be expected to perform all modalities as directed by the physical therapist. Students will be expected to develop exercise programs based on the physical therapist findings and assessment. Students will be expected to carry a case load of 50-75% of a clinician by the fifth week of the internship with distant (line of site) supervision by the physical therapist.

## SELECTION OF STUDENTS

After October 1, all completed applications will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of faculty members and other physical therapy personnel. Laramie County Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nation origin, sex, age, religion, political affiliation, or disability in admission of access to, or treatment of employment in, its educational programs or activities.

### PTA PROGRAM SELECTION CRITERIA:

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program Selection Committee will be the individuals to consider the applications submitted by prospective PTA students. They will utilize the following point scale, maximum of 150 points. From the pool of applicants, the prospective PTA students will be screened. *Applicants having completed all requirements will be considered first.* Applications with requirements not met at the time of application may be provisionally admitted pending fulfillment of ALL requirements. All persons submitting an application will be notified of their admission status following the selection process. A maximum of 2 points will be awarded for classes that are in progress at the time of application.

Item	Points
MATH 1400 Pre-Calculus Algebra or higher (3-4 cr.)	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
ENGL 1010 English (3 cr.)	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
ZOO 2010 Anatomy/Physiology I or ZOO 2015 Human Anatomy (4-5 cr.)	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
CO/M 1030 Interpersonal Communication or CO/M 1010 Public Speaking (3 cr.)	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
HLTK 1200 Medical Terminology (2 cr.)	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
ZOO 2020 Anatomy/ Physiology II or ZOO 2025 Physiology (4-5 cr.)	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
POLS 1000 or HIST 1211 or HIST 1221 or HIST 1251 or ECON 1200 (3 cr.) – state statutory requirement	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
EDST 2450 Human Lifespan Development (3 cr.)	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
Computer Literacy (1 cr.)	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
Physical Education Activity course (1 cr.)	4(A), 3(B), 2(C)
Overall GPA-College	5(3.5 or above), 4(2.5 or above), 3(2.0 or above)
Previous College Degree(s)	5 points for Associates degree 10 points for Bachelor degree 15 points for any higher degree
Employment in a Physical Therapy department/clinic, as PT aide, 6 months or more	20 points
Other employment in a related healthcare field	10 points
Physical therapy observations hours	20 points (80 hours or more), 15 points (40 hours), or 10 points (20 hours)
Reflective Essay	20 points max
Previous Application to this program	20 points max
1st Letter of Reference	20 points max
2nd Letter of Reference	20 points max
3rd Letter of Reference	20 points max

Should any students receive identical scores, the program director will determine priority. Final selection will be made and the students will be notified about 30 days after the application due date.

An alternate list will be made to fill any cancellations. Our program does not use an annual waiting list; therefore, students not selected for admission into the PTA program must initiate the admission process the following year before being reconsidered.

**Note: The PTA Program Admission is contingent upon successful completion of in-progress prerequisites. If the student does not successfully complete the in-progress courses, admission to the program will be voided.**

## **PROGRESSION**

To progress in the PTA program, the student must:

1. Maintain a minimum grade of “C” in each required PTA and support courses. A support course is any course that does not contain the PTAT prefix. A cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above is required prior to and after acceptance into the program.
2. Take PTA program specific courses in sequence.

## **ESTIMATED EXPENSES**

See college catalog for general school expenses (Estimated at \$1236/semester for in-state resident tuition). Other expenses may apply (such as those related to internships, board exam preparation, and graduation). **Additional** estimated expenses for the entire PTA program include:

Immunizations . . . . .	\$150
Background check and drug screening costs . . . . .	\$159
Books . . . . .	(approximately) \$1000
PTA student club dues and fees (due at acceptance) . . . . .	\$200
Health Sciences Program Fee (first semester due the first day of class) . . . . .	\$200/semester
Additional class/lab fees . . . . .	\$600
PTA national licensing exam fee (after program completion) . . . . .	\$350
Wyoming licensure fee (after program completion) . . . . .	\$100

The student is expected to provide transportation to class and to the assigned clinical education sites. The students should also be aware that clinical education sites may be out of the area and/or out of state.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

See college catalog for information.

## **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Transfer students will be evaluated on an individual basis and may be required to take competency examinations monitored by the faculty to determine the level at which the student will enter the program. Transcripts and an application will be required. Specific requirements are outlined in the PTA Student Handbook available from the LCCC PTA Program Director.

Transfer students and students reentering the program will reenter under the applicable college catalog requirements.

## **STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

Due to the demands of the full-time PTA program, student employment is not encouraged. However, exceptions may arise. This personal decision should be based on individual performance in the classroom, clinical education sites, family financial situations, and personal health. It is the desire of the PTA faculty that students are successful in the program and that essential learning is not compromised. Students will not be excused from class or clinical assignments for personal work schedules. An alternative may be found by contacting the Financial Aids Office at the college.

## **QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions about the PTA program or the admission process which are not answered here, please contact:

Dr. Holly Girmus  
Interim PTA Program Director  
Office: 307.432.1684 Fax: 307.778.4386  
email: [lgirmus@lccc.wy.edu](mailto:lgirmus@lccc.wy.edu)