

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
STATE COLLEGE**



**SPRING 2026**

**A.S. PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT  
APPLICATION PACKET**

## **General Program Information**

### **PTA Program Mission Statement**

The mission of the Northwest Florida State College Physical Therapist Assistant Program is to provide high quality education, based on contemporary physical therapy practice, preparing individuals to become licensed physical therapist assistants; who, under the supervision and direction of physical therapists, provide effective, ethical patient care across all patient populations and settings, and engage in life-long learning to meet the needs of the local community.

### **Program Structure**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is a two-year program with the first semester dedicated to general education/non-technical courses that need to be completed prior to full acceptance into the program. The technical phase covers four semesters including the remaining general education courses and 51 credit hours of PTA procedural and clinical education courses. The 23 credits in general education/non-technical courses can be completed prior to application submission, but A&P I & II must have had a lab component. A total of 74 credit hours are required for graduation.

The technical phase of the PTA curriculum is academically demanding. The transition from general education courses to a technical/clinical curriculum requires adjustment and a full-time commitment. Employment is strongly discouraged during full-time clinical affiliations.

### **Accreditation**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Northwest Florida State College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 850-863-6511 or email [pta@nwfsc.edu](mailto:pta@nwfsc.edu).

### **Role of a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)**

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) work as part of a team to provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist.

- Implement selected components of patient/client interventions (treatment), obtain data related to the interventions provided, and make modifications in selected interventions either to progress the patient/client as directed by the physical therapist or to ensure patient/client safety and comfort.
- Assist the physical therapist in the treatment of individuals of all ages, from newborns to the very oldest, who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives.
- Provide care for people in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and nursing homes.

- PTAs must graduate from a CAPTE-accredited PTA program to take the licensure exam, and licensure is required to work as a PTA. For more information, please visit [APTA: Becoming a PTA](#).

Role of a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA). (2016, April 15). Retrieved from <http://www.apta.org/PTACareers/RoleofaPTA/>

### **Transfer Students**

If you are seeking to transfer into the PTA Program and receive credit for courses completed at another PTA Program, please contact the Program Director for the Transfer Student Checklist. Admission will be considered on a space-available basis.

**Northwest Florida State College**  
**Associate in Science in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Curriculum**  
**2025-26**

Semester	Course ID and Name	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>	BSC 1085C - Anatomy and Physiology I	4
	ENC 1101 - English Composition I	3
	MGF 1130 - Mathematical Thinking (core math substitutions considered)	3
	Humanities Core - ARH 1000, HUM 1020, MUL 1010, PHI 2010, or THE 2000	3
	Civic Literacy Requirement* - AMH 2020, POS 1041, or AMH 2010	3
	<i>*Note: An assessment is required in addition to the course if not previously met. If exempt from the Civic Literacy requirement, must take a Core Social Science. AMH 2010 is allowed if taken during or after the Fall 2024 semester.</i>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	BSC 1086C - Anatomy and Physiology II	4
	DEP 2004 - Human Growth and Development	3
	PHT 1128 - Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology	3
	PHT 1128L - Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology Lab	2
	PHT 1007 - Topics in Physical Therapy	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>	PHT 1931 - PTA Seminar	1
	PHT 1224 - Therapeutic Techniques & Disabilities	3
	PHT 1224L - Therapeutic Techniques & Disabilities Lab	2
	PHT 1200 - Basic Patient Care	2
	PHT 1200L - Basic Patient Care Lab	2
	PHT 2301 - Pathological Conditions in PT	3
	PHT 1800L - Physical Therapy Clinical Practice I (3 weeks)*	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	PHT 1211 - Physical Therapy Principles and Procedures	2
	PHT 1211L - Physical Therapy Principles and Procedures Lab	2
	PHT 2252 - Orthopedic Disabilities & Treatment	2
	PHT 2252L - Orthopedic Disabilities & Treatment Lab	1
	PHT 2162 - Neurological Disabilities & Treatment	2
	PHT 2162L - Neurological Disabilities & Treatment Lab	2
	PHT 2810L - Physical Therapy Clinical Practice II (4 weeks)*	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Summer Semester</b>	PHT 2704 - Advanced Rehab Concepts in PT	1
	PHT 2704L - Advanced Rehab Concepts in PT Lab	1
	PHT 2930 - Trends in Physical Therapy	2
	PHT 2820L - Physical Therapy Clinical Practice III (8 weeks)*	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>74</b>

\* Students will be required to commute to clinical sites (which can include travel to several counties in the regional area) and therefore must have dependable transportation. Clinical Practices require 5 days a week time commitment. Hours may vary between clinical sites, but students should expect to work Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 PM.

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE  
ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT  
SPRING 2026 TECHNICAL COHORT APPLICATION PROCESS**

We recommend that you reach out to a [Student Success Navigator](#) for advising or guidance on the application process. Click on the link above or call 850-678-5111. We strongly recommend that you do NOT self-advise.

**STEP 1:**

- [Apply to the College](#): select Pre-PTA Gen Ed Cohort (Note: If you do not plan to take general education courses during the Summer semester, select the Fall application)
- Digitally sign and return the Pre-PTA General Education Cohort Acknowledgement Form
- **VA/GI Bill students**: please reach out to the [Vet Success Center](#) for assistance. You can select the AA degree to maximize your benefits. Please notify the PTA department so we can properly track you: [pta@nwfsc.edu](mailto:pta@nwfsc.edu).
- Receive email notification of acceptance into the Pre-PTA General Education Cohort (this does not mean you are accepted into the technical program)
- Register for required general education courses, if needed

**STEP 2:**

- [Apply to the PTA Technical Program](#)
  - **Applications are accepted July 21 - October 20, 2025** (If you applied during a previous cycle, you must submit a new application)
- You will be prompted to setup a Dynamic Forms account if you don't already have one
- Complete each page of the application – if you are not able to finish it in one setting, you can save your progress and access it again by logging into your account through <https://df.nwfsc.edu/>
- There will be a page for items listed on the Selective Points Process - you will need to upload specific documentation if you answer YES to questions concerning:
  - Work experience as a PT tech, PT aide, or PCT (form on page 15)
  - Military service: copy of DD214
  - Active-duty spouse: copy of current military orders
  - Current Health Related Certification (CPT, CNA, EMT, LPN, etc.; **does NOT include CPR**)
- You will also upload your essay response for the Introduction to the Profession Assignment – refer to instruction on page 9 of this application.
- Students currently enrolled in BSC 1085C, ENC 1101, and/or MGF 1130 may email [desmiths@nwfsc.edu](mailto:desmiths@nwfsc.edu) a copy of midterm grades to be considered during the selection points process. It must be submitted by the deadline listed above.

**Notification of Conditional Acceptance no later than October 30, 2025**

- Conditional acceptance notification letters are sent electronically to the student's NWFSC student email account. Students are given 5 business days to accept or decline the offer. It is important to monitor the college email account regularly.

### **Minimum Program Requirements:**

- A grade of C or higher in all required general education courses\*
- A cumulative grade of 2.50 in all required general education courses\*
- Must be 17 years old prior to first clinical experience

\*Note: Required general education courses include:

- BSC 1085C
- ENC 1101
- Core Humanity
  - ARH 1000, HUM 1020, MUL 1010, PHI 2010, or THE 2000
- MGF 1130
  - A student may request to substitute a previously completed core math (MAC 1105, MAC 1105C, STA 2023, or MAC 2311). They will need to submit a [Student Record/Catalog Change Petition](#) form or email the request to [registrar@nwfsc.edu](mailto:registrar@nwfsc.edu).
- Civic Literacy
  - AMH 2020, POS 1041, or AMH 2010 (AMH 2010 will be accepted if taken during or after the Fall 2024 semester)
  - If you are exempt from the Civic Literacy requirement, you will need to complete a Core Social Science course.
- Although it is not required, some students may benefit from taking HSC 1531 Medical Terminology.

All eligible applicants are conditionally accepted unless the number exceeds the available slots, in which case a scoring rubric will be used to select the final students and identify alternates. The program is limited to a maximum of 24 students, but this number may vary annually depending on clinical site availability and job market outlook.

Full acceptance into the PTA technical program will require the completion of a satisfactory background check and drug screen by a set deadline. Instructions for completion will be emailed to students once they accept the offer for conditional admission. For those students who were enrolled in pre-requisite courses at the time of the technical portion review, the department will need to confirm meeting the minimum requirements before receiving full acceptance.

Once a student has received full admission into the technical portion of the PTA program, they will be assigned to the "PTA Technical Program Cohort"; this assigned code will allow the student to register for the program's technical coursework.

**Note:** Effective communication and emotional intelligence are essential skills in the physical therapy profession. If disrespectful or unprofessional communication occurs at any time during the application process, this may be considered during the selection process.

### **Program Contact Information:**

Susan DeSmith, PT, DPT  
PTA Program Director  
Office: FWB campus, Bldg. 8, Room 871  
Phone: (850)863-6511  
Email: [desmiths@nwfsc.edu](mailto:desmiths@nwfsc.edu)

## **REQUIREMENTS AFTER BEGINNING THE PTA TECHINCAL PROGRAM**

**This information is for reference only.** To participate in the clinical portion of the program, students are required to meet the following additional criteria:

The additional requirements listed below will be discussed during the PTA Orientation which is scheduled prior to the beginning of the spring term. These must be completed within certain time frames per our clinical affiliates and completing them too far in advance may mean that students must repeat them to be in compliance. **Do NOT begin this process until notified by the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education.**

1. **CPR CERTIFICATION:** Provide CPR certification and maintain throughout program. CPR certification must be from an approved course: **American Heart Association Healthcare Provider.**
2. **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:** Complete the program health assessment form with a health care provider.
3. **ANNUAL FLU Vaccination:** Have documentation of annual flu shot administered during the current flu season. If a student chooses not to have the flu shot, a signed declination/waiver form is required.
4. **HEPATITIS B:** Begin the Hepatitis B series. The vaccine for Hepatitis B is highly recommended. There must be documentation of 3 vaccinations or positive antibody titer (lab report required). If a student chooses not to have the vaccine, a signed declination/waiver form is required.
5. **TB TEST:** Complete a 1 Step TB Skin Test or Chest X-ray. There must be documentation of one of the following: a) negative 1 step test in the past 6 weeks; OR b) negative Quantiferon Gold Blood Test (lab report required) in the past 6 weeks. If either test is positive a clear chest x-ray (with lab report) is required.
6. **TETANUS:** Provide proof of a Tetanus booster within the past 10 years.
7. **VARICELLA (CHICKEN POX):** Provide documentation of one of the following: a) 2 vaccinations; OR b) positive antibody titer (lab reports required).
8. **MEASLES, MUMPS, & RUBELLA (MMR):** Provide documentation of one of the following: a) 2 vaccinations; OR b) positive antibody titers for all 3 components (lab reports required)
9. **COVID-19 Vaccination:** Some clinical sites may require students to show proof of vaccination or request exemption for medical or religious reasons.

## **DRUG SCREENING AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY**

Upon conditional acceptance into the PTA Program, the student must be willing to submit to a criminal background check and a drug screening exam before being eligible to register for the technical portion of the program. The background check and drug screen are required for placement into clinical rotations. The student will be responsible for the cost of both and must also be aware that some clinical agencies may require an additional background check or drug screen prior to clinical access.

Note: Negative dilute results will require rescreening at the student's expense. A second negative dilute sample requires removal from the program.

If something is found during the background check, it will be reviewed by the Program Director and the Dean of Health Sciences and Public Safety. The student may be required to reach out to the Florida Board of Physical Therapy to determine if it will prevent them from gaining licensure. It is possible to graduate from the program but denied the opportunity to sit for the licensure exam because of an unfavorable background check. Most healthcare boards make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. Please visit the Florida Department of Health website for more information: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/>. Per the Florida Board of Physical Therapy: "If applicants have any affirmative answers in the Criminal, Personal, or Disciplinary sections of the application, submission of the personal statement and supporting documentation can be emailed or faxed to our board office."

Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 may be disqualified from admission to the PTA Program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering into the PTA Program and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online:

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html)

After acceptance and continuing enrollment in this program, the student is responsible for notifying the Program Director of any arrest, regardless of adjudication, that occurs after acceptance and continuing through enrollment and graduation. Failure to promptly notify the Program Director shall be grounds for dismissal from the program.

**I have read and understand the above information and have had an opportunity to ask questions. Contact the Program with any questions: [pta@nwfsc.edu](mailto:pta@nwfsc.edu) or (850)863-5503.**

**Students will provide electronic signature via the online application process.**



## INTRODUCTION TO THE PROFESSION ASSIGNMENT

A career in physical therapy can be very rewarding, but like many healthcare careers, also comes with challenges. It is important that you understand both what it means to be a physical therapist assistant and the role they play in patient care before you apply to the PTA program. The video clips listed below will provide a brief overview of the profession, various treatment settings and different viewpoints from practicing PTAs. The NWFSC PTA Program does not endorse any of the YouTube channels linked below and you are not required to subscribe or add a response to the sites. The videos are meant to provide you with information and different perspectives. We encourage you to reach out to any friends, family members or neighbors who are practicing in the field to get other perspectives. Although not required, you are also welcome to seek out observation hours in different settings to help make sure this is the career for you.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Before you watch the videos, take a few minutes to write down your current knowledge of the profession and what you think it means to be a PTA. Watch the videos and take notes on anything that stands out to you. After you finish watching all the videos, write a short essay (no required length) addressing the questions listed below. Include your name and student ID on the typed response. You can reference things you observed in the videos or previous experience in the field (as a patient, PT tech, or while observing/volunteering). Your response will be evaluated and assigned points (up to 10) that will be used in the selective admissions scoring process. You will upload your essay through the online PTA Technical Application. Acceptable file types are .pdf, .doc, or .docx.

1. Becoming a Physical Therapist Assistant	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4VwS7zvGfg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4VwS7zvGfg</a>
2. Physical Therapist Assistant—Cliff Stanford	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCfUVbnPfO8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCfUVbnPfO8</a>
3. ICU & Acute Care Physical Therapy: Phyllis' Recovery	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAEjjcjob-Y">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAEjjcjob-Y</a>
4. Brett's Story: Back to College After a Traumatic Brain Injury	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJIEwRPri04">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJIEwRPri04</a>

1. Based on your previous knowledge of physical therapy and the job of a Physical Therapist Assistant, is there anything in the videos that surprised you?
2. Why have you chosen PTA as a career?

### Scoring Rubric

10 points	8-9 points	6-7 points	4-5 points	1-3 points	0 points
Answers questions with quality responses that reflect consideration of the video content or prior experience. No spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors.	Answers questions with quality responses that reflect consideration of the video content or prior experience. Minimal spelling, punctuation, and/or grammatical errors.	Answers questions with quality responses that reflect consideration of the video content or prior experience. Several spelling, punctuation, and/or grammatical errors.	Answers questions with adequate responses that reflect consideration for the video content or prior experience. Several spelling, punctuation, and/or grammatical errors.	Answers reflect minimal effort with little consideration for the video content or prior experience. Several spelling, punctuation, and/or grammatical errors.	Does not submit the assignment.

**Students will provide response via the online application process.**

**Northwest Florida State College  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Essential Functions of a Physical Therapist Assistant Student**

Students of Northwest Florida State College Physical Therapist Assistant Program must be able to meet these minimum standards for successful completion of program requirements (separate from the academic standards for admission).

**MOBILITY/MOTOR SKILLS**

- **KNEEL OR STOOP FREELY:** To floor to adjust patient position or assist with equipment; inspect feet, apply shoes or prosthetics
- **KNEEL, HALF-KNEEL, CRAWL:** On an exercise table to assist with patient activities
- **REACH ABOVE HEAD:** In standing, to adjust and position equipment
- **LIFT; PULL; GUIDE; TRANSFER:** A patient of up to 150 lbs and up to 250 lbs using a two-man technique
- **BEND, STAND, KNEEL, SIT, WALK OR CRAWL FOR 90 MINUTES WITHOUT REST:** To administer emergency care (CPR); to perform lab activities and administer patient interventions
- **GUIDE; RESIST AND ASSIST:** Adult patients (or classmates) during Physical Therapist transfers, ambulation, interventions and exercises; using your arms, legs or trunk to provide the necessary stabilization for a patient during therapy
- **PUSH/PULL:** Large wheeled equipment; whirlpools, tilt tables and patients on stretchers or in wheelchairs
- **WALK:** For extended periods of time to all areas of a hospital
- **CLIMB:** Stairs & inclines while safely guarding an unstable patient
- **BILATERAL DEXTERITY:** To adjust and fine tune controls on electrical and heat modalities; demonstrate ADL activities and exercises to patients; To carry out stretching, massage and exercise programs; adjust and use Physical stretching, massage and exercise programs; adjust and use Physical Therapist devices like goniometers and crutch/cane/walkers, carry out splinting techniques, guard patients
- **COORDINATION:** To perform different tasks with different limbs simultaneously
- **SPEED AND AGILITY:** To protect a walking or moving unstable patient from falling
- **ASSUME A WIDE BASE OF SUPPORT, BALANCE:** To guard, maintain and correct balance of an unstable patient on flat surfaces, inclines and stairs
- **PERFORM:** patient physical assistance using safe and proper body mechanics
- **WORK CAPACITY:** To perform all essential skills and standards to complete eight-hour days, and a 40 hour work week during PTA Program enrollment

## **SENSORY ABILITIES AND OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS**

- **DEPTH PERCEPTION:** For judging distance, surface changes, level changes while ambulating patients
- **SEE (WITH OR WITHOUT CORRECTIVE LENSES):** Patient skin, discriminate color changes, facial expressions and non-verbal communications, normal and abnormal patterns of movement; the environment for up to 20 feet; to read and set parameters on Physical Therapist equipment, detect small calibrations on measuring instruments
- **FEEL:** To discriminate small and large temperature differences; palpate pulses; assess body segment contour; to assess muscle tone; joint movement, discriminate sharp and dull, light touch and deep pressure sensation
- **HEAR:** Soft voices, masked voices, patient call systems, alarms, timers, blood pressure sounds using a stethoscope; demonstrate active listening skills
- **SMELL:** To detect odors related to patient assessment
- **POSITION, MOVEMENT AND BALANCE SENSATION:** To feel where your individual body segments are located and to know when and how they are moving even when you cannot see them

## **COMMUNICATION STANDARDS**

- **SPEAK AND EXPRESS:** Clearly and understandably in the English language; information to peers, faculty, patients, their families and other health care providers; to explain conditions and procedures and teach home programs
- **READ:** Typed, handwritten, chart data and computer-generated documents in the English language; at a level of competency that allows safe and timely execution of essential tasks or assignments
- **UNDERSTAND; INTERPRET:** Medical terminology and information given regarding status, progress and safety of a patient; to follow simple and complex instructions (oral or written) given by a PT regarding patient care; and respond to non-verbal communication/behaviors of self and others
- **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS:** Accurately and efficiently, seeking clarification where necessary
- **WRITE:** To produce legible handwritten or computer word processed documents; use correct medical terminology, spelling, grammar and punctuation; organize and express thoughts in written form in the English language; to prepare accurate, thorough, legally defensible patient documentation
- **INTERPERSONAL SKILLS:** To work collaboratively; interact professionally; to establish rapport with patients, colleagues and classmates; to resolve conflicts; with individuals from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds; maintain confidentiality in all interactions

### **COGNITIVE AND INTELLECTUAL STANDARDS**

- **THINK CRITICALLY:** To identify and solve problems; identify cause/effect relationships; to apply reading, lecture and laboratory information to case study preparation; to employ effective teaching, learning and test taking strategies
- **COMPREHEND:** Relevant information regarding patient diagnoses, Physical Therapist interventions, indications and contraindications, human pathology and impairments from textbooks, medical records and professional literature
- **PRIORITIZE:** Events to provide for patient safety; appropriate patient interventions; multiple tasks; integrate information and make decisions about sequence and progression
- **CALCULATE:** To collect and/or interpret accurate patient data
- **MAKE CLINICAL DECISIONS:** To respond quickly and appropriately to changes in patient status; to analyze written, observed or verbal data about patients and make decisions to terminate, modify, progress or cancel patient treatment; act safely and ethically in the Physical Therapist lab and clinic
- **SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM MEMORY:** To accurately and quickly remember data from the chart and information relayed in verbal exchanges with the PT and other members of the health care team; to access learned knowledge to include but not limited to diagnoses, weight-bearing status, indications, contraindications for interventions, safety precautions, subjective reports of patients, emergency procedures; safety procedures; to participate successfully in the learning and evaluation of knowledge within the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum
- **THINK QUICKLY AND CLEARLY:** To execute all duties unimpaired by any condition or substance that alters mental processing, speed or quality of thought processes or judgment

### **BEHAVIORAL/PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

- **FLEXIBILITY:** To adjust to a constantly changing and very demanding full-time schedule
- **COMPASSION:** To respect and show empathy for patients and their families; for people of all personality types, backgrounds, ethnic, race or socioeconomic backgrounds including but not limited to individuals with neurological disorders, physical disfigurement, mental health or complex medical problems
- **COOPERATION:** To work as a member of a team; develop positive and effective relationships with faculty, clinicians, peers and patients
- **RECOGNIZE LIMITATIONS:** To request assistance when needed; accept correction and constructive suggestions; assume responsibility for personal development; utilize resources effectively
- **TOLERANCE:** For close physical contact with patients, peers and classmates during the provision of interventions and in lab; for close proximity and physical contact with patients that require use of standard precautions during therapy due to open wounds, incontinence or other potential exposure to bodily fluids or pathogens during treatment
- **WILLINGNESS:** To wear scrub top/pants as the assigned uniform for fieldwork assignments; To wear required lab attire that will allow for visualization of body contours and exposure of all major joints and muscles; to participate in lab activities that require palpation, measurement, massage and other forms of therapeutic touching of joints, muscles and bony landmarks; to serve as both

the patient model and clinician during patient simulations that allow classmates to practice and perfect Physical Therapist Assistant skills

- **POSITIVE ATTITUDE:** To demonstrate initiative, enthusiasm and appropriate peer and patient interactions
- **WORK ETHIC:** To attend class and clinic promptly and regularly; to stay focused and on task in lecture and laboratory instructional time; to submit work products promptly when due; to display industrious behavior; to submit to all classroom and clinical rules/policies; to demonstrate respect for other health care providers and the profession of Physical Therapist Assistant; to comply with all legal and ethical standards of practice
- **STRESS MANAGEMENT:** Coping skills for fast-paced clinical situations; to manage multiple academic deadlines; deal effectively with psychosocial issues of catastrophic illness, disability and death; respond appropriately in a stressful environment and during impending deadlines; manage personal matters outside of class/workday
- **PLANNING AHEAD:** To arrange transportation and living accommodations for/during off campus clinical assignments to foster timely reporting to the classroom and clinical center
- **SELF CARE:** To maintain general good health and hygiene in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and individuals with whom one interacts in the academic and clinical settings

#### Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities

The Accommodation Resource Center (ARC) at Northwest Florida State College is committed to providing equal access and opportunities for educational success to all students with disabilities as guided by the American Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws. Northwest Florida State College does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in any of our programs, services, or activities based on Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students who wish to request reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the ARC to start the process for documenting their disability and determining eligibility for services prior to the start of the program.

Accommodations allow for reasonable modifications or adjustments to a course, skill, or the need for an auxiliary aid and/or service, that allows a qualified individual with a disability to have full and equal participation while demonstrating an acceptable level of competency. The College is not responsible for providing auxiliary aids and services. What constitutes a reasonable accommodation will be determined on a case-by-case basis as the student works directly with the NWFSC ARC, and will include consideration of the individual's documented disability and the academic and technical requirements of the PTA program. Requests for modifications that are essential to the completion of required competencies will not generally be regarded as reasonable. All students are held to specific academic and technical standards required for safe completion of the PTA program. It is the student's responsibility to self-advocate and determine how they will accomplish these requirements. The PTA program works with third-party sites for clinical placement. Students must meet all requirements that are predetermined by each individual facility via a written affiliation agreement or memorandum of understanding. These facilities are not under the control of the College or the PTA program. Additionally, the PTA program cannot guarantee student placement at any third-party facility. Facilities can elect not to accept students for any reason, including staffing restraints and failure of an individual student to meet any predetermined clinical safety requirements.

By signing below, I am indicating that I have read and understand the PTA Essential Functions and affirm that I can meet all the above Essential Functions with or without reasonable accommodations. I understand that I may not be able to progress in the program if unable to meet specific requirements or if I am unable to be placed at a clinical site due to their specific requirements. I authorize the program to share my request for reasonable accommodation(s) with a clinical site if deemed necessary for safety or successful completion of the clinical experience.

**Students will provide electronic signature via the online application process.**

## WORK VERIFICATION FORM

Students can receive selective admissions points for work as a PT tech, PTA aide, or PCT for > 6 months. Print and complete this form prior to starting the online application. There will be an area for you to upload a copy.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor of applicant must complete the following section:**

The person named above is applying to the PTA program at Northwest Florida State College.

Please complete the following to verify employment:

Applicant's Job/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Start date of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

End date of employment (if on-going just put today's date): \_\_\_\_\_

Total length of time employed: \_\_\_\_\_

**The above applicant is or has been employed under my supervision.**

VERIFIED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Students will upload a copy of the signed form via the online application process.**

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE  
PTA PROGRAM SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS PROCESS**

**Pool of Eligible Applicants for Conditional Acceptance:**

- **Admitted to NWF State College**
- **Completed PTA Technical Program Application and upload required forms**
- **All items received by application deadline: October 20, 2025**

Full admission requires confirmation of achieving a C or higher in all general education courses, 2.5 or higher cumulative GPA in required general education courses, and successful completion of background check and drug screen.

**Selection Point System:** All eligible applicants accepted unless the number exceeds the available slots, in which case the following point system will be used to select each student.

Item	Points
<b>Core general education course grades:</b> up to 30 points (A = 10 points, B = 5 points; half points awarded with course re-take); <b>Mid-term grades</b> (A = 7 points, B = 3 points) 1. Anatomy & Physiology I: _____ (grade) = _____ 2. English Composition I: _____ (grade) = _____ 3. Math course: _____ (grade) = _____	_____/ 30
<b>Introduction to the Profession Assignment:</b> Up to 10 points (points based on scoring rubric)	_____/ 10
<b>Previously (within 3 years) qualified applicant to NWFSC PTA Program:</b> Yes = 5, No = 0	_____/ 5
<b>Prior college degree:</b> 5 = Master's and above, 3 = Bachelor's, 1 = Associate's	_____/ 5
<b>Work experience as a PT tech/aide (&gt; 6 months):</b> Yes = 5, No = 0	_____/ 5
<b>Current Health Related Certification (CPT, CNA, EMT, LPN, Pharm. Tech, etc; CPR does <u>NOT</u> count):</b> Yes = 5, No = 0	_____/ 5
<b>Military Service with Honorable Discharge (DD214):</b> Yes = 5, No = 0	_____/ 5
<b>Active Duty Military Spouse (copy of current orders):</b> Yes = 3, No = 0	_____/ 3
<b>Current Okaloosa or Walton County Residency by application deadline:</b> Yes = 5, No = 0 (Subject to verification)	_____/ 5
<b>General education courses taken at NWF State College:</b> points based on number of credits competed with a C or higher (or currently enrolled) for a maximum of 5 points: 20 or more credits: 5 points, 15-19 credits: 4 points, 10-14 credits: 3 points, 5-9 credits: 2 points, 1-4 credits: 1 point	_____/ 5
<b>Final Score _____ / 78</b>	
<b>Final Ranking _____</b>	

The applicants with the highest point totals are admitted first. If there is a tie among point totals prior to reaching program capacity, the applicant with the highest cumulative GPA will be selected. In the event of a tie amongst the alternates, the same process will be utilized.



**ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR THE TWO-YEAR PTA PROGRAM**  
(Effective 2024-25)

NWFSC PTA Program General Education Course Expenses (if not previously completed)	Semester 1 16 Credit Hours*	Semester 2 6 Credit Hours*	Total 23 Credit Hours
Florida Residents: \$104.01 credit hour*	\$1,664.16	\$624.06	\$2,288.22
Non-Florida Residents: \$398.02 credit hour	\$6,368.32	\$2,388.12	\$8,756.44
Other Fees: includes student access fee (\$15/semester), class supply fees (lab fees for A&P), or other course fees based on format of course selected (online/hybrid)			

NWFSC PTA Technical Program Expenses	Semester 2 8 Credit Hours	Semester 3 16 Credit Hours	Semester 4 15 Credit Hours	Semester 5 12 Credit Hours	Total 51 Credit Hours
Florida Residents: \$104.01 credit hour*	\$832.08	\$1,664.16	\$1,560.15	\$1,248.12	\$5,304.51
Non-Florida Residents: \$398.02 credit hour	\$3,184.16	\$6,368.32	\$5,970.30	\$4,776.24	\$20,299.02
Other Fees (student access fee, hybrid course fee)	\$42.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$33.00	\$105.00
Textbooks**	~\$300.00	~\$400.00	~\$200.00		~\$900.00
Software and Testing Support Fees	\$297.95	\$89.95	\$192.75	\$329.00	\$909.65
Professional Liability Insurance & Student Accident Coverage	\$14.25		\$14.25		\$28.50
Clinical Fees		\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$15.00
Class Supply Fees	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$106.75	\$14.00	\$170.75
CPR certification		~\$90.00			~\$90.00
Background Check & Drug Screen	\$75.00				\$75.00
Physical Exam & Immunizations (varies due to student's personal health insurance)	varies				
Program Scrubs	~\$200.00				\$200.00
Clinical Attire (varies based on clinical site)		varies	varies	varies	
Portable computer or iPad for Testing***	~\$500.00				~\$500.00
Estimated Cost for Florida Resident*	\$2,331.28	\$2,364.11	\$2,113.90	\$1,629.12	\$8,298.41
Estimated Cost for Non-Florida Resident	\$4,683.36	\$7,068.27	\$6,524.05	\$5,157.24	\$23,292.72
Testing and Licensing Fees after graduation (Includes NPTE, FL Board of PT application, and FL Jurisprudence exam - does not include any fees to Prometric Testing Center)					\$730.00

**ALL FEES ARE ESTIMATES AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**

\* Alabama In-State Fees: Alabama residents qualify for in-state fees at NWFSC plus a \$1.00 per credit hour border state fee

\*\* Textbook prices are based on purchasing new/hard copies through the bookstore (2024-25 prices).

Students will be required to purchase/have the following items prior to the start of the technical phase:

1. \*\*\*Laptop or iPad for Testing – PTA Program uses ExamSoft Assessment Platform
  - a. [Minimum system requirements](#)
  - b. **Must be Windows based, Mac or iPad; will not run on Chromebooks, Android, or Linux operating systems**
2. Program scrubs:
  - a. Uniform information will be emailed to all students accepted into the technical program
3. Appropriate lab attire:
  - a. Men: shorts and t-shirt
  - b. Women: shorts, t-shirt, and a sports bra, halter top, or swimsuit top
4. Analog watch with second hand or Digital watch with seconds displayed/timer function
5. Lockers will be available for student use. Each student is required to provide their own lock to secure their supplies. Lockers must be cleaned out at the end of each term and locks removed.