



**ChattTech**  
Where you thrive.

## **Physical Therapist Assistant Program - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: How do I apply to the PTA Program?**

Students must start by applying to the college (Chatt Tech) and be accepted by Spring Semester of each year. Once accepted to the college, students can then apply to the PTA Program separately by attending an Application Session. Application Sessions occur in the Spring of each year, and the expected start date for the program is in August (of that same year). Students are only considered for admission if they have met (or expect to meet) all of the pre-requisites by the published deadlines. Application Session dates and pre-requisite requirements are available on the [PTA Program website](#).

### **Q: Is it hard to get into the PTA Program?**

The PTA Program does have competitive admissions (even though Chatt Tech is Open Enrollment). We accept about 20 students each Fall based on a points system. You can see what items are considered for points on our [PTA Program website](#).

### **Q: I already have a college degree. Will you accept my transfer credit?**

When you apply to the college (Chatt Tech), you can submit your transfer credits for evaluation by our Admissions office. They will determine if your previous course work meets the pre-requisite requirements for the PTA Program. You can find more information about transfer credits [on the college's website](#).

### **Q: Is the PTA Program offered online?**

The PTA Program is only offered in person on the North Metro Campus. There are some classes within the program with online portions, but the majority of the program is in person.

### **Q: Is the PTA Program offered at night or on the weekends?**

PTA Program classes are only offered during Monday-Friday during regular business hours.

### **Q: Can I take PTA classes “part-time”, or take them on my own schedule?**

No, the PTA Program is only available as a “full-time” schedule in a closed cohort.

**Q: Is the PTA Program offered on any other campuses?**

The PTA Program is only available on the North Metro Campus.

**Q: How long is the PTA Program?**

The PTA Program takes 4 semesters. Students start in the Fall Semester each year (in August), and graduate at the end of Fall Semester the following year (in December).

**Q: What is the schedule like for a PTA student?**

Students in the PTA Program should expect to be on-campus, in person 4-5 days/week. Class is usually scheduled between about 9:00am and 3:30pm, but will vary for specific classes and specific semesters. PTA students are considered “full-time” students.

**Q: What is a “Closed Cohort”?**

The PTA Program uses a “closed cohort” model. This means that only students in the PTA program may take PTA classes, and students in each cohort will take all their classes together. Students in the PTA program must take their classes in a specific order, and they register for a set of pre-determined courses each semester.

**Q: Are “Clinicals” part of the program?**

Yes, students must complete 3 “Clinical Rotations” during the program (sometimes called “Field Work” in other professions). The location and hours of your clinical rotations will be different than your class schedule. Each student is assigned a licensed therapist to work with, and they travel to that therapist’s location during their rotation.

For example, a student is assigned to work with a therapist at a local hospital. That student would travel to the hospital each day and match the hours of their assigned therapist – this could include early mornings, evenings, or weekends. We do our best to assign each student a rotation that works for them and where they live, but you may still have a long commute (up to 90 minutes).

**Q: What are the requirements for “Clinicals”?**

Students are required to get a Background Check, Drug Screen, vaccinations, and other requirements. Requirements for Clinicals are reviewed in more detail during Application Sessions, or you can email the PTA Program Director, Aaron Freeman at [aaron.freeman@chattahoocheetech.edu](mailto:aaron.freeman@chattahoocheetech.edu).

**Q: Are the cost for clinicals included in my tuition?**

Unfortunately, no. You will need to cover the cost of travel and other clinical requirements. More information about PTA Program cost is reviewed at the Application Sessions.

### **Q: Can I work while I go through the PTA program?**

It is possible to work while in the program, but not recommended due to the difficult nature of the program, as well as the variable schedule. Your clinical schedule can also vary (including evenings and weekends), or you may possibly be out of town. If you do choose to work, a flexible schedule is strongly recommended.

### **Q: I eventually want to become a PT. Will the PTA program help me get into PT school?**

No, the PTA program is not a good stepping stone towards PT school. PT school applicants must have a Bachelors degree and additional pre-requisites. Obtaining an Associates in PTA will not meet this requirement, and your coursework is unlikely to transfer. It is not necessary or common to get a PTA degree before going to PT school.

### **Q: What's the difference between a Physical Therapist (PT) and a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)?**

PT's and PTA's collaborate together to treat patients, but they have different education and licensure requirements. PT's require a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, while PTA's require an Associates degree. You can see more information about PT's and PTA's at [ChoosePT.com](http://ChoosePT.com)

### **Q: I still have questions. How can I find out more information about the PTA Program?**

The [PTA Program website](#) is an excellent source of information about the program. You can also contact our PTA Program Advisor, Yolanda Turner at [Yolanda.turner@chattahoocheetech.edu](mailto:Yolanda.turner@chattahoocheetech.edu). You can contact the PTA Program Director, Aaron Freeman at [aaron.freeman@chattahoocheetech.edu](mailto:aaron.freeman@chattahoocheetech.edu).

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