



One Seahawk Drive
North East, MD 21921
PTA@cecil.edu
443-674-1557



Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program (PTA) at Cecil College. The acceptance rate averaged 97% for the past three cohorts. PTA Applicant Information Sessions are held throughout the year. Please see [PTA Cecil College](#) for dates, times, and video testimonials.

2024 PTA Selective Admissions Application Time Line (Class of 2026)

- **July 1 – October 31, 2024** [PTA Application Class of 2026](#) available
- **September 30, 2024**: Official Transcript must be received by Cecil College Records and Registration. Allow 4 weeks for transcript evaluation process.
- **October 31, 2024**: Test for Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), scores must be uploaded on the check list page of the PTA Application.
- **October 31, 2024 by Midnight**: [PTA Application Class of 2026](#) must be submitted. All required documents must be uploaded on the “Check List” page. Please **DO NOT** email documents.

PTA Selective Admission:

- Required to apply:
 - MAT 097 or college level math placement **and** college level English placement
- Student must be 18 years of age prior to January 21, 2025 – PTA Courses begin
- Recommend completing prior to applying (must complete prior to start of PTA Courses- minimum “C”):
 - EGL 101- College Composition
 - BIO 208 and BIO 218 Human Anatomy and Physiology I with a Lab
 - MAT 127 – Introduction to Statistics
 - PSY 101 – Introduction to Psychology

TEAS (Test for Essential Academic Skills):

- May be taken at Cecil College Academic Success Center or remotely proctored by [ATI testing](#)
- Highly recommend students use the FREE [TEAS Prep Material](#) available at Cecil College Library.
 - Please call 410-287-1005 to speak with a librarian.
- For best consideration, minimum total score of **“Proficient”** is highly recommended

Cecil College Admissions:

- admissions@cecil.edu or phone 410-287-1006

Academic Advisor:

- Nikki Ritterbeck, PTA Academic Advisor, nritterbeck@cecil.edu, 410-287-1032

Questions? Contact the PTA Program at pta@cecil.edu . We are here to help!

**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

General Education Requirements: It is recommended that students complete the general education course requirements prior to starting the PTA courses. This allows students to concentrate their efforts on the PTA courses and open lab requirement. Please refer to the [Cecil College Catalog](#) for course descriptions.

Required to Apply		
MATH 097 or college level math placement and college level English placement		
Pre-Requisites: Must be completed prior to start of PTA courses (Recommend Completing Prior to Applying)		Credits
BIO 208	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BIO 218	Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1
EGL 101	College Composition	3
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
MAT 127	Introduction to Statistics (May substitute any 4 Credit College Math)	4

General Education Requirements (Must be completed prior to start of PTA Clinical courses)		Credits
BIO 209	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BIO 219	Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1
SPH 141	Public Speaking	3
PSY 201	Human Growth and Development	3

PTA Program Course Requirements		Credits
PTA 102	Clinical Kinesiology and Biomechanics	4
PTA 103	Clinical Skills for the Physical Therapist Assistant	3
PTA 104	Fundamentals of PT Practice I	2
PTA 205	Therapeutic Interventions	5
PTA 211	Fundamentals of PT Practice II	2
PTA 213	Fundamentals of PT Practice III	2
PTA 220	Clinical Orthopedics	4
PTA 222	Clinical Neurosciences	3
PTA 224	Clinical Cardiopulmonary and Integumentary Issues	3
PTA 228	Special Topics in Physical Therapy	3
PTA 230	Clinical Practice I	3
PTA 232	Clinical Practice II	6
PTA 234	Clinical Practice III	6

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Cecil 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; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

Please review the following pages for detailed information about the Cecil College PTA Program

PTA Selective Admissions Application Process:

1. If you are **NOT** a Cecil College student, meet with Cecil College Admissions 410-287-1006
2. If you **ARE** a Cecil College student, meet with Academic Advisor, Nikki Ritterbeck, nritterbeck@cecil.edu, 410-287-1032
3. **Transfer Credit: Submit an Official Transcript, AP Scores, CLEP test results** from the transferring institution(s) or College Board to Cecil College at registration@cecil.edu or mailed to Cecil College **Attn: Records and Registration, One Seahawk Drive, North East, MD 21921**
 - a. **Transfer credit** for required courses **may be** granted according to Cecil College policy.
 - b. Transcript evaluation may take four to six weeks, please submit by September 30, 2024
4. Test for Essential Academic Skills (TEAS test):
 - a. For best consideration, minimum total score of **"Proficient"** is highly recommended
 - b. TEAS may be taken at Cecil College in the Academic Success Center cost is \$70.00. For an appointment email: asc@cecil.edu or phone: 443-715-3292. TEAS may also be taken remotely proctored by [ATI Testing](#) cost is \$120.00.
 - c. Reading, Mathematics, Science, and English comprise the TEAS computerized, timed test.
 - d. TEAS results for calendar year 2024 or 2023 are accepted.
 - e. TEAS may be taken twice within the same calendar year. Results are super scored: the highest score for each content area of each test will be taken into consideration during the application review process.
 - f. FREE [TEAS Prep Material](#) available at Cecil College Library, phone 410-287-1005 for details
5. **Complete** the secure online [PTA Application Class of 2026](#) for the Class of 2026
 - a. **Enter your Cecil College hawk email address to begin the application process**
 - b. To protect student's privacy, upload all documents on the checklist page, do **NOT** e-mail them as attachments.

Observation, volunteering, PT Tech, [Applicant Information Session](#), [Career Exploration Worksheet](#):

Exposure to the practice of physical therapy through observation/volunteering is strongly recommended. This experience will enhance the student's understanding of the discipline of Physical Therapy, as well as the role of a PTA. If you elect to complete a PT observation or work experience, upload the [Physical Therapy Clinical Facility Experience Documentation](#) on the check list page of the PTA 2026 application. Additionally, the [American Physical Therapy Association](#) is an excellent resource for career and educational information.

PTA Application Review Process:

- Applications are reviewed and evaluated by the PTA Program Admission Committee
- Minimum 2.5 Calculated GPA (max 50 points in the selection process) to include the follow courses:
 - EGL 101: Composition
 - MAT 127: Intro to Statistics
 - BIO 208/218: A&P I with Lab
 - BIO 209/219: A&P II with Lab
 - PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology
 - PSY 201: Human Growth and Development
 - SPH 141: Public Speaking
- TEAS (max 48 points in the selection process)
- Optional: Prior Degree (max 10 points in the selection process)
- Cecil County Resident (not required) (2 points in the selection process)
- Optional: Observation, volunteering, attend Applicant Information Session, work as a PT Tech, Career Exploration Worksheet: (max 10 points in the selection process)

Decision Letters/Conditional Acceptance:

- Decision Letters are emailed to applicants and address the first week of November.
- Upon **conditional** acceptance into the PTA program, students are **required**:
 - To set up a CastleBranch account, instructions are included in the decision letter email.
 - To provide proof of recent **medical physical**, signed by a doctor. Student must use the form printed from their CastleBranch account.
 - It is strongly suggested student schedule an appointment with their Primary Care Provider for November 2024, in advance, as physical appointments fill up quickly.
 - To provide **proof of immunizations** to include: MMR, Varicella (Chicken Pox), Tuberculosis (TB), Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis) and Polio signed by a doctor. This information is part of the physical and immunization form printed from student's CastleBranch account.
 - To have the influenza vaccine (**flu shot**).
 - To have the **Hepatitis B** vaccines. The Hepatitis B vaccine requires 3 injections over a 6-month period. Students may opt to begin the process upon submitting their application to the PTA program to ensure completion prior to clinicals.
 - To submit appropriate information to CastleBranch for completing a **background check** and **drug screening**, the results must be negative. Instructions will be in student's CastleBranch account.
 - Above requirements must be completed by Tuesday, **December 17, 2024**.
- Covid Vaccine: optional, however, if **not** vaccinated, clinical site placement may be limited and student may be required to wear a mask during clinical rotations.
- **Please note: Immunization and vaccination requirements are subject to updates based on clinical site requirements.**
- Students **must** have a current **American Heart Association BLS Healthcare Provider CPR/AED certification**. **NOT ACCEPTED:** American Red Cross CPR training
 - Must be completed by **Tuesday, December 17, 2024**
- Cecil College offers [American Heart Association BLS CPR/AED for Healthcare Providers](#)
- Contact the Cecil College Financial Aid Office email: finaid@cecil.edu or phone: 410-287-1003
 - Complete the FAFSA [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#)
 - Complete the [Cecil Foundation Scholarship](#)
 - Deadline is April 30th of each year

Approximate cost for a Cecil County resident. Based on tuition and fees for fall 2023

The PTA curriculum consists of 70 credit hours. PTA courses are completed on the Cecil College campus, and clinics in the tri-state area. Students are responsible for tuition, fees and all other associated expenses.

- \$ 11,636.00 Tuition/Institutional Fees (70 Credit Hours: **46 PTA** & 24 General Education Credits)
- \$ 1,200.00 PTA Course fee (includes required lab equipment)
- \$ 1,500.00 PTA Books (strongly recommended purchasing)
- \$ 80.00 PTA Uniform
- \$ 90.00 APTA membership
- General Education Course Fee vary by course
- PTA Travel related expenses vary depending on clinical site location
- **Student must have reliable transportation**

Cecil College Tuition and Fees **are subject to change without prior notice.**

Cecil College Tuition for Academic Year 2023-2024:

Resident of Cecil County	\$130 per credit hour
Other Maryland Residents	\$243 per credit hour
Out-of-State Residents	\$283 per credit hour

Cecil College General Fees for Academic Year 2023-2024:

Consolidation Fee	\$20 per credit hour
Student Development Fee	\$8 per credit hour
Payment Plan Fee	\$15 per semester
Textbook Fee	\$24 per credit hour

Course Fee:

- Course fees vary per course: provides classroom materials, instructional equipment, and lab supplies.

Books:

- Students use the same textbook for multiple PTA courses, clinical education and the licensure exam.
- It is highly recommended the student purchase their textbooks instead of renting.

Uniform:

Students are required to purchase:

☞ 2 PTA program shirts ☞ 2 pair of navy, black or khaki pants ☞ Closed toe non-skid shoes

Clinical Education Travel Expenses:

- Students are responsible for travel expenses: transportation, gas, tolls, and parking fees
- Clinical sites are located in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania

Working While in the Program:

- All PTA courses on Cecil College campus are conducted during day time hours.
- Clinical education off campus may include evening and/or weekend hours.
- Students may work part-time while enrolled in the program.
- Working full-time while enrolled in the program may impact the student's ability to successfully complete the required courses. The final semester of the program consists of 40 hours per week at a clinical affiliate.
- Working full-time during clinical education in the final semester is **not permitted** as it is a patient safety concern.

Financial Assistance Information

1. How do students apply for financial assistance?

The first step in applying for financial assistance is to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA). Students must complete a FAFSA annually to be considered for financial assistance each year. Be aware of important deadlines. The Cecil College school code is 008308. Cecil College financial aid department is available to assist all students, please call (410) 287-1003 or email finaid@cecil.edu

2. What is FAFSA?

The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) compiles a student's financial information in a consistent manner. The information is used to determine a student's eligibility for federal and state financial assistance. The FAFSA opens October 1st each year for the following fall semester. Applying early increases a student's chances of receiving a variety of financial assistance. **Students are strongly encouraged to complete the application.** Often, students are unsuccessful due to financial strain that could have been alleviated by participating in this process.

3. How can students apply for all available financial assistance?

To be considered for all available financial assistance students need to know where the money comes from, how to apply, and the deadlines. In addition to the FAFSA, complete the [Cecil College Foundation Scholarship](#). The deadline is April 30th each year.

Review [Maryland State Financial Aid Programs](#) available to Maryland residents. Some grants require students to print an application and mail it back to the state. The deadline for most Maryland grants is March 1 each year.

If the student is currently a high school student, check with the high school guidance office for available local scholarships. In addition, there are several scholarship search engines students might want to explore such as www.finaid.org or www.fastweb.com or www.cecil.edu/scholarships

4. What is the FAFSA Lab?

FAFSA lab is designed to provide students with assistance in completing the FAFSA, Cecil College Foundation scholarship application, and to answer any basic questions students may have about the application process. The FAFSA Lab at Cecil College is by appointment only. The student should contact the Cecil College Financial Aid Office via phone at (410) 287-1003, email at finaid@cecil.edu, or using the chat feature located at www.cecil.edu/finaid

In order to assist the student with their questions and completion of the FAFSA, students should bring federal tax return, W-2, and any other additional income information with them to the appointment. Students who are dependents under 24 years of age require the presence of a parent or legal guardian. For more information, please contact the Cecil College Financial Aid office.

5. Do students have to wait until they are accepted by Cecil College before submitting the FAFSA?

No. Students may complete the FAFSA before receiving an acceptance letter from Cecil College Admissions. However, Cecil College cannot process financial aid for a student until the student has been accepted to the college in an approved program of study. The Cecil College school code must be on the form for the college to receive the student's FAFSA information. If the student has not applied for admission to the college at the time the college receives the student's FAFSA information, a Cecil College representative will contact the student.

6. Does the Financial Aid Office have walk-in hours?

Yes. The Financial Aid Office is open to walk-ins on a first come, first served basis between the hours of 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday and Wednesday, and 8:00 am to 4:30 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays. Appointments are also available.

Physical Therapist Assistant Essential Functions/Technical Standards

The PTA program is designed to prepare students with the skills, knowledge, and ability to successfully perform all of the required functions associated with the role of a physical therapist assistant at entry-level.

To successfully complete the PTA program, certain essential and technical functions must be demonstrated in the classroom, laboratory and in clinical education. PTA students must be able to demonstrate acceptable levels of competency and mastery with or without a reasonable accommodation in the following areas:

Affective Skills:

Possess the emotional health and stability to cope effectively with the stress of rigorous academic demands and clinical situations. Students must be able to:

- Maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals in the academic and clinical environments, including in highly stressful situations.
- Possess the emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways.
- Understand that their values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect their perceptions and relationships with others.
- Possess the ability to reason morally and practice limited physical therapy in an ethical and safe manner.
- Demonstrate willingness to learn and abide by professional standards of practice.
- Possess the values-based behaviors expected of an entry-level PTA that include: altruism, caring and compassion, continuing competence, duty, integrity, PT/PTA collaboration, responsibility and social responsibility.
- Interact effectively with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds in a variety of settings.
- Acknowledge and respect individual values and opinions in order to foster harmonious working relationships with colleagues, peers, and patients/clients.
- Demonstrate the ability to be self-reflective.
- Maintain general good health, self-care, and hygiene in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and individuals with which one interacts.
- Possess adequate endurance to tolerate physically, emotionally and mentally taxing workloads and to function effectively under time constraints, proactively making use of available resources to help maintain both physical and mental health.
- Accept suggestions and constructive criticism and, if appropriate, demonstrate a willingness to modify behavior.
- Adhere to the Cecil College Student Code of Conduct in all academic and clinical settings.

Cognitive Skills:

Possess sufficient intellectual-conceptual ability that includes the capacity to use integrative and quantitative abilities to make decisions. These cognitive skills are critical for the PTA to make decisions and maintain a safe environment during intervention activities for patient/client management. Students must be able to:

- Recall and retain information in an efficient manner in order to meet the minimal requirements in the classroom and clinical environments.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and the ability to prioritize, collect and analyze data.
- Appraise information to determine appropriate tests and measures during patient/client management activities.

- Acknowledge limitations of knowledge and/or performance in order to provide safe, effective patient care, including the necessity of seeking additional supervision and guidance from the licensed physical therapist or referring patients/clients to other health care professionals

Motor Skills:

Possess a variety of gross and fine motor skills. These skills are reflective of the physical capacities required to perform the job of a physical therapist assistant in a variety of settings. Students must be able to:

- Maintain and assume a variety of positions including sitting for up to 4–6 hours continuously, and/or standing for 1–4 hours continuously.
- Competently and safely perform, at a minimum, the following skills: forward bending, squatting, twisting, kneeling, stair climbing, forward and overhead reaching, crawling, pushing, pulling, carrying, and grasping.
- Demonstrate strong bilateral grasp and gross motor control when performing joint mobilization, range of motion, stretching, stabilization, therapeutic massage, and therapeutic exercise
- Demonstrate the fine motor strength and control to palpate various body structures, take pulse, and manipulate testing instruments, equipment, writing instruments, and other technology.
- Perform safe handling and manipulation of patients/clients and equipment of varying sizes, weights and shapes. Specific requirements include:
 - Safely lift and transfer up to a 150-pound patient independently.
 - Safely lift and transfer up to a 250-pound patient with assistance.
 - Safely push and pull up to 200 pounds independently.
 - Safely lift and carry up to 50 pounds independently.
 - Safely guard patients during gait training on level surfaces and uneven surfaces/ramps/stairs with and without assistive devices.
- Demonstrate sufficient balance to provide support and balance to patients on a variety of surfaces including level and uneven grounds, ramps, curbs, and stairs.
- Demonstrate sufficient endurance to continue performing a variety of physical activities for up to 8–10 hours with occasional rest breaks.
- Respond quickly to emergency situations by lifting/pushing/pulling and transporting patients, applying force to perform CPR, and assist with transporting patients.
- Obtain and maintain CPR certification for Health Care Providers through the American Heart Association.

Sensory Skills:

Include the ability to perceive all necessary information for effective patient/client management inclusive of the functional use of vision, hearing, and tactile sensations. During classroom, laboratory, and experiential learning activities the student must be able to perceive the presentation of information through:

- Visual Ability:
 - Possess the visual acuity to:
 - Read and write reports/charts as well as professional literature.
 - Discern patient status via observations of their physical condition and non-verbal behavior.
 - Differentiate colors and numbers as associated with various pieces of equipment.
 - Observe the status/safety of equipment.
 - Observe that the treatment area presents no hazards.
 - Prepare equipment treatment parameters.
 - Observe classroom presentations, written materials and laboratory demonstrations.

- Auditory Ability
 - Possess the auditory ability to:
 - Hear and interpret patient's and staff's voices.
 - Hear and respond to environmental cues inclusive but not limited to: equipment timers/alarms, phones, and paging systems.
 - Assess blood pressure, pulse rate, and breath sounds such as with a stethoscope.
- Tactile Ability
 - Possess the tactile ability to:
 - Demonstrate the safe application of gradient pressures during patient/client examination and interventions, including but not limited to: palpation, manual muscle testing, joint mobilizations, percussion and massage.

Communication Skills:

Use appropriate verbal, non-verbal and written communication with all individuals and in all settings.

- Communicate effectively and professionally in English (both written and verbal form) with classmates' faculty, staff, patients, families and members of the health care team.
- Demonstrate the appropriate use of medical terminology.
- Express own ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness to give and receive feedback.
- Receive and send verbal communication in emergency situations in a timely manner within the accepted norms of clinical settings.
- Analyze and communicate information on a patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team, including seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal communication skills as needed for productive classroom discussions, respectful interaction with classmates and faculty, and the development of appropriate therapist/patient/client relationships.
- Communicate clearly and audibly during interactions with classmates, faculty, staff, patients, families and members of the health care team.
- Listen attentively and actively in order to receive and interpret oral communications.
- Educate and train patients, caregivers and other stakeholders about treatment interventions, tests and measures, and activities of daily living.
- Demonstrate respectful and sensitive communication regardless of differences in age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, disabilities, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

If a student cannot meet the skill set outlined above, it may impact their ability to be successful in the PTA program and profession. The PTA program faculty will assist a student in meeting these standards, but the responsibility rests with the student.

If a student cannot demonstrate the ability to meet the essential functions of a PTA student, it is the responsibility of the student to request appropriate accommodations. The College will determine whether it can provide a reasonable accommodation. This includes a review as to whether accommodations are reasonable, taking into account whether accommodations would jeopardize clinician or patient safety, clinical practice, the institution, or the educational process of the student, including all coursework and clinical experiences deemed essential for graduation.

Please contact Deanna Smith, PTA Program Director, at dsmith@cecil.edu and/or Raegen L. Iler, Coordinator of Accessibility Services, at riler@cecil.edu for more information. Additional information on this topic may be found at the U.S. Department of Labor: [Dictionary of Occupational Titles: Physical Therapy](#). The Dictionary of Occupational Titles is a publication that classifies all types of jobs by their demands and requirements.