



CECIL COLLEGE

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
One Seahawk Drive
North East, MD 21901
443-674-1557
PTA@cecil.edu

Dear Prospective PTA Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at Cecil College. Entrance into the Associate of Applied Science Degree PTA Program is offered once a year. Please carefully read the entire prospective student packet, many of your questions will be answered in the next 11 pages.

Students who are applying to the PTA program have consideration given to GPA, TEAS scores, possession of a prior degree, essay submission, Cecil County residency and documented volunteer service hours in a physical therapy setting.

The PTA Program has limited highly competitive enrollment and requires specific criteria for admission. The acceptance rate averaged 68% for the past three cohorts. A competitive calculated GPA of 3.0 or higher in the pre-requisite courses is recommended. A minimum 2.5 GPA in the pre-requisite courses with a grade of "C" or better is mandatory.

Due to the difficulty of the course content and rigorous nature of the program, we recommend that students complete as many general education requirements as possible before being accepted into the program. For more specific general education and PTA course requirement information, refer to the Cecil College Catalog on Cecil.edu. Any general education courses (course numbers without PTA at the beginning) may be taken at any college including Cecil, before being accepted into the program.

Due to Covid-19, PTA Applicant Information Sessions will be held virtually, please see the PTA page on Cecil.edu for dates and times. A pre-recorded information session is available for your review on Cecil.edu as well.

While it is not required, it is strongly recommended that you try to gain exposure to the practice of physical therapy through observation or volunteering prior to applying to the program. Due to Covid-19 and the lack of PT facilities allowing observation/ volunteer hours, an alternative worksheet/research project is available for you to complete. The Clinical Facility Experience form and the Alternative to Observational Experience Worksheet are available at Cecil.edu/pta; click on the green box "Learn more" then click on prospective student information tab.

The American Physical Therapy Association is an excellent resource for career and educational information. Visit them on-line at <http://apta.org>.

Please contact the PTA Program Office at 443-674-1557 or pta@cecil.edu with any questions or concerns you may have. The PTA faculty of Cecil College is dedicated to helping students meet their educational and professional goals. We welcome your interest in the program.

Applications for the PTA Class of 2023 are accepted starting **July 12, 2021, deadline is October 12, 2021**. PTA Courses begin in January of 2022 with graduation in May of 2023. If you wish to apply for the PTA Class of 2023 the following steps are suggested:

1. If you are **NOT CURRENTLY A CECIL COLLEGE STUDENT**:
 - a. Contact Cecil Admissions by email: admissions@cecil.edu or phone: 410-287-1006 or web: cecil.edu/admissions and use the chat feature.
 - b. Admissions will assist you with applying to Cecil College, scheduling a skills assessment, student orientation, credentialing, financial aid opportunities and familiarize you with college resources.
 - c. Once enrolled as a Cecil College student, proceed to step #2.
2. If you are **CURRENTLY A CECIL COLLEGE STUDENT**, schedule an appointment with:
 - a. Jo Ellen Brackin, Health Professions Academic Advisor, (Office: 443-674-1888, Cell: 302-723-2728 email: brac3989@cecil.edu) or Diena Gischel, Director of Advising, (443-674-1890, email: dgischel@cecil.edu).
 - b. Bring a copy of **all transcripts** reflecting prior coursework to the meeting.
3. **Transfer credit** for required courses **may be** granted according to Cecil College policy.
 - a. The student **must** have completed the Cecil College open admissions process **before** transfer credits are officially evaluated. It is the responsibility of the transferring student to:
 - i. Request an **official** transcript(s) from the transferring institution(s); have them sent electronically, by mail or hand deliver to: Cecil College, Attn: Records and Registration, One Seahawk Drive, North East, MD 21901.
 - ii. Submit the necessary materials, including copies of appropriate catalogs describing the previous coursework and/or course syllabi, if requested.
 - iii. Pursue the status of the evaluation process.
 - b. All transcripts must be submitted to the Records and Registration Office by **September 13, 2021** for review and evaluation. Please note:
 - i. Transfer process takes four weeks.
 - ii. Transcripts received **after** September 13, 2021, are **not** guaranteed to be considered in the upcoming application period.
 - iii. **Before** any course can be included in your PTA application, it must first appear on your Cecil College transcript.
4. **All** students applying for acceptance into the Cecil College PTA program are required to take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS test).
 - a. **Deadline: October 11, 2021 = Administered remotely by ATI testing** (atitesting.com)
 - b. Minimum: Total Score (proficient or higher) - 59%; Reading Score- 59%; Science Score - 59%
 - c. Reading, Mathematics, Science, and English comprise the TEAS computerized, timed test.
 - d. The TEAS may be taken twice within the same year. Results are super scored: the highest score for each area of each test will be taken into consideration during the application review process.
 - e. A copy of the TEAS results must be uploaded on the "Check List" page of the secure online PTA Admissions Application.
 - f. TEAS must have been taken during the calendar year 2020 or 2021.
 - g. Additional information regarding the TEAS may be found at www.atitesting.com.
5. **Complete** the secure online PTA Admissions Application for the Class of 2023.
 - a. Located at: <https://www.cecil.edu/pta>
 - b. Click on the green box: "Learn more about our PTA" scroll down to PTA Admissions Application
 - c. Click on "**Adobe Sign PTA Admission Application**"
 - d. To protect student's privacy, a secure upload link has been provided. Please submit all documents through this secure link on the checklist page, do NOT e-mail them as attachments, as this is not a secure method.
6. Deadline: PTA Application submission is **Tuesday, October 12, 2021**.

Conditional Acceptance (what happens next):

1. After the application has been submitted, it will be reviewed and evaluated by the PTA program admission team. A decision letter will be emailed to the applicant's chawk.cecil.edu address by Friday, **November 5, 2021**.
2. Upon **conditional** acceptance into the PTA program, students will be required:
 - a. To provide proof of recent **medical physical**, signed by a doctor.
 - b. To provide **proof of immunizations** to include: MMR, Varicella (Chicken Pox), Tuberculosis (TB), Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis) and Polio signed by a doctor.
 - c. To have the influenza (**flu shot**) and **Hepatitis B** vaccines. The Hepatitis B vaccine requires 3 injections over a 6 month period, the student may want to start the process immediately. Both are required to complete clinical rotations.
 - d. To submit a **background check**.
 - e. To complete a **drug screening**, the results of which must be negative.
 - f. Above requirements must be completed by Tuesday, **December 14, 2021**. Instructions will be sent with conditional acceptance email.
 - g. **Please note:** Immunization requirements are subject to updates based on CDC recommendations and clinical requirements.
3. Students **must** have a current **BLS Healthcare Provider CPR/AED certification** from the American Heart Association. American Red Cross CPR training is NOT ACCEPTED.
 - a. Cecil College offers the BLS course: <https://www.cecil.edu/wp-content/uploads/cce-course-schedule.pdf> (See page 7)
4. Complete and submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on-line at www.studentaid.gov
 - a. Deadline for filing is **March 1** of each calendar year.
 - b. Complete the Cecil College Foundation Scholarship on-line application at <https://cecil.libguides.com/c.php?g=1015511&p=7358814> The deadline is **April 30th each year**.
 - c. Contact Cecil College's Financial Aid Office by email: finaid@ceciledu or phone: 410-287-1003 for further information.

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

Minimum Pre-Requisite Entrance Requirements		Credits
MAT 097	Introductory and Intermediate Algebra (or beyond)*	N/A
BIO 208	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BIO 218	Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1
EGL 101	College Composition	3

General Education Requirements		Credits
BIO 209	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BIO 219	Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1
MAT 127	Introduction to Statistics**	4
SPH 141	Public Speaking	3
PSY 201	Human Growth and Development	3
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3

Program 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

*Introductory and Intermediate Algebra or placement beyond MAT 097 as reflected by Cecil College's skills assessment or successful completion of an acceptable college-level math course.

**Any 4-credit General Education Mathematics will be accepted.

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>.

ESTIMATED PROGRAM REQUIREMENT EXPENSES
FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA) STUDENTS

Approximate Cost for the 2-Year PTA Program:

Tuition and fees are based on 2021-2022 rates. Individual student costs will vary depending on the number of general education courses already completed. The PTA curriculum consists of 70 credit hours over five semesters. Twenty-four of these credits are general education courses. The remaining forty-six credits are the technical and clinical PTA courses taken on the Cecil College campus, and in clinics in our tri-state area. Students are responsible for tuition, fees and all other associated expenses.

College Tuition and Fees (Academic Year 2021-2022):

Tuition:

Resident of Cecil County	\$125 per credit hour
Other Maryland Residents	\$235 per credit hour
Out-of-State Residents	\$283 per credit hour
Credit by Examination	Based on residency rates

General Fees:

Registration Fee	\$75 per semester (\$25 discount if you register early)
Student Development Fee	\$ 8 per credit hour (does not apply to Summer Session)
Course Fees	Variable
Payment Plan Fee	\$15 per semester (Fall and Spring only)
Graduation Fee	None
Transcript Request Fee	None

Please Note:

- Current tuition and fee information: <https://www.cecil.edu/paying-for-college/tuition-fees-payment-options>. All tuition and fees are subject to change without prior notice.
- Students who audit courses are charged tuition at the same rate as students taking courses for credit.
- Tuition is calculated for a Cecil County resident, based on the 2021-2022 academic year; the rate for other Maryland residents and out-of-state residents are different.
- All expenses are estimated based on current tuition, fees and supply costs and are subject to change.

PTA Two-Year Program Cost:

Following is an estimate of the cost of the PTA Program for a Cecil County resident. Please refer to <https://www.cecil.edu/paying-for-college/tuition-fees-payment-options> for out-of state rates.

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|--|------------|
| • Tuition and Institutional Fees (46 PTA & 24 General Education Credits) | \$9,418.00 |
| • PTA Course and lab fees (which cover required lab equipment) | \$1,000.00 |
| • PTA Books | \$1,500.00 |
| • PTA Uniform | \$ 80.00 |
| • PTA Travel related expenses (reliable car, fuel, tolls, etc.) | \$ Varies |
| • APTA membership | \$ 90.00 |

Course Fees:

Course fees vary per course and can be found in the College semester schedules as well as in the course schedule.

Books:

The faculty recognizes that physical therapy text books are expensive. The program faculty carefully selects books that are of high quality, relevant to current practice, and whenever possible, have use in multiple courses and in the clinical setting. Additionally, the Program Director works with the textbook publishers to package books together for discounted pricing whenever possible.

Uniform:

Specific uniform guidelines are provided to students upon acceptance. In general, students will be required to purchase the following for program participation.

- 1 PTA program name badge
- 2 PTA program shirts
- 2 pair of navy, black or khaki pants
- Appropriate shoes (closed toe, non-skid)

Travel Expenses:

Students should consider the cost of travel to both the Cecil College campus, as well as travel to their off-campus clinical education sites. Off-campus clinical assignments occur in the fall semester (for 8 weeks) and in the final spring semester (for 12 weeks). Be aware that Cecil College clinical sites currently cover a multi-state area (MD, DE, PA). The travel costs may vary greatly depending on the students' residence and their clinical affiliation assignments. Students are required to travel to and from their assigned clinical site on a daily basis, regardless of their home address.

Working While in the Program:

Please note: All PTA courses are during the day time hours. Clinical education experiences may include evening and/or weekend hours. Some students do work a limited number of part-time hours while enrolled in the program. However, due to the difficulty of the course content and the rigorous nature of the program, working full-time may affect the student's ability to successfully complete the requirements of the program.

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. Our goal is that all graduates will be competent in performing the skills listed in the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Minimum Required Skills of the PTA at Entry-Level.

To this end, the PTA program will meet our responsibility to graduate knowledgeable, competent and caring PTAs by requiring that students meet academic standards as well as the non-academic essential and technical functions required in clinical practice. Consistent performance across all of these domains is required to enter into the program, to progress through the curriculum, and to meet the requirements for graduation from the PTA program.

In order 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 include emotional, behavioral, social, professional, and cultural competence.
- Cognitive Skills include sufficient intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities to make effective judgments about patient/client management.
- Motor Skills include all necessary psychomotor clinical skills for patient care.
- Sensory Skills include perceptual and observational skills necessary for patient care.
- Communication Skills include verbal (oral) and non-verbal (written) abilities.

PTA students must demonstrate the affective, cognitive, motor, sensory and communication skills to enable them to meet program objectives and perform the job duties required by the profession. The following are essential functions required of PTA students.

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.

Affective Skills Continued:

- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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.

Motor Skills Continued:

- 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.

Communication Skills Continued:

- 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.

A deficiency in the abilities listed above can severely diminish a student's chance of success in school and in the profession. The PTA program faculty will assist a student in meeting these technical 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.

Additional information on this topic may be found at the U.S. Department of Labor: Dictionary of Occupational Titles (see <http://www.occupationalinfo.org>). The Dictionary of Occupational Titles is a publication that classifies all types of jobs by their demands and requirements. The specific link for physical therapy can be found: <https://occupationalinfo.org/onet/32308.html>.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

During the COVID pandemic, we recommend calling Financial aid in advance to ensure staff/ students are permitted on campus.

1. How do I apply for financial aid?

The first step in applying for financial aid is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.studentaid.gov. To be considered for financial aid each year, you must complete a FAFSA annually. Make sure you are aware of all important deadlines. Cecil College's school code is **008308**. If you would like to meet with a financial aid advisor, please call (410) 287-1003.

2. What is FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application that captures information about family finances in a consistent way. The information is used to determine your eligibility for federal and state financial aid. The FAFSA opens Oct. 1st each year. Applying early increases your chances of receiving a variety of aid. **YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION.** Often, students are unsuccessful due to financial strain that could have been alleviated by participating in this process.

3. How can I apply for all kinds of financial aid?

To be sure that you are considered for all types of financial aid you 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** on-line application. The deadline is April 30th each year. The website is: <https://cecil.libguides.com/>. Please complete this scholarship application when you submit your PTA application to be considered for scholarships.

Maryland residents should go to www.mhec.maryland.gov to review Maryland state financial aid programs. Some grants require you to print an application and mail it back to the state. The deadline for most Maryland grants is March 1 each year.

If you are a high school student, check out local scholarships through your high school guidance office. In addition, there are several scholarship search engines you might want to explore such as www.finaid.org or www.fastweb.com

4. What is the FAFSA Lab?

Financial aid labs are designed to provide students with assistance in completing the FAFSA, Foundation scholarship applications, and to answer any basic questions you may have about the application process. The FAFSA Lab at Cecil College is located on the North East Campus, Building A, Room 123B and is open on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to noon, and Thursdays from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

So that they may assist you with your questions and completion of the FAFSA, please be sure to come to the lab with the appropriate federal tax returns, W-2 forms, and any other additional income information you may have. Applicants who are dependents under 24 years of age require the presence of a parent or legal guardian. For more information, please contact us at (410) 287-1003.

5. Do I have to wait until I am accepted by the college before submitting the FAFSA?

No. You may complete and submit the FAFSA before you get an acceptance letter from Admissions. However, we cannot process aid for you until you have been accepted to the college in an approved program of study. Make sure you put the school code on the form so the school receives the information. The school will contact you if you have not applied for admissions at the time the college receives the results.

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

Yes. The Financial Aid Office is open to walk-in traffic on a first come, first served basis between the hours of 8:00 am and 7:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 am through 5:00 pm on Fridays. Appointments are also available.