

**University of Cincinnati Clermont College  
Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What should I know about the PTA program?**

The PTA program is a two year curriculum and students graduate with an Associate's degree. The students participate in a two-staged curriculum, consisting of general education courses, a first year introductory experience, and introductory PTA courses. College Biology and Chemistry may be required for some students lacking this background, as a pre-requisite for Anatomy and Physiology offered at Clermont College. When the first three Quarters are completed, students may apply to complete the final four quarters of the Technical core portion of the PTA curriculum.

The program is an accredited program, and Clermont College has been successful in obtaining legal sponsorship transfer of the program to our campus from the Clifton campus, as of the fall 2009 accrediting agency meeting.

**When are the classes scheduled?**

The PTA courses are offered during the day. Some general education courses may be available in the evening or online. During the second stage of the program during the core, Clinical experiences are scheduled during the week at approved clinical sites in the Greater Cincinnati area. Clinical experiences are scheduled according to the type of physical therapy experience needed to meet required curricular needs.

**When does the PTA program begin?**

Students have begun taking classes in the Fall of 2009. Interested students should complete the online application selecting the PTA major at Clermont College and submitting any transcripts to be considered. Students should also schedule and complete the placement testing required for all Clermont College students.

**What is the admission process to the Technical core?**

Following completion of the first three Quarters of the curriculum, students may complete an application. Considerations for admission are on a competitive ranking point scale, and will include GPA, letters of recommendation from local health professionals, PT's and faculty, and responses to online essay questions. The deadline for submission will be **April 2, 2010**.

**What are the essential functions of the PTA?**

The work of a PTA requires frequent walking, bending, and lifting (10 pounds frequently and 40-50 pounds occasionally). Functional hearing, and visual acuity and color recognition. For a complete listing, please request a copy from the program coordinator at [coppolsm@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:coppolsm@ucmail.uc.edu).

### **Where and how may I complete the job shadowing requirement?**

Documentation of ***thirty-five (35) face to face total hours is required in three different settings, with at least 8 hours\* completed in any one setting, plus 3-5 hours with the virtual job shadowing requirement.*** HIPAA training and clearance will be required at most facilities to observe patient treatment activities. Joining as a volunteer at most hospitals will enable you to gain access to training and clearance for confidential patient information. TB testing and updated immunizations may be required. Professional attire and grooming are expected.

**Clinical settings** may include: Home Health, Occupational Medicine, Acute medical-surgical, federal VA facilities, School based cooperatives, Skilled nursing centers, inpatient Rehabilitation units or CARF facilities, outpatient (ambulatory care), neurorehabilitation or Orthopedics/sports medicine sites, private practice, and transitional care units. Referrals to appropriate sites are available to students from the program office at [coppolsm@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:coppolsm@ucmail.uc.edu).

***\*May be subject to change-due to the flu epidemic, inpatient hours have been cut significantly and partially replaced with online virtual tours of facilities with attached content questions. Currently the Greater Cincinnati Health Council has temporarily closed its job shadowing training program until an "all clear" is received from health officials.***

### **How much will the program cost to complete?**

Estimated total costs (excluding room and board) are approximately \$14,500. This includes \$750 – 800 for clinical travel and other potential clinical expenses. Criminal background checks and drug screenings may be required by some clinical sites and are additional student costs. The State of Ohio and Kentucky require criminal background checks for initial licensure as a Physical Therapist Assistant. CPR, First Aid, and a medical exam with complete blood count, immunizations, Tetanus booster, MMR, DPT, Chicken Pox, Two-step TB test, and a Hepatitis B vaccination (or declination form) are required and are included. Major medical, needlestick, and liability insurance are required for all students. If the student cannot show proof of major medical, coverage will be available through the UC system at the student's cost.

### **How much do PTA's earn? How is the job market?**

PTA's may earn from \$32-34,000 starting salary, with a State of Ohio average of \$45,000, depending upon experience, setting, and training. The job market is well above average demand for future projections in Ohio and nationwide. Latest job vacancy ratings by major Cincinnati metropolitan medical centers are in the 12-13% range.

### **Who should I contact for more information?**

Be sure and read the website material [www.ucclermont.edu](http://www.ucclermont.edu) regarding program details or [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org), (OPTA) [http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OPTA/pt/sp/Home Page](http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OPTA/pt/sp/Home_Page), regarding physical therapy career information. If you have other general questions about the profession or would like to receive advising, please call **Lois Williams at 513-732-5339**. You can email general advising questions to Terry Brom-Burns at [brombutl@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:brombutl@ucmail.uc.edu) or physical therapy training or career questions to Sam Coppoletti at [coppolsm@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:coppolsm@ucmail.uc.edu) or Jean Shannon at [jean.shannon@uc.edu](mailto:jean.shannon@uc.edu).

**Revised: 12/04/09**