

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT: AAS

Associate in Applied Science | 68 credit hours minimum

Area of Interest: Health Professions

Program Website (<https://stlcc.edu/programs-academics/pathways/health-professions/physical-therapist-assistant/>)

Academic Advising (<https://stlcc.edu/admissions/advising/>)

Program Description: Forest Park

The Associate in Applied Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) prepares graduates to work as a team to assist the physical therapists (PTs) to manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional abilities. They provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of the PT to restore and promote optimal physical function, wellness, and fitness.

The PTA assists the PT in the care of individuals of all ages to prevent the onset and progression of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities that may result from diseases, disorders, or injuries.

Students in the PTA program take general education courses, related science courses, and introductory PTA courses in the first year. During the second year of the program, students enroll in physical therapy didactic courses and clinical courses.

Graduates are prepared to perform components of interventions and data collection and assess the patient's/client's safety and response to the interventions provided under the direction and supervision of the PT in an ethical, legal, safe, and effective manner. As a PT/PTA team, graduates are prepared to educate and communicate with patients, caregivers, and other healthcare providers with recognition of individual, cultural, and economic differences.

Persons interested in this program should be service oriented and comfortable working with diverse people of all age groups in close one-to-one contact. They should enjoy physical activity and be patient and empathetic when instructing others. In addition, they should be able to meet the academic demands of a program that requires a commitment of time, energy, and motivation to learn.

Admission to the program is contingent on meeting established minimum criteria available through the academic advising office and online at the program webpage. Students are also required to complete a health history, immunization record, physical exam, drug test, and criminal background check.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Graduates of the program will be able to sit for the national licensure examination administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Licensure is required in Missouri and most other states.

Location. This program is offered in its entirety at Forest Park.

Cost of Attendance. For more information on cost of attendance visit MoSCORES (<https://scorecard.mo.gov/Search/>).

Program Career and Salary Information. Pursuant to Missouri HB 1606 (2018), information regarding the number of credit hours, program length, employment rate, wage data, and graduates employed in careers related to their program of study at St. Louis Community College can

be found at the following URL: [https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/](https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/(https://www.google.com/url/?q=https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/&sa=D&ust=155536894857000&usg=AFQjCNG1xf3E_i2lO96zEytILO-s5xaJCQ)) (https://www.google.com/url/?q=https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/&sa=D&ust=155536894857000&usg=AFQjCNG1xf3E_i2lO96zEytILO-s5xaJCQ). Search using School / Program "St. Louis Community College" and choose the degree or credential type of interest.

The following limitations to the data apply: Information provided is based on the most recent cohorts available. Typically, most recent cohorts for wage and completion data are six years prior to the current academic year. Time to complete a program of study varies depending on the number of credit hours students earn per semester.

Interested in this program? Start the enrollment process by visiting the Apply to STLCC (<https://www.stlcc.edu/admissions/apply-to-stlcc/>) page.

At the completion of the program, students are expected to:

1. demonstrate the skills necessary for a physical therapist assistant.
2. discuss the value of contemporary physical therapy through lifelong learning and service.
3. communicate with patients/clients, caregivers, and interprofessional team members.
4. integrate appropriate evidence-based resources to support clinical decision making.
5. develop a professional growth plan for career advancement and learning opportunities to improve knowledge, skills, and behaviors.

Missouri Civics Examination. Students entering college for the very first time in fall 2019 and who intend to complete an associate's degree must successfully complete a civics examination. Information on who is eligible for a waiver can be found on the STLCC website (<https://stlcc.edu/programs-academics/missouri-civics-exam.aspx>).

Code	Title	Credit Hours
General Education		
ENG 101	College Composition I (MOTR ENGL 100)	3
COM 101	Oral Communication I (MOTR COMM 100)	3
PSY 200	General Psychology (MOTR PSYC 100)	3
PSY 205	Human Growth and Development (MOTR PSYC 200)	3
SOC 201	Aspects of Aging	3
XXX xxx	Social & Behavioral Sciences: Civics Requirement	3
BIO 207	Anatomy and Physiology I (MOTR LIFS 150LAP)	4
BIO 208	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
Physical Education Activity		
Select 2 credit hours		2
Program Requirements		
PTA 100	Introduction to Physical Therapist Assistant	2
PTA 222	Kinesiology Fundamentals	3
PTA 104	Clinical Experience I	2
PTA 105	Fundamentals of Patient Care for the PTA	4
PTA 208	Health Occupation Seminar	2
PTA 211	Physical Agents	3
PTA 212	Therapeutic Exercise and Rehabilitation Concepts I	7
PTA 213	Therapeutic Exercise and Rehabilitation Concepts II	2
PTA 214	Data Collection and Intervention Techniques for the PTA	4

PTA 215	Medical Conditions in Rehabilitation	3
PTA 216	Clinical Education IIA	4
PTA 217	Clinical Education IIB	4
Total Credit Hours		68

Admission and Requirements

Each year, 32 students are accepted on a first come – first serve basis. Of that 32, five positions are available for potential priority admission for individuals who already have earned a bachelor's degree.

In order to facilitate the entry of students in the available spaces, a waiting list is used. A student is placed on the waiting list once program application prerequisites have been met and a program application has been submitted. Placement on the waiting list is based solely on the date of application. Students will be sent a letter each fall while on the list asking for their intentions to pursue admission to the program. Failure to respond to this letter by the deadline will result in removal from the list. Letters will be sent in the spring to those being offered admission to the program in the fall semester. All those receiving letters must attend a mandatory program orientation scheduled in late April/early May.

The PTA program is a selective admission, college-level program. Students must have successfully completed specific requirements prior to application, including:

- high school or college cumulative grade point average of 2.5
- minimum placement test scores or successful completion of specific courses
- successful completion of "Anatomy and Physiology I" or BIO 207 within the last five years

The Associate in Applied Science degree for Physical Therapist Assistant is not equivalent to the first two years of a doctoral degree in Physical Therapy.

Credits that transfer: STLCC's Physical Therapist Assistant program has established an articulation agreement with Maryville University for the benefit of students who wish to continue their education and earn a Bachelor of Arts in Practice Management, or a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership.

Retention Policy

Students must earn a "C" (74%) or above in all PTA and biology courses and maintain an overall G.P.A. of at least 2.0 (C).

Students receiving a "D" or below 74% in PTA or biology courses must repeat these courses. **Only one repeat is allowed.** The student may not enroll in a course more than two times without an appeal to the Selection and Retention committee. If repeating these courses puts a student out of the program sequence, the student will be able to continue at a later date only **if space is available.**

No PTA course may be repeated more than once, or enrolled in more than twice without review by the retention committee.

Students may only repeat/re-enroll in PTA courses on a space available basis.

PTA Program Admission Requirements (<https://stlcc.edu/docs/programs/health-services/ptaprogramrequirementsjune2023.pdf>)

Full-Time Academic Plan

Missouri Civics Examination. Students entering college for the very first time in fall 2019 and who intend to complete an associate's degree must successfully complete a civics examination. Information on who is eligible for a waiver can be found on the STLCC website (<https://stlcc.edu/programs-academics/missouri-civics-exam.aspx>).

PLEASE NOTE: If you originally enrolled at STLCC prior to Spring 2024, you may need to view an archived catalog (<https://www.stlcc.edu/programs-academics/course-catalog/>) for your correct program requirements. Please speak with an advisor or the program coordinator for more information.

Code	Title	Hours	Prerequisites	Milestones/Notes
First Year				
Fall				
BIO 207	Anatomy and Physiology I (MOTR LIFS 150LAP)	4	BIO 111 or BIO 140 or CHM 101 with a minimum grade of "C", or college-level course equivalent, and Reading Proficiency	
COM 101	Oral Communication I (MOTR COMM 100)	3	Concurrent enrollment in ENG 070 or Reading Proficiency	
PSY 200	General Psychology (MOTR PSYC 100)	3	Reading Proficiency or concurrent enrollment in RDG 079	
ENG 101	College Composition I (MOTR ENGL 100)	3	Placement score or ENG 030 or ENG 070 with a grade of "C" or better or recommendation of department and Reading Proficiency or concurrent enrollment in RDG 079	
PTA 100	Introduction to Physical Therapist Assistant	2	Reading Proficiency	
Health and Wellness Elective		1		
Credit Hours		16		

Spring				
BIO 208	Anatomy and Physiology II	4	BIO 207 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
PTA 222	Kinesiology Fundamentals	3	BIO 207 with a grade of "C" or better and Reading Proficiency	
SOC 201	Aspects of Aging	3	SOC 101, PSY 200, or HMS 100 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
PTA 214	Data Collection and Intervention Techniques for the PTA	4	PTA 222 with a grade of "C" or better or concurrent enrollment in PTA 222 and Reading Proficiency	
PSY 205	Human Growth and Development (MOTR PSYC 200)	3	PSY 200 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
Health and Wellness Elective		1		
	Credit Hours	18		
Summer				
PTA 105	Fundamentals of Patient Care for the PTA	4	PTA 214 with a grade of "C" or better and Reading Proficiency	
PTA 215	Medical Conditions in Rehabilitation	3	BIO 208 with a grade of "C" or better and Reading Proficiency	
Social & Behavioral Sciences: Civics Requirement		3		
	Credit Hours	10		
Second Year				
Fall				
PTA 211	Physical Agents	3	PTA 105 with a grade of "C" or better and Reading Proficiency	
PTA 212	Therapeutic Exercise and Rehabilitation Concepts I	7	PTA 105 with a grade of "C" or better and Reading Proficiency	
PTA 104	Clinical Experience I	2	PTA 105 with a grade of "C" or better and Reading Proficiency	
	Credit Hours	12		
Spring				
PTA 213	Therapeutic Exercise and Rehabilitation Concepts II	2	PTA 212 with a grade of "C" or better and Reading Proficiency	Apply for graduation
PTA 208	Health Occupation Seminar	2	PTA 212 with a grade of "C" or better and Reading Proficiency	
PTA 216	Clinical Education IIA	4	PTA 104 with a grade of "S" and Reading Proficiency	
PTA 217	Clinical Education IIB	4	PTA 104 with a score of "S" and Reading Proficiency	
	Credit Hours	12		
	Total Credit Hours	68		

*Click on the hyperlinked course number to view additional information about the course.

**Students completing a course that has been assigned a MOTR number may transfer that course to any public institution in Missouri. Those who complete CORE 42 requirements will have that verification on their transcript.

*** It is your responsibility to verify that the courses listed above will transfer to the four-year institution of your choice. Maximize your transfer credits/classes by meeting with an academic advisor.