

**Madisonville Community College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Pre-Admission Conference**

Welcome to the Madisonville Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program Pre-Admission Conference.

Let me introduce you to the faculty and staff of the Physical Therapy Assistant Program. My name is Angie Moser. I'm a Physical Therapist and also the Program Coordinator of the Physical Therapy Assistant Program. I'm also a full time faculty member and teach several of the courses in the program. If you need to get a hold of me, contact me at the email address or the phone number that's listed here.

This is Stephanie Taylor. She's also a full time faculty member in the PTA program. She serves as the Academic Coordinator for Clinical Education and in this role she's responsible for placing students in clinical rotations, following up with them there, establishing our clinical sites, and has a lot of various responsibilities. She is a graduate of the PTA program at MCC. If you need to contact her, you can catch her at the email address or phone number that's listed here.

This is Marla Gerwe. She is the Division Assistant for the Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Marla is very helpful for all of our students in the application process. She'll be accepting all of your application materials, processing them, going through them, making sure you have all of your documents together and everything's ready to go. So, if you have any questions at all, please feel free to give Marla a call. She can help you out quite a bit. So, here is her phone number and email address. So feel free to contact her.

Anytime you need to contact the PTA Program, please utilize the address that's listed here. So if you mail in your application packet, you need to mail it to this address. All of this information is included in your PTA Program application packet materials. Our office hours here are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or, of course, by appointment as needed.

Now we're going to be going through the application process itself. You have a program guide part of your application documents there. We'll be going through the guide and through the individual application documents to make sure that everyone knows how to fill out all these forms appropriately so you might want to have those out in front of you as we go through them here in the slideshow.

The information that's presented to you today in this Pre-Admission conference is specific to admission to the PTA program and no other program on the MCC campus. It is the student's responsibility to obtain current information regarding application and admission process here at MCC and you can find this information not only on our PTA Program website, you can pick it up at our office, or you can get that information through an Annual PTA Program PreAdmission Conference. So it's your responsibility to obtain

the most up-to-date information that is available and we do change things periodically, but you can get the most current information through all of these sources.

Madisonville Community College PTA Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. This is important to you as a student because you can only sit for your National Board exams if you have graduated from an accredited program. Here is CAPTE's accreditation information if you need to contact CAPTE.

We'll now go over the prerequisites for admission to the PTA program. First of all, there are academic prerequisites that every student must fulfill. That means you must be at least enrolled in the following classes at the time you apply for admission into the program.

These courses include English 101, Anatomy I, Anatomy II either General Psychology or Introduction to Psychology, and either College Algebra or Applied Math. So you can be enrolled in Anatomy II while you apply for the program in the fall.

The following courses have to be completed prior to the fall semester of the PTA program. The PTA program is three semesters in length. Students who are selected for admission begin in the spring, but all of the General Education requirements for your Associate of Applied Science Degree must be completed prior to the second semester or the fall semester of the PTA program.

These courses include English 102, a demonstrated Computer Literacy, which can be done by taking a computer course or by fulfilling the computer literacy requirement per the college and the KCTCS catalog. You must have also completed Developmental Psychology and a Heritage/Humanities/Foreign Language Course. There are several courses that qualify for this category for your Associates for Applied Science Degree. Some examples are listed here, but you need to refer to your advisor and or the KCTCS catalog for a full listing of courses that fulfill these categories. Students must also take an Oral Communications course like Basic Public Speaking or Introduction to Interpersonal Communications and fulfill that category as well. Medical Terminology and Physics are preferred for our students, but not required. So we do prefer students that have taken Medical Terminology and/or a Physics course, but you do not have to have these courses in order to be a qualified applicant. We'll talk about this a little bit more later when we talk about our point system for admission.

Technical Standards

In addition to academic prerequisites, there are certain technical standards for PTA students. Students enrolled in the PTA program have to have sufficient visual acuity, such as observation that's necessary for patient care, reading equipment gauges and settings, and that type of thing. You have to have sufficient auditory perception to receive verbal communication and to execute patient care through the use of monitoring devices. You must also have sufficient strength and gross and fine motor coordination to

respond promptly and to implement patient care skills such as the manipulation of equipment, and positioning and lifting patients.

Furthermore PTA students must have sufficient communication skills. Both speech, reading and writing in order to interact with individuals and to communicate their needs promptly and effectively as may be necessary in the patient's interest. And lastly, PTA students must also have sufficient intellectual and emotional functions to implement the plan of care.

To be a Physical Therapist Assistant, students are required to do a lot of problem solving, to be able to interact with the public, with family members, with other health care providers, and to be able to make judgments and decisions in a minutes notice. So it's important that you do have those intellectual and emotional functions.

If you have a documented disability and need any type of accommodation, you need to register with the Disability Resource Coordinator. At MCC that is Valerie Wolfe. Her contact information is listed here which is room 112 in the Learning Resource Center on the North Campus at 270-824-1670.

Applying for Admission

We are now going to go through the actual application process. In order to be considered a qualified applicant for admission to the PTA program, you have to complete and submit a PTA application program packet.

It's also the responsibility of the applicant to make sure that all of the items in the information packet are on file, in the PTA office no later than the application deadline. That deadline is October 1st, every year. For packets that are mailed, they must be postmarked by October 1st or you can hand deliver them by 4:00 pm on that day. If October 1st happens to fall on the weekend and you hand deliver it, it must be received by the previous Friday in the PTA program office. Once you complete the submission of your application packet, each applicant will receive a post card from the PTA program office that either confirms, oh I'm sorry, that confirms that we have received your packet and it will also tell you if it is complete or incomplete. It is your responsibility to follow up on any material that is listed on that card. If you do not receive a postcard, it is your responsibility as an applicant to see that the application packet was received and whether or not your application materials are complete.

Application Documents

So let's go through the application documents one by one. First, you will need to submit an application to Madisonville Community College, if you are not enrolled during the Fall Semester that you have applied. This can be either neatly printed, or typed. So if you are taking classes in the fall of which the October 1st deadline occurs, you do not have to

fill out a Madisonville Community College application. Um, other students do have to fill that out and include it in the packet.

Transcripts

You must also include official transcripts of previously attended colleges other than Madisonville Community College. Those transcripts need to be placed in a sealed envelope by the issuing institution and they can actually be sent directly to the student and you can put it unopened in your application packet or you can have the institution mail them directly to the PTA program. Make sure you have them mail them to the PTA program office. If you are admitted to the PTA program, since that is during the fall semester, the admissions cycle. If you are taking classes during that fall semester, transcripts of that fall semester must then be received by January 3rd. So this deadline is only in regard to students that are enrolled in classes in the fall that they apply for admission. And they are selected for admission. We need to make sure those students complete those classes with a grade of C or better. Therefore, you need to submit those fall semester transcripts to the PTA program office no later than January 3rd.

Transfer Students

If you're transferring courses from other institutions outside the Kentucky Community and Technical College systems, then we wanted to let you know that your overall grade point average will include accumulative GPA from other institutions. So we will look at and calculate your accumulative GPA of all the schools that you've attended. So it will take the total number of credits attempted and the total number of points that you've gained etc and divide it by the total number of credits. So a traditional method for calculating grade point average is what we will use but we will include grades from all institutions.

Academic Bankruptcy

We do want to mention here because there is a policy at the KCTCS known as Academic Bankruptcy. The purpose of that academic bankruptcy policy is, um, to give students who have re-admitted to a KCTCS school after being out of the KCTCS college for a period of 2 or more years. Then once they complete at least 12 credit hours in non developmental and remedial courses and they maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or better, then they can apply for academic bankruptcy. At that point, um, if approved, the registrar will calculate the grade point average after bankruptcy begins with the semester of re-admission. These students continue to receive credit for any of the courses that they took in the past, it's just that their grade point average kind of starts all over again. You can only use this once. Students can only apply for academic bankruptcy once. So the purpose is to just let all students that perhaps may have been in the KCTCS system, maybe taken courses for a semester or two, maybe they did poorly, they weren't focused on college, so they dropped out. If they dropped out for a period of two or more years, then re-started school and did much better, and maintained a 2.0 or better, those students

could perhaps apply for academic bankruptcy and they could re-start their grade point average calculation all over again. So maybe those D's and things like that could drop off and are not considered in their grade point average. So this is just for your information only, it's a student's responsibility to apply for academic bankruptcy if they so desire.

ACT/SAT Scores

In your application packet we will also need to have a copy of your ACT scores. If you have not taken the ACT but did take the SAT, we will use the ACT equivalent so you don't have to retake. We will accept copies, for example, off of PeopleSoft where your grades are listed here in the KCTCS system. If you're from outside the KCTCS system, you may have to contact ACT and find out how you can get a hold of your scores and have them mailed to us or have them mailed to you and include a copy in your application packet. Sometimes you can find this information on your high school transcript, so that could be possible, but it is your responsibility to get copies of those ACT scores. If you do not include results of your ACT, the application will not be considered complete. So, you will not be considered a qualified applicant without ACT scores. This is important because some students wait until August or September or something like that to take the ACT and it's important that you get the results of the test and get those scores and get them submitted before the deadline, before the application deadline. I have to have that ACT score in order to consider you a qualified applicant.

PTA Program Application

Also included in your PTA Program Application Packet should be a PTA Program Application. Just either print or type this up. We request a wallet sized photograph be attached to this, but it is not required. It just kind of helps us put a name and a face together, but it is certainly not a requirement. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. So if you have a snapshot that you'd like to include with your application that would be nice, but otherwise it's not a problem.

Clinical Experience Form

The next form you'll find in your packet there is a Clinical Experience Form. Every applicant must complete a minimum of 8 hours of observation or work experience under the supervision of a Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapist Assistant. Four of those 8 hours must be in a hospital Physical Therapy department. Now, we give preference for students that have 16 or more hours acquired. Now this form, this Clinical Experience Form, is where you will demonstrate that you have completed the number of volunteer or work experience that is required for admission into the program. This form has to be signed by a Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapist Assistant not by Department Secretary, not an Athletic Trainer, or someone else. So it has to be signed by that PT or PTA. Once they sign the form, they are to put the form in a sealed envelope and then sign their name across the seal and then you're to put that unopened envelope in the

application packet. Now, if you need to have the PT or PTA mail it in, that's fine, you're just leaving it up to them to make sure they've kind of followed the rules here. So we can receive them in the mail, that's not a problem, just make sure they sign it, seal the envelope, and sign across the seal.

Midterm Grade Evaluation

If you are enrolled in any of the following classes in the fall semester that you apply, then you have to fill out a Midterm Grade Evaluation form. So if you're in Anatomy I, Anatomy II, you're General Psychology, your Intro to Psychology course. If you're in your math course or if you're in English 101, you're in Physics or Medical Terminology during the fall semester that you apply for admission into the program, we will need to get your midterm grade in those courses.

Midterm Grade Form

You need to take this form, this midterm grade form, to your instructor, each instructor that you have for any of those courses. So if you're in Physics and Medical Terminology, you will need two forms, one for each class. You need to give the forms to the instructor. You may give them a pre-addressed stamped envelope if you need to; it always helps to help your instructor out so that they will complete it promptly. Have them complete the form; they need to put it in an envelope, seal that envelope, and once again, sign across the seal. You can have the instructor mail it in if needed, or you can have them hand it to you and you can bring it to the PTA office. Now you'll notice the midterm of the fall semester typically falls after the October 1st deadline, so you will have to turn in your application packet without your fall midterm grades if you're in any of those courses and we understand that. So go ahead, submit your PTA program packet on time and then we need to receive those midterm grades separately, no later than October 21st.

Midterm Grade Evaluation

It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that the midterm grades are received in the PTA office by the due date and in accordance with the application guidelines. So if we do not get your midterm grades in time, we will not consider you for enrollment or completion of any of those courses. So I cannot give you credit or extra points for taking Medical Terminology if I do not have a midterm grade form. Same goes for Physics or any course. So you may not be considered a qualified applicant if I do not receive those midterm grades. So it's very important that you check and make sure the program has received all of those midterm grade forms.

Academic Plan

Another form inside your packet is called an Academic Plan. On this form, you're going to indicate either when you have taken all of the General Education coursework required

or when you plan to complete it. So when you complete this form, it should demonstrate that all the prerequisites for admission are done by January and that you should have a plan on there when you will complete all the Gen. Ed. Courses required for the program prior to the fall semester.

Letter of Application

Also in your packet, we ask that you complete a Letter of Application. This is a personal letter written by you that is typed or computer generated. It is no more than two pages long at 12 font size and double spaced. In this letter, this is your chance to brag. You want to talk about yourself, maybe why you chose this career, what you plan to do, what experience you might have had, anything that you feel will be helpful to the committee in choosing you as one of the best applicants for us to admit. Remember, we can only take 16 applicants, so you are competing against others that are applying at the same time you are. If we have more than 16, we'll certainly have to look closely at all the applicants and we'll talk about the selection process in more detail a little bit later. So this is your opportunity to shine and to explain to the Admissions Committee why they should choose you.

Application Checklist

Also in your packet you'll find an Application Checklist. You need to go down this checklist. This makes sure you have gone through that and made sure that everything is in that packet that you absolutely need. So make sure once you've filled out your checklist, go ahead and put it on top and include it in your packet.

Application Survey

You'll also find an Application Survey. This survey is helpful to us to find out information about where applicants perhaps are from, how they found out about the program. We use it for recruitment purposes and marketing purposes and that type of thing. So we appreciate your filling out this survey for us and including it in your application packet.

Face-to-Face Meeting with PTA Faculty

In addition to filling out all these documents, you'll find that all applicants must meet with their MCC PTA Faculty Advisor or schedule a face-to-face meeting with a PTA Program faculty member prior to the application deadline. This is a new requirement as of April 1, 2007. So if you are attending MCC and have a PTA Program faculty member assigned as your advisor and you have already met with them in the past, then you have fulfilled this requirement, you just need to make sure the faculty member is willing to sign off on that portion of the form. If you do not attend MCC, you obviously will not have a faculty member as your advisor so you need to contact the PTA Program and set

up an appointment with either one of the PTA Program faculty at any time, at both of our convenience. Just set that up anytime prior to the application deadline of October 1st and meet with any of the faculty members. We'll answer any questions, make sure that everything is complete, and that type of thing. You have to verify that meeting on one of the very last forms in your application packet. There's a space that states where you have to sign that you have indeed met with one of the PTA program faculty. Once again, if you've met with your advisor already, you have met this criteria. You can call the PTA program office at 824-1805 to schedule an appointment to meet with a faculty member.

Admission to the PTA Program

Okay, let's talk about the admissions process a little bit. Remember, it is a selective admissions program which means I can't take everyone, so I'm going to select just a maximum of 16 students. If you receive a letter, if you've filled out an application to MCC and receive a letter that says you have been admitted into the college, that does not imply admission into the PTA Program. If you meet the minimum requirements for admission, that does not imply admission into the program.

Minimum Standards for Admission

So students and applicants are carefully selected and they all must meet the following minimum standards. They have to complete all the prerequisite courses by the end of the semester of application. You have to have a minimum amount of 8 hours of observation, volunteer work or experience in a physical therapy setting. Four of those hours have to be in a hospital PT department. They have to submit a valid ACT or SAT score.

Admission to the Program

And then once we get all those applicants and have determined what our qualified applicant pool is and that's been established, then each student earns points based on certain levels of performance, known as our Point System for Admission. In general, students with the highest total points on the Point System will be admitted to the program.

Admission to the Program

Now, enrollment to the program may be limited in certain years if we have insufficient faculty, financial resources, or campus or clinical facilities happen to be limited during that year. We do not plan for any limitations in enrollment at this point in time, so we expect to admit 16 students. The actual selection of the students is made by the College President or the President's designee after considering the recommendation of what we call the PTA Admissions Committee. So it is a committee that actually selects the sixteen students and makes that recommendation to the college president.

Recommendation for Admission

So what does the Admissions Committee base their recommendation upon?

Recommendation for Admission

Well, we will look at the completion of all prerequisite coursework with a grade of “C” or higher in each course. You have to have a “C” or higher in all your courses. You have to comply with all the application guidelines. We’ll look at the total number of points accumulated on the Point System and we’ll look at any other considerations brought before the committee, such as information regarding the applicants’ likelihood of success in the program or any information regarding that applicants’ ability to make a positive contribution to the profession or abide by the legal and ethical guidelines of the physical therapy profession.

Preference for Admission

So, this is what the committee is going to look at. We will give preference to applicants with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, an overall Key GPA of 3.0 or higher and that is defined as a Key GPA, we look at Anatomy I and Anatomy II separately and we take just those two courses and see how you did. Those are very predictive of your performance in the PTA program, so we look at those courses separately and we prefer students with a 3.0 grade point average or higher in those courses. We also prefer applicants with an ACT or an ACT equivalent composite score of 19 or higher. We prefer students from Kentucky, we prefer students with a minimum of 16 hours of volunteer or work experience in a PT setting, and we prefer students who have taken a Physics and/or a Medical Terminology course and received a grade of “C” or higher.

Point System for Admission

Now, in regard to preferred applicants, we call them, we do prefer applicants with all those qualities, but it doesn’t mean you cannot be admitted without taking Physics or without taking Medical Terminology or without a 3.0. As long as you meet the minimum requirements you may be admitted, it’s just that you will have fewer points and you will not be considered what we call a preferred applicant. So, although we may prefer students with a 3.0 or higher, it is possible to be admitted with a minimum of a 2.0. Let’s look at our Points System a little bit closer and maybe you’ll understand it a little bit better.

ACT Composite Score

What you’ll do, and you’ll have a copy of this in your application packet, is we’ll take a look at your ACT Composite Score. If you have a 17 or lower, then you will not get any points in the ACT category. If you have an 18 on the ACT, you’ll receive two points. If you have between a 19 and a 21 on your ACT Composite score, you’ll get five points. If you get between 22 and 24 on your ACT Composite, you’ll get seven points. And if you’re a student with a 25 or higher on your ACT, you’ll get ten points in this category. What you should do is find your ACT score. If you made a 20 on the ACT you would

receive 5 points. So jot that number down and we'll move to the next category and in the end you can add up your points and see where they fall.

Overall GPA

Now we'll look at your overall grade point average. If you have an overall GPA of 2.0 you'll receive two points. If it's between a 2.1 and a 2.99 you will receive five points and the rest of the categories are outlined here. Students with a 4.0, for example, will get 30 points in this category. Once again, find your overall grade point average and the equivalent points awarded for that GPA. Make a note of it and we can add your points up later and see where they fall.

Key GPA

Now let's look at Anatomy I and Anatomy II alone. If you got Cs in both courses, your Key GPA will then be a 2.0. In this case, you would receive two points. Students with a "B" and a "C" would have a 2.5 GPA, for example. Those students would receive five points. Students with two Bs would receive 20 points for a 3.0. Students with an "A" and a "B", or a 3.5, would receive 25 points and students with A's in both courses, or a 4.0 Key GPA, will receive 35 points in this category.

Physics

Students that do not take Physics just do not get any points in this category. If you take Physics then you will receive 2 points if you get a "C", 3 points for a "B" and 6 points for an "A."

Medical Terminology

Similar situations are true with medical terminology course. Students that don't take medical terminology just will not receive points in this category. Students that complete medical term receive more points for better performance as outlined here.

Volunteer Hours

In regard to volunteer hours or work experience, remember a minimum of 8 hours are required. If you receive the minimum of 8 to a total of 15 hours, you will get 2 points in this category. Students that complete at least 16 or more hours will get 7 points. Remember, these documents must be documented on your clinical observation form.

Residency

If you're from Kentucky then these students receive 8 points. If you do not live in Kentucky then you will not receive any points in this category.

Point System for Admission

If you total all of this up, in order to be a qualified applicant you must have at least 6 total points on our point system for admission. The scale is a 0 to 100 scale. Preferred applicants will actually fall between 58 and 100 points.

Notification of Admission

During the Admissions process the committee will discuss the applicants, the applicants will be ranked according to points and then the committee will discuss each applicant and review their file. The committee then will select 16 students. All applicants will be notified by mail regarding their selection status as soon as possible. Typically the admissions committee meets at the very end of October or first week of November. And the um decision of the committee is usually made that day and the recommendation is immediately sent to the President. Um, so you should anticipate notification somewhere in the first or second week of November. We will post on our website, the PTA program web page, specifically, the day that the notifications have been mailed. So everyone should receive a letter one way or the other, whether you are accepted or not. We will not accept telephone calls or personal requests about your admission status. So don't call and say "did I get accepted?" we will not tell you over the phone. We can tell you if letters have been mailed, but we will not tell you whether you were admitted or not over the phone. The committee will choose 16 students to be admitted but they may also choose to select alternates.

Alternates

If they do select alternates, which is very commonly done, those alternates will be numerically ranked by the committee in accordance to preference for admission, for example, first alternate, second alternate, etc. Sometimes applicants that are offered a position in the PTA program decline or they don't pass a course in the Fall and they are no longer qualified for admission to the program. In that case, the alternates will be admitted in the order of preference. So the first alternate will be called and offered a position in the program until we get a total of 16 and whatever the number of students selected by the committee is. We can only fill a vacancy in enrollment okay, prior to the first day of classes okay unless otherwise authorized by the PTA program coordinator. So after classes begin in the PTA program. If someone drops out in the program after a week, typically we do not replace that student with an alternate, unless approved by the program coordinator.

Equal Opportunity

All applicants that meet the appropriate academic requirements and technical standards shall be considered equally for admission to the PTA program regardless of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, age, belief's, mental or physical disability.

Post Admission requirements

Once you are admitted to the PTA program, um you will be required to have CPR certification. If you are not CPR certified, there will be an orientation period for new PTA students that occur in December before PTA classes start in January. During this orientation period, a day of CPR training is offered. So, you can become CPR certified and we will offer it during orientation, if you are admitted.

(Clears throat)

A TB skin test is also required. Remember these are only if you are admitted. You will be required to get a TB skin test; you will be required to have documented immunity to Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Post Admission Requirements

You will also have to purchase liability insurance; you will have to purchase the appropriate uniform attire. The uniforms for the program include khaki slacks or dress slacks and a polo shirt or a blouse, that type of thing. Um, close toed shoes and lab coat. Um, you may also need to purchase um a PTA program um logo shirt um with the college name on it, that type of thing. It's not required, okay, but you may opt to purchase this. It's very common for each class of students to um choose a color polo and then we have kind of a uniform shirt but it is not required because you could wear your khaki slacks or dress slacks, a blouse and a lab coat. So, um anyway, you also have to purchase your books and supplies. You will have to complete an HIV/AIDS class that is approved by the Kentucky state board of Physical Therapy. We offer this once again, through the PTA orientation period as a study course. The cost of these items will be discussed a little bit later. You also have to demonstrate documentation or either Hepatitis B immunization, or if you decline it, you have to sign a form declining that immunization. You will have to purchase an ID badge; you'll have to show proof of personal medical insurance. So you have to have your own medical insurance, if you do not have medical insurance, you will have to sign a form; basically a waiver that says if you get ill or you are injured, personally not job related while on a clinical for example, that you will be responsible for the cost of that. All of our students, do have to join the PTA club which is \$5.00 a year and they have to become a APTA member; American Physical Therapy Association member. Applicants also have to complete a Criminal Background Check/Drug Screen. You will also need to provide, probably about 5 CD's. I've given the specifications here, at least 700 megabytes, 24X is the speed, I find that helps them to burn a little bit faster for us, um lectures are provided on CD by the students, unless new technology allows us to do it online. So you may need to purchase these CD's. Student's do need access to a personal computer, you do not have to purchase your own, but if you do not have your own computer, you will need to plan for plenty of access.

The PTA Curriculum

1st Semester

Let's look at the curriculum a little closer. The first semester of the program is a typical 15 or 16 week semester with a week off for spring break. You must enroll in all of the classes listed here. As a matter of fact, the entire program is a full time day program at this time. So you should expect to be in class Monday through Thursday basically from 8:30 to 3:30 or 4:00. We may need to have class on Friday for make-up work, for lab work, for lab testing or for maybe perhaps a field trip. If you are required to go to class on Friday, we try and give advanced notice for that. But you are expected to be there if class is in session. So, you have to enroll in all of the following 100 level PTA courses. There is an orientation to PTA practice, functional Anatomy and Kinesiology, medical/surgical conditions, and a clinical practicum. We will be talking in more detail about the clinical practicum in just a minute. If you pass all of your PTA courses with a grade of C or more, you then get the summer off, which is a good thing, you get a quick break and return to classes again in the following fall.

2nd Semester

During that semester, you will take the following three courses.

PTA 200 -Modalities and Procedures in PT.

PTA 220- Problems and Procedures in PT and

PTA 240-which is Clinical Practicum II

Students in the 2nd semester program will complete their academic class time work, following about 10 weeks. So the first 10 weeks of this semester, you will learn about heat, cold, massage, electrical stem, traction and a variety of modalities and physical therapy. You will also learn about therapeutic exercise particularly for orthopedic condition as well as other things. And you will finish all of this class work in about 10 weeks. So given about the second week of November or something like that, you're typically done with all of your class work and your finals and everything. If you pass these courses with a C or better, you proceed to your clinical practicum. This clinical is a 4 week full time clinical, where you are placed in a clinical site away from Madisonville Community College, on site, under the supervision of the PT or PTA. This is a full time, that means 8 to 4 , 8 to 5 , whatever the hours of the facility, but you have to complete at least 40 hours a week of clinical practical time under the supervision of the clinical instructor and this is for a total of 4 weeks.

3rd Semester

If you pass the fall courses in the PTA program, you will progress to your third and final semester. During this semester, you will take PTA 250 and 260 but you're only in class 5 weeks. During that time you will learn how to rehabilitate patients with strokes, spinal cord injuries, patients with neurological disorders, pediatric developmental disorders, those type things. And you also learn a lot about preparation for clinical practice and seminar. If you complete your courses with a "C" or better in each course, you then will progress to your final Clinical Practicum's. These are two five week full time clinicals. These clinicals, we strive to have one in an acute care setting, like in a hospital type setting and another in more of a rehabilitation type setting.

Other Academic Requirements

In addition to the academic prerequisites that are required for the program and for all the things that we require, it's important for students to understand that the PTA curriculum is what we call web enhanced. That means that students are required to participate in web based activities that are associated with each class. So you do need access to a personal computer. We have given you the bare, bare minimums of what you will need to access and to interact, um but students should look to the MCC website and for guidance, contact the office or the information technology department for more assistance in that area. It's also important for students to understand that when enrolled in the PTA program, there are certain responsibilities that you have as a student. You have to be prepared for class discussions. You have to participate and be involved and you must abide by the ethical standards of the institution as well as the profession. The program is looking for students that are very self directed in their learning. That means that they must be willing to actually learn how to do things rather than have to be trained. I will not demonstrate and then you mock what I do. Instead, you need to actually be able to figure out how to do things so that you know on the spot how to modify it accordingly. So you need to come with that open mind and the ability to seek knowledge independently. You need to challenge yourself and demonstrate initiative. You need to independently look for ways to expand your learning. And as always, you need to be committed to life long learning. These are qualities that Physical Therapist Assistants must have to be successful in the profession.

Clinical Practicum Experiences

Let's talk a little more about your clinical practicum experiences. The PTA program is affiliated with more than 70 healthcare facilities all over the place, so when you go on one of your clinical practicum experiences, you are assigned to work with a PT or PTA known as your clinical instructor and while you're here, you spend more than 620 clock hours in the clinical setting. And that's a very good thing, which means that you are very qualified to practice before you graduate.

PTA 170- Clinical Practicum I

The first clinical practicum course occurs during the first semester of the program. It's a total of 60 clock hours of experience and the way we do this is that ½ a day per week typically on Wednesdays. You will be in the clinic during the first semester.

Now we use Trover Foundation for our clinical sites, and they have places in Dawson Springs and Princeton and Madisonville and Hopkinsville and we place our students in each one of these locations. We will get your input in regards to which location you would like to attend, which works best for you. Half of our class goes in the morning, half in the afternoon, on those Wednesday's through out the semester. Typically we do not have a problem with students wanting to go to places that we can not assign them. Not during the first semester. But we will get your input and consider it for your placement there.

PTA 240-Clinical Practicum II

The second clinical practicum occurs during the 2nd or fall semester of the PTA program. Now this is that 4 week full time clinical. You must go 40 hours a week and in the end you will have completed a total of 160 clock hours of clinical time. Okay, so this is just like you're working a job, 40 hours a week, Monday through Friday, that kind of thing. Here we will place students in an outpatient physical therapy setting and we have clinical sites all over Kentucky, we have some in northern Tennessee, maybe Nashville, maybe Clarksville, TN, we have some in southern Indiana and Illinois, but we have them as far north as Louisville, Kentucky, Bowling Green, Kentucky, Paducah, etc, so they're all over the state.

PTA 280- Clinical Practicum III

The final clinical practicum, or Clinical Practicum III, occurs during the last semester of the program and these are two five week full time clinicals where you go 40 hours per week for a total of 400 hours of clinical experience. In here we try to place each student in an acute care rotation for one or a hospital type setting and in their other clinical, we try to put them in a place where they get training in rehabilitation of, maybe, neurological patients, spinal chord injury patients, and the more long term care like that. So, prior to graduation you will have completed a full time clinical in an outpatient and acute care in a rehab setting. The program is very proud of the experience we provide students throughout the program.

Clinical Internship Programs

So we try and put you in each one of these and we make a very big emphasis on placing our students in the quality, quality clinical sites.

Clinical Internship Experiences

There's a variety of factors that we use to determine where you will go on your clinicals. First of all, we have a limited number and a variety of clinical sites available; we'll look at what kind of patients are at each site. So you're going to give me your top three choices of where you'd like to go for your clinical rotations and when I make those placements, I'm going to consider what type of variety you have as far as your acute care, your outpatient, your rehab, what type of patients you're going to see, where these clinicals are located, there can be a lot of costs associated with perhaps traveling and there's gas costs or staying overnight in a hotel if you're placed in Lexington or Louisville, so we certainly take that into consideration. We look at your interest in going to a particular site, but we also look at the compatibility of the student with the clinical instructor at that site and we're looking for a situation where the student can actually learn the best. So perhaps there may be a student who wants to go a particular site, but the faculty, particularly the ACCE or Stephanie Taylor, may be aware there's going to be

a personality conflict or just the type of learning that occurs there may not jive, so we do take lots of things into consideration when making clinical placements.

Clinical Internship Experiences

We're not going to place you in a clinical site where you don't have the skills that you need; you haven't received training prior to placing you there, but you can expect to spend at least one clinical in an area outside the Madisonville/Hopkins County area. What that means is, in general, you need to plan to travel for at least one of your clinicals. I mean, you may be in Lexington for one of them, you may be in Paducah, or Murray, or Bowling Green, or Russellville, or Owensboro, or Henderson. There's so many places that you could be placed, so all students should expect to spend at least one clinical away from home. Students are expected to incur all the costs related to your clinicals, including housing, transportation, meals, and everything.

Clinical Internship Experiences

Students also have to have a state police background check and a drug screen prior to their internships. Now this is required even prior to your first clinical internship. When you're first admitted into the program, because it is required by Trover Foundation which accepts all our students for that first half day clinical; so you will be required to have a background check and a drug screen and we will take care of that process, setting you up, letting you know when and how to get that done once you're admitted into the program. Some places require a two step TB test, some places require that you have medical insurance or some for stating that you're responsible for your personal medical situations, but all the costs associated with all of this is the responsibility of the student.

Lab Experiences

During the PTA program we have lots of laboratory experiences where students learn from other students. During the PTA lab, students are expected to wear swimsuits or gym shorts, they're expected to perhaps expose their thorax, to palpate bony landmarks on each other, that type of thing. We must learn from each other and you can't learn about the spine, for example, without being able to view the spine, palpate the spine, etc. It's important that students understand that they will be required to be active in the laboratory environment. Students may be photographed or video taped during lab. You are expected to participate in each lab session, unless you have a medical reason, a documented medical reason, that you cannot. Students are expected to experience all the physical therapy treatments prior to going out to a clinical setting and applying those to others. So you must be an active participant in our labs.

Approximate Costs

Here we outline the approximate costs for the program. These are total costs from freshman when you first start MCC with your Gen. Ed. Courses all the way to the end. So I've outlined them for you here.

Approximate Costs

I won't read them for you one at a time. You can go through that, it's also in your application packet. I've included here the fees that are current as in the spring 2008 for licensure. Once you graduate the program you must take a national board exam and the application fee for that, as you can see here, is \$170 and to take the exam itself is \$350. So it's not a cheap endeavor, but it is required in order to practice as a PTA.

Financial Aid

If you do need financial aid or have any questions regarding financial aid, please call our office of financial aid at the North Campus at 821-2250.

Preparation for Practice

It's important to let students know

Graduation

Prior to entering the program or considering it, that when you graduate you will receive an Associate in Applied Science degree and our graduates are eligible to take the licensing exam.

KRS 327.070

However, you must be approved by the Kentucky State Board of Physical Therapy and issued a license prior to being able to practice in the state of Kentucky. This is true for every state, they have their own guidelines. What we outline here is Kentucky's statute, KRS 327.070. This is state law regulations that outline the requirements to practice as a PTA. These include successful completion of our curriculum, a passing score on your licensing exam, and authorization by the Kentucky State Board of PT.

KRS 327.070

Now the Kentucky State Board of PT can refuse to license or certify an applicant for the following reasons.

KRS 327.070

Now, I can read this list for you or you can read it over yourself, but basically it's excessive use of alcohol or drugs, substandard care, lewd or immoral conduct, conviction of a felony or misdemeanor, someone who's attempted to obtain a license by fraud, or has participated in fraud.

KRS 327.070

Someone who is guilty of incompetence or negligence, etc. So all of the outlines in the law here for failure to grant you a license are available to you. So we give these to students upfront so they are aware of what the rules are before they ever begin.

Attendance Verification

You should find an attendance verification form in your application packet and by signing this form and the spaces provided; it indicates that you have been made aware of all these things.

Attendance Verification

All of the requirements that are listed here.

Questions

Well that completes the preadmission conference for the Physical Therapy Assistant Program. I do appreciate your attention and am excited for your interest in the PTA program. I hope I have answered all of your questions successfully, but if you do have any additional questions, please feel free to give us a call, email me, or stop by the PTA program office. We're here to help and I wish you all your success.