



# MORGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Physical Therapist Assistant Program Guide

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### **Program Information**

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Morgan Community College. This program guide has been designed to provide you with information about the program and the Physical Therapy profession in general. Please contact the program director if further information is needed.

### **Description of the Profession**

As defined by the American Physical Therapy Association:

**Physical therapist assistants (PTAs)** work as part of a team to provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist. PTAs implement selected components of patient/client interventions (treatment), obtain data related to the interventions provided, and make modifications in selected interventions either to progress the patient/client as directed by the physical therapist or to ensure patient/client safety and comfort.

PTAs assist the physical therapist in the treatment of individuals of all ages, from newborns to the very oldest, who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives.

The physical therapist is responsible for the services provided by the PTA. Physical therapists (PTs) are health care professionals who examine each individual and develop a plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. In addition, PTs work with individuals to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.

PTAs provide care for people in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and nursing homes. PTAs must graduate from a CAPTE-accredited PTA program and licensure or certification is required in most states in which a PTA works. Please visit the website of the American Physical Therapy Association ([www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)) for more information for prospective students.

## **Morgan Community College PTA Program Mission Statement**

*The PTA Program will graduate skillful, knowledgeable, professional and ethical physical therapist assistants that will work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.*

This mission is in alignment with the Morgan Community College mission, vision, values and strategic commitments in terms of providing excellent education for successful entry into a career relevant to the institutional service area needs. The PTA Program is also in alignment with the institution's emphasis on the individual, learning, excellence, integrity, innovation and community.

## **Accreditation Statement**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Morgan Community 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>

If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call (970) 542-3225 or email [Jeffrey.Coon@morgancc.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Coon@morgancc.edu)

## **PTA Career Outlook**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2019-2029 Occupational Outlook:

- 2019 Median pay \$58,790 per year
- Number of PTA jobs in 2019: 98,700
- PTA Job Outlook 2019-2029: +32% (Much faster than average)
- PTA Employment change 2019-2029: +32,000

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm>

## **Morgan Community College PTA Program Curriculum**

<b><u>Prerequisites</u></b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>
BIO 201*	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
PHY 105*	Conceptual Physics	4
HPR 138*	Medical Terminology	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b><u>Fall Year One</u></b>		
PTA 110	Basic Patient Skills in PT	5
PTA 131	Professional Communication I	1
PTA 115	Principles and Practice in Physical Therapy	2
HPR 117	Anatomical Kinesiology	3
PTA 124	Rehab Principles of Medical I	2
ENG 121**	English Composition I	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

**Spring Year One**

PTA 120	Modalities in PT	5
PTA 134	Rehab Principles of Medical II	2
PTA 141	Professional Communication II	1
PTA 140	Clinical Kinesiology	5
PTA 135	Principles of Electrical Stimulation	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**Summer Year Two**

PTA 280	Clinical Internship I (4 weeks)	4
COM 125**	Interpersonal Communication (OR)	
COM 115**	Public Speaking	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

**Fall Year Two**

PTA 230	Orthopedic Assessment and Mgt. Techniques	5
PTA 240	Neurologic Assessment and Mgt. Techniques	5
PTA 205	Psychosocial Issues in Physical Therapy	2
PTA 251	Professional Communication III	1
PSY 101**	General Psychology (OR)	
PSY 235**	Human Growth and Development	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

**Spring Year Two**

PTA 281	Clinical Internship II (6 weeks)	5
PTA 282	Clinical Internship III (6 weeks)	5
PTA 278	Seminar	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

**Total Credits in Technical Phase: 57**

**Total Credits Including Gen Ed: 75**

\*Prerequisites that must be completed before the technical phase of the program.

\*\*General education coursework that students are encouraged to complete prior to admission

**Clinical Education**

The clinical coursework component of the PTA program at Morgan Community College is sequential in nature, and each experience builds on the previous affiliation. There are three clinical internships during the course of your studies as follows:

PTA 280	Internship I	4 Weeks	Summer	Year 2
PTA 281	Internship II	6 Weeks	Spring	Year 2
PTA 282	Internship III	6 Weeks	Spring	Year 2

During the course of clinical education, students are required to successfully complete three different clinical courses. Students are required to complete one clinical in an inpatient setting, one clinical in an outpatient setting, and one clinical in a setting that best meets the needs of the student and their educational goals. This requirement will supersede all other considerations, including student requests, when making clinical assignments. Students may not receive any salary or

compensation while attending internships according to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) regulations.

While attempts are made to place students in their preferred facility and/or geographic region, some clinical placements may require travel at the student's expense in order to be completed.

### **Transfer Students**

The program will consider transfer students from other PTA programs provided they are in good academic standing at that program and meet the admission requirements for new student admission, including completion of the ATI TEAS test. Students from other programs within the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) may be allowed to transfer credits for courses completed within the past year under the Common Course Numbering System.

Students transferring from programs outside of the CCCS will have their previous coursework assessed on an individual basis to determine transferability of credits. If deemed transferable, such courses are required to have been completed within the past year as well.

Prospective students that have been dismissed from another PT or PTA program, for either academic or behavioral issues, will not be considered for transfer admission to the MCC PTA program unless a period of three years has passed since their dismissal.

All transfer students, regardless of previous academic standing, may be required to prove competency through demonstration of skills and/or written examination at the discretion of the Program Director.

### **Auditing/Testing Out of Courses**

Students are not allowed to Audit or Test Out of courses in the PTA program. For information regarding auditing of general education courses, refer to the Morgan Community College Catalog.

### **Grading Policies**

The PTA program curriculum is rigorous in nature and designed to prepare students to be successful in the clinical setting and on the National Physical Therapy Exam for Physical Therapist Assistants. Policies on grading and student performance demand excellence in both the didactic and clinical aspects of the curriculum.

### **GRADING SCALE AND PROGRESSION THROUGH THE PROGRAM**

The following is the grading scale for all of the PTA Program courses:

93-100%	=	A
85-92%	=	B
77-84%	=	C
69-76%	=	D
Below 69%	=	F

- a) The student must maintain an overall exam (quizzes excluded) average of 77% or higher in all PTA courses and a minimum score of 69% on each written exam (including the final exam). Written assignments cannot and will not be factored into the exam average. If a student, upon completion of a course, does not meet the minimum expectation of the 77% exam average their overall course grade will become the exam average and the final grade for the course will be submitted as such.
- b) Failure to achieve a score of 69% on any written exam (quizzes excluded) will require the student to repeat the exam within a 7-day timeframe of receipt of a Notification of Performance from faculty. Failure to score a minimum of 69% on the repeat exam will result in a failing grade for that course and suspension from the PTA program. Achieving a score of 69% or higher on the repeat exam will allow the student to continue in that course. However, the maximum score for that exam will be 69% regardless of the score on the second attempt. Students will be allowed only one attempt per course at repeating a written exam where they score below 69%. A second exam score below 69% in a course will result in a failing grade and suspension from the program. The student may make-up a failed course the next time the course is offered, typically the next year. If the student decides not to re-take the course the next time the course is offered, the student must re-apply for admission into the PTA Program.
- c) All student remediation with regard to repeat examinations will take place under the direction of the assigned faculty for that course. As stated in each course syllabus, in any given semester once a student receives an “F” (below 69%) on any written or performance exam within the PTA curriculum, the student will be issued a Notification of Performance outlining their deficiency. Upon notification by the PTA Faculty, the student will meet with the faculty member and create an action plan with timeline for completion. The program director will be informed of the plan as their signature is required on all forms. The program director may choose to meet additionally with each student.

Additional remediation assistance may be obtained from other program faculty, health division advisor, program director, testing center coordinator, ADA coordinator, peer tutor, and/or other appropriate college staff. Re-examination will take place once a student has demonstrated competence in a supervised setting and verbalizes confidence that they have adequately prepared to retake the examination.

- d) If a student earns a final grade of “D” or lower for a PTA course, including clinical internships, the student will fail the course, will be suspended from the program, and will not be allowed to proceed in the

program with their fellow students. The student may make-up the course the next time the course is offered, typically the next year. If the student decides not to re-take the course the next time the course is offered, the student must re-apply for admission into the PTA Program.

- e) Students may only repeat one course due to failure to earn a “C” or higher once in the program. Should a student earn a grade of “D” or lower in two courses, including clinical internship courses, the student will be dismissed from the program and will be ineligible to apply for re-admission for a period of three years per program policy. If re-admitted after the three-year time period, the student will not be allowed to resume the program where they left off and must commence their studies at the beginning of the curriculum.
  
- f) For PTA internships, the student must completely satisfy all components of these courses to receive a passing grade of "C" or higher. If the student receives a “D” or “F”, they may be allowed to repeat the internship at another facility within a reasonable timeframe at the discretion of the Program Director/CEC. The student would be required to register and pay tuition for a repeated internship. However, only one PTA prefix course can be repeated, including internships. Please note that repeating a failed internship may affect a student’s ability to graduate on schedule with their class.
  
- g) In order to qualify to repeat an internship, a student must demonstrate competency in the area or areas on the CPI in which they did not achieve the minimum score or average. This will be done via skills checks and/or written examination at the discretion of the CEC. The standard skills check form from the corresponding curriculum relating the deficiency will be utilized.
  
- h) The student must maintain a **2.0 GPA** or better for all PTA course and General Education course requirements while enrolled in the PTA program.
  - a. If failure of a single course results in a GPA below 2.0, the student will be suspended from the program, and will not be allowed to proceed in the program with their fellow students. The student may make-up a failed course the next time the course is offered, typically the next year. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program and they will be ineligible to apply for re-admission for a period of three years.

- b. If failure of two or more courses results in a GPA below 2.0, the student will be dismissed from the program and they will be ineligible to apply for re-admission for a period of three years.
- i) Toward the end of the first year (second semester of technical courses), all students will complete a comprehensive written exam covering the material given in the first year of the program. Students must achieve a score of 70 % or higher to pass this comprehensive exam. If the student does not pass on the first attempt, the student is given two more attempts to receive the passing grade of 70 % or higher. These two additional attempts must be completed prior to the date grades are due to be submitted by faculty for the course. Failure to achieve a passing grade after three attempts will result in a grade of “F” for PTA 141, the student will fail the course, will be suspended from the program, and will not be allowed to proceed in the program with their fellow students. The student may make up the course within one year or within the following year the course is offered. If the student decides not to re-take the course within one year or the following year the course is offered, the student must re-apply for admission into the PTA Program.
- j) During the final semester of the technical program, students will complete a comprehensive “Exit Exam” that will cover the material given throughout the two years of the program. The program utilizes exams purchased from the Scorebuilders corporation for the purposes of the exit exam. Prior to this exam, all students will have completed a formal NPTE exam prep course as well as up to three Scorebuilders practice exams with associated assignments requiring self-assessment of performance and content area analysis.

Students must achieve a score of equal to or greater than the published national average on the exit exam to successfully pass the Seminar (PTA 278) course. If the student does not pass on the first attempt, the student is given two more chances to receive the minimum passing score on a similar but different exam. Any additional attempts must be completed within 7 days of receiving a Notification of Performance. Students will receive feedback on their performance in the form of a content area report after completion of this exam.

Failure to achieve a passing grade after three attempts will result in required further student remediation in order to demonstrate preparedness for the NPTE for PTA. The student will receive a grade of Incomplete for PTA 278 and will not be given credit for this course until meeting the

minimum requirement of a score equal to or greater than the national average on a proctored NPTE practice exam.

- k) During the final semester of the program, students that have demonstrated they are prepared to be successful on the NPTE for PTA exam may be eligible to take the exam on the April test date scheduled by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). Such preparedness will be determined by overall performance in the program as well as on the initial three Scorebuilders practice exams. Successful completion of the April NPTE will count toward the Exit Exam requirement in PTA 278.
  
- l) The PTA program will provide students with a Notification of Performance in any instance of not meeting established standards according to program policies and procedures. This may include poor written or performance exam performance, clinical performance, and/or classroom or clinical behaviors. Upon notification by the PTA Faculty, the student will meet with the faculty member and create an action plan with timeline for completion. The PD will be informed of the plan as a PD signature is required on all forms. The PD may choose to meet additionally with each student.

In the event of a PTA Faculty initiated Notification of Performance, students may also be required to meet with the Student Success Advisor. As stated above, the PTA faculty are required to meet with the student. All plans of action are written and presented to the student on the formal Notification of Performance form. Student and program director signatures are required to denote agreement with the plan of action.

Additional remediation assistance may be obtained from other program faculty, health division advisor, program director, testing center coordinator, ADA coordinator, peer tutor, and/or other appropriate college staff.

## **Essential Functions of a Physical Therapist Assistant Student**

### **Essential Physical and Mental Functions of the PTA**

The Advisory Board of the PTA program has determined the following abilities to be essential for the performance of the job duties of a PTA. These are meant to reflect the overall practice of a PTA, not the requirements of any one type of a clinical setting.



**The PTA Student must be able to demonstrate the ability to:**

1. Walk, bend, stand, and reach consistently throughout an 8-10 hour shift.
2. Lift frequently with the proper body mechanics throughout an 8-10 hour day and dead lift 35-50 pounds alone and ASSIST with the management of 150-350 pounds.
3. Complete an 8-10 hour shift including sustained activity of up to 3.5-4 hours at a time.
4. Transfer clients (patients) safely.
5. Guard and assist with ambulation (gait).
6. Assess a client from 10 feet away.
7. Administer physical agents or Modalities.
8. Communicate effectively including ability to give and understand directions and replies.
9. Prepare legible and accurate reports, charting, scheduling, correspondence, and presentations.
10. Handle diagnostic or therapeutic equipment including the ability to manipulate objects required in job functions.
11. Push wheeled equipment in the facility and community.
12. Respond to emergencies including the ability to move fast enough to ensure client safety.

**Program Costs, Tuition and Fees**

The costs for the PTA program at Morgan Community College for 2021-2022 are \$166.90 per credit for in-state tuition and fees and \$642.80 per credit for out-of-state tuition and fees. Online course tuition and fees are \$276.75 for in-state and \$414.80 for out-of-state. As a resident, if you opt out of the COF stipend, an additional \$94.00 per credit hour is applied. Additional fees may be attached to specific courses and will be reflected in the total of each semester bill.

Total costs for completing the program including fees, textbooks, immunizations, etc. will vary by student depending on total number of credits taken to complete the program. An accurate estimate may be obtained by meeting with a program advisor prior to admission.

**Student Housing**

Morgan Community College is strictly a commuter campus and does not offer a student housing option.

**Additional PTA Program Estimated Costs/Fees**

- CPR and First Aid Certification – (\$80)
- Student Name Tag (\$5.00)
- Student Liability Insurance (\$8.50/year),
- Drug Screens/Background Checks (\$140/year)
- Immunizations Required for Clinical Internships  
Hepatitis B vaccinations (\$150)  
MMR vaccinations (\$65)

- Tetanus vaccination (\$60)
- Annual PPD tests (\$20)
- Annual flu shot (\$35)
- Year One Textbooks - \$725
- Year Two Textbooks - \$475
- Annual APTA Student Membership (optional - \$100)
- PTA Licensure Prep Fee - \$200 (year 2 one-time fee)

Students are also responsible for all expenses associated with internships and must provide their own transportation to and from clinical sites. Housing arrangements are the student's responsibility. Financial aid is available through the MCC Financial Aid Office.

### **PTA Application Information**

Application packets can be obtained via the PTA Program web page at <http://www.morgancc.edu/programs/all-programs/pta/>

Applications are made available in January each year for fall enrollment. The application deadline is mid-May each year and will be specified on the application packet.

The Following is a checklist found in the application packet:

#### ***1. Application for Admission to MCC***

An application for admission to the college must be completed and applicants must be accepted for admission to MCC prior to applying to the PTA Program. An application for admission to the college can be obtained online at [www.Morgancc.edu](http://www.Morgancc.edu)

#### ***2. Application for Admission to the MCC Physical Therapist Assistant Program.***

Applicants must complete and submit, by email or US mail, an Application for Admission to the Morgan Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program and it must be received by the May 13, 2022 application deadline. This application can be obtained online at <http://www.morgancc.edu/programs/all-programs/pta/>

#### ***3. Official Transcripts Sent to MCC***

Official college transcripts are to be sent directly from each institution attended since high school to Morgan Community College Registrar Office. For coursework taken in the spring, 2022 term, unofficial grade reports will be accepted until official transcripts are available, but no later than June 1, 2022. Failure to submit transcripts from all institutions attended is grounds for denial of admission to the program.

#### ***4. ATI TEAS Test Scores Sent to MCC***

Applicants must take the ATI TEAS Test at their own expense and scores are to be sent or released to the Morgan Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program. The test may be taken at the MCC testing center or at a testing center of the applicant's choice. More information can be found at [ATITesting.com](http://ATITesting.com). To register for the exam at MCC, please contact the MCC Testing Center at (970) 542-3188.

**5. Letters of Recommendation Included in Application Packet**

Two letters of recommendation, one from a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, are required and are submitted with the application for admission. Only two letters will be accepted and each must be on the letter of recommendation form provided in the application packet.

**6. Volunteer/Observation or Internship/Work Experience Documented**

Documentation of a minimum of 24 Work-Related, Internship or Volunteer Hours completed in the field of physical therapy within the past 2 years. A minimum of 12 hours in at least two different settings is required.

To be considered “work-related” the experience must involve direct client care in the field of physical therapy or rehabilitation. Hours must be documented on the workplace experience form provided in the application packet.

**7. Essential Skills of a Physical Therapist Assistant Signature Form**

By signing this form, applicants are verifying they possess the physical and mental skills necessary to perform all of the expected duties of the physical therapist assistant.

**Acceptance and Matriculation Rates**

	<u>Fall 2018</u>	<u>Fall 2019</u>	<u>Fall 2020</u>	<u>Fall 2021</u>
Applications Received	15	9	17	15
Qualified to Interview	14	8	16	12
Offered Admission	14	8	16	12
Assigned to Wait List	0	0	0	0
Admitted From Wait List	0	0	0	0
Enrolled	11	8	15	12
Graduated	8	5	TBD	TBD

<u>2-Year Graduation Rates</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2-Year Rate</u>
	72.7%	62.5%	68.4%

<u>2-Year NPTE Pass Rates</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2-Year Rate</u>
NPTE First-Time Pass Rate	83.3%	71.4%	76.9%
NPTE Ultimate Pass Rates	100%	100%	100%

<u>2-Year Employment Rates for PTA Program Graduates*</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Overall</u>
	100%	100%	100%

\*Data is gathered 1-year post-graduation