



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT ADMISSIONS PACKET 2023



Accreditation Statement

Graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100 Alexandria, VA 22305-3085; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Effective October 25, 2022, Southern Nazarene University has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call Dr. Loren McElroy, Program Director, at 405.491.6630 or email Lmartin@snu.edu.

Candidate for Accreditation is an accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status does not assure that the program will be granted Initial Accreditation.

PTA Program Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Southern Nazarene University. Included in this packet you will find information regarding the PTA Program and the physical therapy profession. Please read the document carefully for the program's admission requirements and supporting documents.

Pending a successful CAPTE Candidacy decision, PTA program courses will begin in January 2023. The program is designed to be completed in 23 months. Successful completion of the program will lead to an Associate of Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant. Pending CAPTE accreditation decision, graduates of the program are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE), which PTA graduates must pass to become a licensed physical therapist assistant.

Program applications will be evaluated utilizing a rolling admissions process, meaning completed applications will be continuously accepted and reviewed until all cohort spots are filled. Therefore, it is recommended to submit your application as soon as possible.

Admissions interviews are by invitation only and will be scheduled on an individual basis. Interviews will not be rescheduled except in cases of unavoidable and documentable emergency at the discretion of the program director and interview panel.

Complaints regarding the program can be addressed to the PTA Program Director, Dr. Loren McElroy, DPT, PT Lmartin@snu.edu. Complaints about the Program Director can be addressed to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for Graduate and Professional Studies, Dr. Mark Winslow, PhD Mwinslow@snu.edu. All complaints will be documented, including the projected outcome, and kept on file at the program facility. All complaints will be stored in a locked filing cabinet located in the program director's office.

Complaints about the program's accreditation status can be made to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education at accreditation@apta.org. SNU and the PTA Program maintain a standard of prohibition of retaliation following a complaint submission.

PTA Job Description

A physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a licensed clinician who works under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist (PT) to apply interventions designed to restore optimal function of those individuals impaired by disease or injury. Common interventions include therapeutic exercise, patient education, physical agents, and functional training. PTAs work directly with patients with neurological and musculoskeletal impairments across the lifespan. Becoming a PTA does not increase the likelihood of transition to becoming a PT.

Program Sequence

Southern Nazarene University's PTA Program follows a modular curriculum plan resulting in an Associate of Science degree. Prerequisite coursework must be completed in their entirety prior to beginning the PTA program. Students admitted into the program will complete 48 credit hours of program coursework and 12 credit hours of general education coursework.

Program Mission

The Southern Nazarene University Physical Therapist Assistant Program prepares competent, ethical, and self-directed health care practitioners who model professional core values. The program is committed to excellence in education and delivers a contemporary curriculum within a Christ-centered community. Graduates will be able to meet the diverse needs of the community by providing high quality patient care as a physical therapist assistant working under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.

Program Goals

1. Graduates will be prepared to work as entry-level physical therapist assistants who model professional core values and integrity while serving their community under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist.
2. Students and graduates will demonstrate effective interprofessional and intraprofessional collaborative practices as a part of the healthcare team.
3. The program will provide students with excellent, contemporary, and diverse educational opportunities delivered in a Christ-centered community.

4. Program faculty will engage in activities to support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Admissions Process

All students are encouraged to apply to SNU's PTA program. Program faculty review each applicant through a comprehensive, holistic admissions process. The admissions requirements were designed for applicants to show their academic readiness, professionalism, openness and commitment to learning, compassion & caring, and passion to become a PTA. In order to assess these characteristics, the program will consider many factors including: GPA; professional and service experiences; essays; life and leadership experiences; and letters of recommendations.

Admission into Southern Nazarene University's PTA program is highly competitive. Maximum cohort size at this time is 28 students, with one cohort starting each spring semester. The required GPA for admission into the program is a minimum GPA of 2.0 in prerequisite courses. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is considered competitive.

Program applicants must have a grade of "C" or higher in prerequisite coursework for admission. A prerequisite course may only be re-taken once (for a total of 2 times) to count towards the application; an average of the two scores will be taken (ex: if a C is made the first time, and an A the second time, the student will be scored as having received a "B").

All program applications will be reviewed and entered into an Admissions Criteria Checklist and ranked according to the points accumulated. Notification of a received application will be sent to the applicant within 30 days of submission. Invitations to interview with the admissions committee will be scheduled on an individual basis. A waitlist will be formed once the cohort is filled; the top three individuals on the waitlist will be offered admission to the cohort at the beginning of the next admissions cycle.

Location

All PTA didactic coursework will be offered in-person at SNU's main campus in Bethany, OK. Clinical placements will be offered across Oklahoma and other states; it is not guaranteed that a

student will receive clinical education rotations in their state of residence. Students will be responsible for their own transportation and housing while on clinical rotations.

Matriculation

A final cohort of 28 students will be selected for matriculation into the PTA program each year. Students will be notified of their standing in the admissions process in writing. Classes will begin in January of each year. There will be a mandatory orientation session for admitted students in early January.

Licensure

After completing the PTA program, graduates can sit for the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE). Some states will require a Jurisprudence exam or additional materials as part of their licensure requirements. Refer to www.fsbpt.org for more information on state requirements. Oklahoma does not require a Jurisprudence exam. Students may qualify early to take the NPTE in January, or will be eligible to sit for the exam in April.

PTA Program Admissions Process

Please read the following information carefully. Failure to follow directions could result in lack of progression through the application process. The following criteria must be met for admission to SNU's Physical Therapist Assistant program. Meeting these requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

1. Acceptance into SNU

Prior to completing the SNU PTA application packet, all applicants must first apply and be admitted to Southern Nazarene University. This can be completed through the website at degrees.snu.edu/apply.

2. Complete Prerequisite Coursework

All prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to beginning the PTA program. A student may be currently enrolled in a prerequisite course at time of application;

however, they must show proof of completing the course with a grade of “C” or better prior to starting courses in the PTA program. All prerequisite courses must have been completed within the last 7** years. A student may only take a course 2 times to be counted toward the prerequisite requirements. An average of the grades will be calculated for the admission points system.

- Composition I (3 credit hours)
- Composition II (3 credit hours)
- General Psychology (3 credit hours)
- Survey of Anatomy and Physiology (3 credit hours)

**The PTA Program Director may approve an exception on an individual basis with appropriate justification.

3. Attendance of a PTA Program Information Session within 1 year of application
Refer to the website for a virtual attendance link.

4. Send transcripts to SNU at pgsadmissions@snu.edu or ATTN: SNU PGS Admissions, Southern Nazarene University, 6729 NW 39th Expressway, Bethany, OK 73008.

5. Complete the Background Check Form

6. Two Letters of Recommendations

The recommenders should not send a written letter of recommendation to SNU. They should use [this link](#) to submit a recommendation online. One recommendation should be from an employer or educator and one recommendation should be from a non-family member who can attest to the applicant’s professional and organizational skills (e.g. coach, organizational leader). See rubric for details.

Applications are reviewed based on time of submission until all seats are filled. It is recommended to submit your application as soon as possible.

A completed PTA Program application must include the following documents

- ☐ Completed online application to SNU at degrees.snu.edu/apply

- ☐ Official transcripts for any courses not completed at SNU
- ☐ Attendance of a SNU PTA Program Information Session
- ☐ Completed background check agreement [online form](#)
- ☐ Completion of 2 letters of reference [online](#)
 - 1 from employer or educator
 - 1 from a non-family member who can attest to the student's professional and organizational skills (coach, organizational leader)

All items should be completed online or sent electronically to pgsadmissions@snu.edu

Notification of the status of your application will be made via your SNU email within 30 days of receiving the completed application.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Prerequisite Coursework

The PTA program at SNU requires all applicants to complete 12 hours of coursework before enrolling in the program. Applicants must have a “C” or better in all prerequisite courses. The required courses are:

- Composition I
- Composition II
- General Psychology
- Survey of Anatomy and Physiology

Official transcripts for all prerequisite coursework not completed at SNU must be sent to pgsadmissions@snu.edu. Coursework completed at SNU does not require submission of a transcript.

Point Break Down of Application - Total of 100 points

Pre-Req GPA x 10 = _____ Max of 40

Overall College GPA x 5 = _____ Max of 20

Professional [Recommendation](#) (from employer or educator) = _____ Max of 10

Personal [Recommendation](#) (from a non-family member who can attest to the student's professional and organizational skills e.g. coach, organizational leader) = _____ Max of 10

Interview (*Only if selected. Date to be determined.*)= _____ Max of 20

Total = 100

Elective Points: Applicants can receive additional points for previous experiences or degrees. Elective points have been incorporated into our holistic review process to honor the diverse experiences of our applicants.

- Healthcare Related Certificate = 1

Examples include, but are not limited to, certified nursing assistant (CNA), coding, personal training, etc.

- Associate's degree = 2
- Life or work experience = Up to 2 points

Applicants can submit a resume highlighting communication, service to people, or healthcare experience to receive points for life experiences. An example may include, but not limited to, a resume highlighting experience as a medical assistant or a teacher's aide.

- Bachelor's degree = 3
- Master's Degree or higher = 4

Drug Screen and Criminal Background Check [Form](#)

The 28 candidates granted conditional acceptance for the PTA program must complete a

criminal background check prior to receiving full acceptance. Use this link to access the form. All students must submit and pass a drug screen panel prior to the first clinical education experience in the program. Applicants are financially responsible for these costs. Applicants are not required to complete this portion of the admissions process unless notified to do so. If a student has a criminal history that hinders clinical education placement, they will not be offered a position in the program. The consequences of a positive drug test may result in delayed clinical placement or dismissal from the program. Additional drug screening may be required by specific clinical sites. This decision is made at the discretion of the Clinical Education Coordinator and the Program Director.

Program applicants should be advised that persons who have a history of substance abuse or a criminal conviction that relates to the practice of physical therapy may be disqualified from receiving a license. The Oklahoma Board of Physical Therapy Examiners reviews such cases on an individual basis. See Oklahoma Medical Board website for more information. www.okmedicalboard.com

Previous Enrollment in a PTA or Health Science Program

Applicants are required to disclose if they have been previously enrolled in a PTA program or other licensed health science program. The applicant must include written notification of the program in which they were enrolled and corresponding dates in their application packet at time of submission. Dismissal from another PTA program or other health science program may be grounds for prevention of admittance to the PTA program at SNU.

On-Site Interview

Selected applicants will be invited to participate in an on-site interview with an admissions panel as the final step in the admissions process. These applicants will complete one 45 minute interview with at least 2 interviewers that will include the Program Director or Clinical Education Coordinator along with a clinician or PTA Program advisory board member. The panel will select one question from each rubric category. The applicant will be scored by each interviewer and scores compared and averaged. That score will be included in the overall points for the

applicant and placed in rank order. Students who have concerns about the ability to perform any of these functions should contact the PTA program director at (405) 491-6630.

INTERVIEW RUBRICS

Decision Making & Problem Solving				
Very Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Some Evidence Skill Is Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Present	Very Strong Evidence Skills Is Present
0	1	2	3	4
Rarely uses reason to solve problems. Seldom looks at different options. Little problem-solving ability. Does not understand underlying issues.	Sometimes applies reasoning to problems. May consider different options. Sometimes tackles problems. Some recognition of underlying issues.		Often uses reason to generate solutions. Identifies/considers different options. Likes to address problems/solutions. Regularly considers underlying issues.	

Interpersonal Skill				
Very Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Some Evidence Skill Is Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Present	Very Strong Evidence Skills Is Present
0	1	2	3	4

Rarely uses reason to solve problems. Seldom looks at different options. Little problem-solving ability. Does not understand underlying issues.	Sometimes applies reasoning to problems. May consider different options. Sometimes tackles problems. Some recognition of underlying issues.	Often uses reason to generate solutions. Identifies/considers different options. Likes to address problems/solutions. Regularly considers underlying issues.
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Patient Focused				
Very Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Some Evidence Skill Is Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Present	Very Strong Evidence Skills Is Present
0	1	2	3	4
Fails to recognize patient needs. Unconcerned with patient satisfaction. Rarely provides high level of satisfaction. Does not respond to service failures.	Sometimes recognizes patient needs. May be concerned with patient satisfaction. Can provide high level of satisfaction. May respond to service failures.	Often recognizes patient trends. Works hard to ensure satisfaction. Often provides high level of satisfaction. Willingly responds to service failures.		

Communication				
Very Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Some Evidence Skill Is Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Present	Very Strong Evidence Skills Is Present
0	1	2	3	4

<p>Less able to influence others. Little writing experience. Rarely uses written word to communicate. Talk about self rather than others. Poor listener.</p>	<p>Adequate ability to influence others. Some writing experience. Recognizes value of written communication. Talks about self and others. Adequate listener..</p>	<p>Skilled at influencing others. Much work-related writing experiences. Often uses written communication. Talks about others' interests. Listens well.</p>
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Team Work				
Very Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Some Evidence Skill Is Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Present	Very Strong Evidence Skills Is Present
0	1	2	3	4
<p>Tolerant of negative attitudes. Rarely uses participative management. Unaware of team goals. Allows abuse of team member. Reluctant to work with other departments.</p>	<p>Sometimes confronts negative attitudes. Some skill with participative management. Talks about team goals. Usually stops abuse of team members. Willing to work with other departments.</p>		<p>Confronts negative attitudes. Skilled in participative management. Builds overlap of personal/team goals. Never allows abuse of team members. Enthusiastically works with others.</p>	

Overall Interview Impression				
Very Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Some Evidence Skill Is Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Present	Very Strong Evidence Skills Is Present
0	1	2	3	4

<p>Applicant does not appear to be a good candidate for the PTA program. The applicant is not expected to be successful in the program and may struggle with didactic or psychosocial aspects of physical therapy. Not willing to learn. Not a mission fit.</p>	<p>Applicant appears to be a good candidate for the PTA program. May be successful in the program but may struggle with either the didactic or psychosocial aspects of physical therapy. Open to learning and improving.</p>	<p>Applicant appears to be a strong candidate for the PTA program. Will work hard to be successful with both didactic and psychosocial aspects of physical therapy. Enthusiastic to learn. Is a mission fit.</p>
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Recommendation Rubric

Rubric for Professional and Personal Recommendations					
Instructions: The average scores will be taken for each item assessed by the references. A total average will be calculated and evaluated.					
	9-10 Exceptional abilities and/or potential 4 points	7-8 High abilities and/or potential 3 points	5-6 Moderate to average abilities and/or potential 2 points	3-4 Below average abilities and/or potential 1 point	0-2 Very poor abilities and/or potential 0 points
Moral reasoning abilities and commitment to Christian ethics					
Social adjustment					
Emotional stability					
Ability to critically assess relevant solutions to problem situations					
Ability to take initiative and effectively accomplish tasks (personal motivation)					
Ability to motivate other individuals					

Culturally aware					
Written communication skills					
Oral communication skills, both in groups and with individuals					
Non-verbal communication skills					
Overall assessment of abilities					
Prediction of success in an academic program					
Accountability/reliability in work/school setting					
Professionalism					
Caring qualities					
Commitment/ability to meet goals/deadlines					
Average from Professional Recommendation =			Average from Personal Recommendation =		

Elective Points for Life or Work Experience Rubric

Elective Points for Life or Work Experience

Very Strong Evidence Skill Is Not Present	Some Evidence Skill Is Present	Strong Evidence Skill Is Present
0	1	2
Resume does not show evidence of communication skill, service to people, or healthcare experience.	Resume shows some evidence of communication skill, service to people, or healthcare experience	Resume shows strong evidence of extensive communication skills, service to people, or healthcare experience.

Transfer Students

Only prerequisite and general education courses may be transferred for credit as part of the PTA application process. Due to the nature and sequencing of the technical PTA curriculum, no PTA courses may be transferred to SNU. It is highly recommended that all transcripts for transfer credit are submitted to the SNU Registrar for review prior to submitting an application.

Curriculum

Spring Semester, Year 1 (12 credit hours)

- PTA 1113 The Profession of PT
- PTA 1124 Clinical Anatomy & Kinesiology
- PTA 1134 Musculoskeletal for the PTA
- PTA 1141 Clinical Procedures I

Fall Semester, Year 1 (14 credit hours)

- PTA 1214 Pathophysiology
- PTA 1223 Physical Agents
- PTA 1233 Therapeutic Exercise I
- PTA 1241 Clinical Procedures II

GS 1113 Computer Applications

Spring Semester, Year 2 (17 credit hours)

PTA 2113 Ethics in Physical Therapy

PTA 2122 Clinical Education I

PTA 2133 Conditions & Treatments Across the Lifespan

PTA 2143 Cardiopulmonary

PTA 2153 Neuroscience I

THEO 1513 Christian Faith & Life

Fall Semester, Year 2 (17 credit hours)

PTA 2213 Neuroscience II

PTA 2233 Advanced Physical Therapy Interventions

PTA 2222 Clinical Education II

PTA 2243 Clinical Education III

BLT 20X3 Old or New Testament

XXX XXXX Artistic Expression elective

**Total credit hours: 48 PTA Technical credit hours
24 General Education credit hours**

Total credit hours: 60 credit hours

Total degree hours: 72 credit hours

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Southern Nazarene University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, color, national or ethnic origin, marital status, or disability in the recruitment, admission, and treatment of students or access to university programs or activities including the operation of all university programs, activities, services and employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies including Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Age Discrimination:

University Provost Southern Nazarene University, Bresee Hall 6729 NW 39th Expressway
Bethany, OK 73008 405-491-6600

Inclusivity and Respect

Southern Nazarene University values each person created in the image of God, therefore, we also desire to be a community that reflects representation of diversity. We care about inclusion and equity through the refining of our character, the way we create culture and the way we serve Christ. Our University values reconciliation through God's love. In light of this commitment, we endeavor to foster a supportive environment of dignity and inclusivity in which all stakeholders, regardless of their perspectives and individual differences, are treated with respect and engage in charitable discourse.

Essential Functions of Physical Therapist Assistants/Students

There are several important factors for you to consider when you are determining your future career directions. To be successful in the PTA classroom and in your job following graduation, you should be able to meet all of the following expectations:

- Attend class and study approximately 10-29 hours a week or perform 40 hours a week of clinical education, depending on the stage of the program curriculum you are in.
- Complete all assignments on time.
- Participate in classroom discussions.
- Perform or instruct others in the following procedures (learned in class) in a timely manner: transfers, gait training, physical agents, activities of daily living, therapeutic exercises or activities, and data collection procedures.
- Use sound judgment and safety precautions (exposure to blood-borne pathogens and/or infectious disease may occur as part of the educational experience). Students are trained in safety/infection control and are expected to follow these guidelines to avoid contracting or transmitting disease.
- Meet class standards for successful course completion.
- Use critical thinking when making decisions.
- Follow standards stated in PTA Program Policy and Procedure Manual and the PTA Program Clinical Education Handbook.
- Address problems or questions to the appropriate person at the appropriate time.

- Maintain classroom, work area, equipment, supplies, personal appearance and hygiene conducive to a professional setting as appropriate.
- Behave in a competent, professional manner.

Physical Requirements for the PTA Program

There are several important physical requirements for you to consider when you are determining your future career directions. To be successful in the PTA classroom and in your job following graduation, you should be able to meet all of the following expectations.

Physical Requirements for the PTA Program Include the Need to Occasionally, Frequently or Continually:

- Sit 4 hours per day with lecture blocks up to 4 hours.
- Stand 1-6 hours with lab time blocks up to 4 hours.
- Lift up to 60 pounds.
- Push/pull up to 50 pounds of force exerted at waist level.
- Squat or stoop.
- Use auditory, tactile, and visual senses to assess physiological status of an individual.
- Demonstrate good standing and unsupported sitting balance.
- Demonstrate good finger dexterity.
- Coordinate verbal and manual instructions.
- Communicate effectively with a variety of people through written verbal and nonverbal methods.
- Use hands repetitively.
- Shift weight in sitting or standing.
- Demonstrate the ability to use a firm grasp while using physical therapy equipment and while performing physical therapy interventions.
- Reach above shoulder level.
- Kneel, kneel-stand and half-kneel.
- Use equipment that emits electrical, ultrasonic and thermal energy.
- Physically move and transfer patients.
- Discriminate between right and left sides of the body and extremities.

Students who have concerns about the ability to perform any of these functions should contact the PTA program director at (405) 491-6630. Individuals with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations with the Director of Disability Services, Tabitha Pope.