

**Arkansas State University
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Application Packet**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Arkansas State University (A-State). Enclosed are the forms and instructions necessary to initiate the application process for this program. Please review the entire packet and read the instructions carefully before completing the forms.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at A-State is an associate-level program that begins in the first summer term each year, is one year in length, is designed to prepare a generalist physical therapist assistant and to foster lifelong learning and development. The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree is awarded upon successful completion of the program. In addition to classroom and laboratory experiences, each student engages in 16 weeks of full-time clinical education experiences.

Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program is a competitive process. Up to thirty (30) students are admitted each year. In order to produce graduates who will be competent to serve in the many roles required of a physical therapist assistant, the faculty values a mature applicant, one who has demonstrated his/her academic and cognitive abilities as well as his/her personal and professional potential. Applicants to the program should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Be an A-State (**Jonesboro**) student with an active Student ID number. If you are not currently an A-State student but have been a student in the past, you are qualified to submit a PTA application. For admissions information, contact the Admissions Office, PO Box 1630, State University-Jonesboro, AR 72467. Phone: 800-382-3030 Website: www.astate.edu/info/admissions
- Be aware of the Abilities and Skills of the Physical Therapist Assistant (page 2 of this packet)
- Complete the required prerequisite coursework (see page 5 of this packet) prior to the start of the PTA professional curriculum.

The application deadline for any given year is March 1. All application materials must be received on or before March 1 of each year. Any application materials received after this date will be classified as late and will not be processed for the class beginning in that year. In addition, the Admissions Committee must be able to verify that the applicant has made application to A-State. Applicants for whom the Admissions Office has not received a completed application packet by March 1 will not be considered to have completed the application process. Therefore, those applications may not be processed for that year. Out-of-state applicants should submit their A-State applications early enough to avoid this problem.

Pre-application advising is available and strongly recommended for all students interested in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Please contact the Department of Physical Therapy office to speak with a faculty advisor.

Contact information:

**Physical Therapist Assistant Program
College of Nursing and Health Professions
Arkansas State University
PO Box 910
State University-Jonesboro, AR 72467
Phone: 870-972-3591
Internet: www.astate.edu/conhp/pt**

Arkansas State University is an equal opportunity institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or other unlawful factors in employment practices.

ABILITIES AND SKILLS OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

The A-State Physical Therapist Assistant Program affirms that all students enrolled in the physical therapist assistant program must possess the intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty for safe professional practice.

A student desiring to become a physical therapist assistant candidate must have the abilities and skills necessary for use of the physical therapy process. These skills and abilities include observation, communication, motor ability, conceptualization, integration and quantification, and behavioral/social acceptability. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonable independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable because a candidate's judgment must not be mediated by someone else's power of observation and selection.

The following abilities and skills are necessary to meet the requirements of the curriculum:

Observation:

The candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and tactile sensation. It is enhanced by the functional sense of smell.

Communication:

The candidate must be able to speak, hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

Motor:

Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment maneuvers. A candidate must have sufficient motor skill to gain access to clients in a variety of care settings and to manipulate the equipment central to the treatment of patients receiving physical therapy. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Examples of required fine motor skills would include assessment of vital signs, application of dressings, debridement of wounds, tissue palpation and manual testing. Examples of required gross motor skills would include, but not be limited to, positioning clients in bed, gait training, transfer training, balance training, therapeutic exercise, and maneuvering in confined spaces. In addition, the candidate should be able to lift and carry a minimum of 35% of his or her own body weight. Also the candidate should be able to sit, bend, reach and/or walk and stand for most of the day.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physical therapist assistants, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral and Social Attributes:

A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patient, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and coworkers. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interests, and motivation are all personal qualities necessary for physical therapy.

**Arkansas State University
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Application Checklist**

The Admissions Committee of the A-State Physical Therapist Assistant Program suggests that students interested in making application to the program follow the checklist below to help ensure that all necessary application steps are completed in an appropriate and timely manner. This checklist is for personal use only and need not be submitted with the application materials. **The deadline for all materials to be received is March 1 of any given year.**

Check those items submitted to the Admissions Office, Arkansas State University, PO Box 1630, State University-Jonesboro, AR 72467.

- A-State Application for Undergraduate Admission and associated documents and fees.** The undergraduate application should be completed first. **A student cannot be fully admitted to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program until he/she has been admitted to the university.** Undergraduate application packets can be requested by mail at the above address, requested by phone at 1-800-382-3030 (toll-free) or downloaded from the Admissions Office's web site at www.astate.edu/info/admissions. **If you have been issued an A-State ID number in the past, but are not currently enrolled as an A-State student, you have met this requirement. You do not need to be currently enrolled in classes to be an eligible applicant.**

Check those items submitted to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program:

- Physical Therapist Assistant Application for Admission (p 4)**
- Completed Prerequisite Coursework Worksheet (p 5)**
- Transcript from each college/university attended (unofficial copies are acceptable)**
- Volunteer Evaluation of PTA Applicant (see survey link, p 6)**
- Observation Evaluation of PTA Applicant (see survey link, p 7)**
- Completed Demographics Form (p 8)**

A complete application can be delivered to the Department of Physical Therapy (1st floor of the Nursing building) or be submitted electronically to the program director at beckeith@astate.edu. Submitted materials become the property of the Department of Physical Therapy. We recommend that applicants make copies of all submitted materials for their personal records.

3-Step Application Process

Step 1: All applicants are scored on the following items:

- Overall GPA (10%)
- Prerequisite Coursework GPA (25%)
- Rating of Professionalism during Volunteer Activity (10%)
- Rating of Professionalism during Observation (10%)

Step 2: Top applicants following the scoring of step 1:

- Reading Comprehension Test (25%)

Step 3: Applicants that scored at or above minimum level of Reading Comprehension Test

- Structured Behavioral Interview (top applicants: 20%)

All applicants will be considered based on cumulative GPA, prerequisite GPA, volunteer form and observation form. The top applicants will then be scheduled for the Reading Comprehension Test. Those applicants scoring above the minimal acceptable score (college sophomore level) will then be invited to participate in the interview process. The final cohort of students will be selected following the interview. The remaining interviewed applicants will be placed on the alternate list.

**Arkansas State University
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Application for Admission**

Name: Last _____ First _____ ASU ID _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Please list all colleges/universities attended.

Name of Institution	Location	Dates of Attendance	Degree Received, if any

Additional application points are given to applicants who are proficient in the Spanish language. The Oral Proficiency Interview process is used to determine this proficiency. The cost of this assessment is the responsibility of the applicant. To find out more information and to schedule an assessment, click link below and select the speaking assessment.

https://www.languagetesting.com/lti/product/selectTest/client_id/228/lang_id/7190?

I have read the Abilities and Skills of the Physical Therapist Assistant on page 2 of the application packet and by adding my initials am indicating that I possess the necessary abilities and skills.

Initials Date

Students with criminal backgrounds may not be able to complete clinical education coursework required by the PTA program or meet the criteria for professional licensure. Therefore, the top applicants will be given conditional admittance pending criminal background checks. If a student has a criminal record, it is the responsibility of the student to inquire with the respective state board of physical therapy in which the student plans to apply for licensure as to whether a criminal record may limit the student's ability to obtain licensure as a physical therapist assistant or practice in certain settings.

I have read and understand that a criminal background check will be conducted if I am accepted into the PTA program. Any cost associated with this process is my responsibility.

Initials Date

**Arkansas State University
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Prerequisite Coursework Worksheet**

In the table below, please indicate the courses that you have taken that meet the prerequisite coursework requirements for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Applicants who are uncertain if a course they have taken meets one of the prerequisites should consult a faculty advisor by contacting the Department of Physical Therapy office at 870-972-3591. **Write IP (in progress) for prerequisite courses in which you are currently enrolled.** Students admitted to the PTA Program will be required to submit proof of successful completion of all prerequisite coursework prior to being allowed to begin PTA coursework. Failure to successfully complete the prerequisites will result in the student being denied a spot in the PTA Program.

Prerequisite Course	Course Number and Name	Institution	Semester/Year course taken	Credit Hours	Letter Grade
ENG 1003 Composition I					
ENG 1013 Composition II					
MATH 1023 College Algebra					
POSC 2103 Am Govt OR HIST 2763 OR HIST 2773 U.S. History					
PSY 2013 Intro to Psychology					
PTA 1013 Making Connections in Rehab Services					
BIO 2203 Human A&P I					
BIO 2201 Human A&P I lab					
Physics OR Physical Science					

(Will be calculated by PTA Admissions Committee)

Prerequisite GPA: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____

If you are not a current A-State (Jonesboro) student, please provide evidence of course completion by scanning and submitting a copy of all college transcripts (can be unofficial copies) to beckeith@astate.edu. This is a vital step in the application process. Your application cannot be processed without the confirmation of courses & grades.

**Arkansas State University
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Volunteerism Evaluation of Physical Therapist Assistant Applicant**

To Be Completed By Applicant:

Applicant's Name: _____

I understand that this evaluation is confidential. I waive my rights of access under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, or other laws, regulations or policies. (Applicants are NOT permitted to read evaluation.)

Applicant's Initials: _____

To the Evaluator: The above-named applicant to the Arkansas State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program is requesting an evaluation of his/her volunteer performance from you. The applicant is required to spend 4-6 hours volunteering in a setting or for an agency of his/her choice. During this volunteer experience, please take note of his/her professional behaviors and evaluate the applicant accordingly. Your assistance in the application process is greatly appreciated.

Please complete this process using this survey link:



To the Applicant: The following list contains the professional behaviors that will be assessed by the Evaluator:

- Exhibited interest in and knowledge of this volunteer activity
- Interacted appropriately with staff
- Communicated effectively
- Arrived on time
- Exhibited professionalism in attitude, dress, etc
- Demonstrated sincerity, enthusiasm, patience, etc
- Exhibited evidence of psychological maturity
- Raised relevant questions
- Demonstrated initiative when applicable
- Demonstrated an overall concern for others

**Arkansas State University
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Observation Evaluation of Physical Therapist Assistant Applicant**

To Be Completed By Applicant:

Applicant's Name: _____

I understand that this evaluation is confidential. I waive my rights of access under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, or other laws, regulations or policies. (Applicants are NOT permitted to read evaluation.)

Applicant's Initials: _____

To the Evaluator: The above-named applicant to the Arkansas State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program is requesting an observation evaluation from you. The applicant is required to spend 4-6 hours observing a PT or PTA in a clinical setting. During this observation, please take note of his/her professional behaviors and evaluate the applicant accordingly. Your assistance in the application process is greatly appreciated.

Please complete this process using this survey link:



To the Applicant: The following list contains the professional behaviors that will be assessed by the Evaluator:

- Exhibited interest in and knowledge of physical therapy
- Interacted appropriately with patients and staff
- Communicated effectively
- Arrived on time
- Exhibited professionalism in attitude, dress, etc
- Demonstrated sincerity, enthusiasm, patience, etc
- Exhibited evidence of psychological maturity
- Raised relevant questions
- Demonstrated initiative when applicable
- Demonstrated an overall concern for others

**Arkansas State University
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Demographics Form**

For reporting and accreditation purposes, we ask that you complete the following page and return it with your application. Information contained on this page is not used in making application decisions.

Today's date: _____

I am applying for the PTA class that begins in the summer of _____ (indicate year).

- **Are you currently a student at A-State?** _____
- **Gender:** _____
- **Age:** _____
- **Racial/Ethnic Information:** (Please place a check by all that apply)
 - White _____
 - Black _____
 - Hispanic _____
 - American Indian _____
 - Asian/Pacific Islander _____
 - Other (please specify) _____

- Please indicate in the space below how you first learned about the Arkansas State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

- Did you participate in your high school's MASH program sponsored by Farm Bureau? _____
 - If so, in what city did you participate? _____