



Physical Therapist Assistant Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Where will clinical rotations occur?

With the increasing number of Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant programs throughout the United States, there is a greater demand on the clinical sites for student placement. For this reason and in order to ensure quality clinical education, proximity to the clinical site cannot be guaranteed. Regardless of distance to the clinical site, it is the responsibility of the student to complete and fund their own travel and any necessary housing arrangements.

What are the hours for the clinical rotations?

Clinical rotation hours vary. Students will be expected to be available to be in the clinic Monday thru Friday. Hours may begin as early as 7 am and may last as late as 8 pm. Students will be in the clinic the hours their Clinical Instructor works. Occasional weekend work may be required.

What is observation?

Observation is shadowing a PT or PTA to learn about the field and what a typical day might be like in this profession. Volunteer hours spent specifically with the PT or PTA will fulfill this requirement. Observing is required before applying/interviewing for the PTA program (minimum 20 hours, in two settings). You may shadow at any clinic or healthcare facility. It is your responsibility to contact and set up your observations. Observation should be completed as soon a candidate becomes interested in the program; if a candidates waits until the spring to observe there may not be space available at local physical therapy practices. Observation must be completed prior to applying to the program.

When do I apply for the criminal background check?

Background checks are not performed until after the applicant has been accepted into the program. This is a requirement for clinical rotations. Some clinical sites may not accept students with criminal records. If an applicant has a criminal background he or she may not qualify for licensure. See the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy website (<https://www.fsbpt.org/>) for state by state rules on this issue.

What are my chances of getting into the program?

A competitive selection process is used to choose students for each upcoming class. The class size is limited (18 students per year) as it is in all PTA schools; therefore, all candidates are encouraged to apply to more than one school to increase their chances for selection.

How long does it take to complete the program?

The program can be completed in four semesters. Prerequisite work, before the 4 semester program, can be completed in two semesters. The program is intense and very much like a full time job.

How physical is the job?

The duties of a PTA are typically very physical in nature. Pushing, kneeling, lifting and walking are routine activities. See the [Essential Skills](#) for further details.

Students must be cleared by a physician to attend clinical and have all immunizations up to date. Additionally, students must have a current PPD test.

What prerequisite classes do I need to complete before submitting my application?

BIOL 2113	ENGL 1101	PHYS 1110L
BIOL 2113L	MATH 1111	PSYC 1101
BIOL 2114	HUMN 1101	PSYC 2103
BIOL 2114L	PHYS 1110	

In addition to the above courses, students are strongly encouraged to complete ALHS 1090 to earn extra points in the admissions process.

**Please note that exemption testing may exist for students who have met the Math requirements, but after the three year minimum. Visit <http://www.laniertech.edu/StudentAffairs/FormsPolicies.aspx>, look in the Registration and Records section for the Exemption Test Information Chart and Exemption Test Payment Form for Math exemption testing information.

Transfer Credit Procedure

Have your present or past college send your transcripts to Lanier Technical College when you apply to the College, which is separate from the PTA Admission Application. Please see “Admission Process.”