

Informed Consent for the PTA Program

Please read the following pertinent information about the program. A signed informed consent is required of all students at the time of program orientation.

I. Program Duration

Students must complete a Pre-Requisite semester prior to program admission.

The PTA Program accepts a new cohort of students to begin in the spring semester each year. A minimum of five (5) total academic semesters is required for completion of the Associate Degree. (Note: Students may choose to take the general education courses required for the degree prior to program admission. However, PTA program courses are sequential and offered only in the semester listed in the college catalog.)

II. Travel to Clinical Sites

Students enrolled in the PTA program at Rhodes State College must complete clinical assignments prior to completion of the program. Clinical assignments are arranged so that all students can benefit by learning through a variety of clinical experiences. **Students must be prepared to meet the financial obligations associated with the clinical assignment, including transportation to the facility which may be up to an hour from their home.**

III. State of Ohio Licensing Procedure for Physical Therapist Assistants

Upon completion of the program, graduates must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for PTAs. Additionally, in order to practice as a PTA in the state of Ohio, applicants must apply for state licensure and pass the Jurisprudence Assessment Module (JAM).

In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code for Disciplinary Actions, the Physical Therapy Section of the OTPTAT Board may refuse to grant or renew a license for a physical therapist assistant under certain grounds.

The complete Revised Code (in regards to physical therapy practice and licensure) may be accessed at: <https://otptat.ohio.gov/physical-therapy/pt-laws-and-rules>

The graduate is responsible for all costs associated with seeking licensure to practice. Refer to the FSBPT website (<https://www.fsbpt.org/Secondary-Pages/Exam-Candidates>) for licensure information and associated costs.

IV. Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screens

To meet the requirements of our clinical affiliates, both a criminal background check and a drug screen will be mandatory prior to clinical experiences for all students in the Health Science programs. You are at risk if you have been convicted of a prior felony and/or some misdemeanors. Students with certain felony, misdemeanor, or drug-related convictions will be ineligible for admission into clinical experiences. A criminal record may also prevent you from obtaining a license or certificate in your chosen healthcare profession or to obtain employment post graduation. Positive drug screenings will result in dismissal from all clinical courses. Any student who refuses/fails to cooperate, or complete any required drug screening will be considered “positive” and dismissed from the clinical component of their program. Students may be subject to random drug testing at any time including specific reason for concern, such as suspicion of drug use.

Upon completion of the PTA Program graduates will be eligible to apply for licensure by examination. The Ohio Revised Code requires all individuals applying for a license issued by the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board to submit fingerprints for a criminal records check completed by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The BCI and FBI record checks are both required for initial licensure. By law, the Board cannot complete the processing of any application until it receives the background check reports from BCI and FBI. **The graduate is responsible for the cost of the BCI and FBI records checks.**

V. Physical Examination

Prior to the start of any clinical rotation, the student will be required to have a current physical examination on file and any required immunizations. **The student is responsible for these costs.**

VI. Technical Standards

All applicants for the Health Science Programs must possess the essential skills and abilities necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the curriculum either with or without reasonable accommodations for any disabilities the individual may have.

Note: The use of an intermediary that, in effect, requires a student to rely on someone else’s power of selection and observation will not be permitted. The essential skills and abilities for the Health Science Programs are categorized in the **TECHNICAL STANDARDS:** (https://catalog.rhodesstate.edu/divisions/health_sciences/#technicalstandardstext)

VII. Health Insurance

Due to potential risks, all Health Science students are expected to purchase personal health insurance if they are not covered on a family policy. Rhodes State College is not responsible for any accidents or illnesses that result from student negligence during experiences in the campus or clinical laboratories.

VIII. Academic Standards of the PTA Program

The grading policies of the PTA Program are more rigorous than those of Rhodes State College to ensure student competence prior to clinical assignment. The student must earn an average of 75% or better on all written exams and quizzes in any PTA course. The student must also earn at least an 80% on each skill competency or lab practical exam.

IX. Working while in the PTA Program

Some students continue to work while enrolled in the PTA Program. This is dependent upon work schedule, flexibility, semester schedule, and credit hour load, the student's learning style, and other responsibilities. Students are required to attend all scheduled classes and must be available for the required full-time clinical education experiences. These full-time clinical experiences typically occur in the daytime hours Monday through Friday, but may also include weekends. Attempting to additionally work during this time therefore may be challenging and limited. It is advisable to plan ahead accordingly as it may pertain to personal financial obligations. The PTA Faculty strongly recommend that a student does not work more than 10 hours per week while in the program. It is an expectation that a student will spend at least two hours of outside preparation and studying for every contact hour in the classroom and lab per week.

X. Technology in the PTA Program

All PTA students are required to have a reliable laptop or tablet for utilization in the classroom throughout the PTA curriculum. Any brand of device is acceptable, depending on what the student is accustomed to using.

The device will enable the PTA student to access course content from anywhere, electronically take notes, complete skill checks within the laboratory setting to maintain a paperless environment, and interface with faculty and other students using various meeting platforms in the classroom and clinical settings. Data collected regarding this process supports student success. ***Students must be prepared to meet this financial obligation should they not currently own a device and need to purchase one.**

XL. Nondiscrimination Policy

Refer to the Rhodes State College Catalog for the Nondiscrimination Policy (<https://catalog.rhodesstate.edu/nondiscrimination-policy/>)