



# Mountain State University

## Physical Therapist Assistant Program

### Admission Requirements

General Education Courses & Career GPA: Students applying to the PTA program must have a **minimum career GPA of 2.5** with no grade lower than “C” in courses listed in general education courses listed in the first fall and spring semesters of the curriculum. **Students enrolled in independent study courses must complete those course requirements by April 30<sup>th</sup> regardless of date of completion.**

Volunteer Hours: Students must complete a minimum of 40 volunteer hours under direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist (PT) or licensed physical therapist assistant (PTA). The volunteer experience must be documented on forms supplied by the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. **Volunteer reference forms must be returned to the PTA program postmarked on or before March 15<sup>th</sup> if you are applying for admission for the following fall semester.**

Character Reference: Prospective PTA students must request three (3) letters of personal reference from persons outside of their immediate family and who have known the student for longer than three (3) years. The letters must be submitted to the PTA program by the individual providing the reference. **Character references must be postmarked on or before March 15<sup>th</sup> if you are applying for admission for the following fall semester.**

### Physical Therapist Assistant Program Overview

The Mountain State University PTA program is a single entry program; new students are admitted for the fall semester only. The program is a 1 + 1 format. Students must complete prerequisite courses listed on the curriculum prior to applying to the technical portion of the program. The prerequisite courses are designed to meet the general education requirements of Mountain State University and to support the material included in the technical portion of the PTA program.

The technical portion of the PTA program is competency based. Each class is taught and tested in units. At the conclusion of each unit, when applicable, the student is required to demonstrate the ability to perform key concepts or techniques in a safe and competent manner. The ability to demonstrate competency is essential to progression through the program, as our goal is to assure safety for both the patient and the student.

The grading scale for the PTA program courses differs from that of Mountain State University. The PTA program utilizes a seven (7) point grading scale for any course with a PTA prefix and is as follows: A = 100% - 93%, B = 92% - 86%, C = 85 – 77%. Any grade below 77% is considered failing in a course with a PTA prefix. Students who fail a course with a PTA prefix must follow the follow procedures outlined in PTA program policies and procedures manual.

## Clinical Education

The clinical education portion of the program gives the student experience in an actual clinical setting. There are 3 off-campus experiences. PTA 232, Clinical Education I, is a 3-week introductory affiliation performed at the end of the fall semester after admission to the technical portion of the PTA program. PTA 250, Clinical Education II, and PTA 252, Clinical Education III, are consecutive 8-week clinicals performed at the conclusion of the technical portion of the PTA program.

Clinical placements are at the discretion of the PTA program. Expenses, including but not limited to, housing, food and travel are not covered by tuition and are the responsibility of the student.

## Licensure

Following successful completion of the PTA Program curriculum, students are eligible to sit for the licensure exam in the state in which they plan to work. Licensure in additional states can be obtained by contacting the Board of Physical Therapy for that state. Persons with a felony conviction may be eligible for licensure based on terms and conditions of the state in which they intend to apply.