

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Faculty of Health and Community Studies
Department of Allied Health and Human Performance
MacEwan.ca/PTAOTA (<http://MacEwan.ca/PTAOTA>)

The Physical Therapist Assistant & Occupational Therapist Assistant (PTA & OTA) major prepares students to work in the fields of physical therapy and occupational therapy, providing patient treatment interventions related to movement and function. PTAs & OTAs assist people to gain or maintain strength, flexibility and functional status. In addition to working with people with physical health problems, they also work with people with emotional/mental health problems.

Career Potential

PTAs & OTAs work in hospitals, long-term care facilities, subacute units, rehabilitation hospitals, mental health programs, physical therapy clinics, schools and home care. To succeed in this field, people should possess patience and flexibility, as they will work with people who are under physical and emotional stress. Creativity, manual dexterity and an interest in fitness are assets, as is the ability to work in a team environment. The employment rate for graduates is currently 100 per cent.

Admission to the program is competitive and is subject to a quota.

Transferability

Internal Opportunities

MacEwan University is committed to providing bridging and laddering opportunities to its certificate and diploma graduates. Graduates of this diploma program may be granted up to 39 credits to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree programs. Students are advised to consult an advisor for specific admission requirements and required bridging course information.

External Opportunities

All courses completed for the Therapist Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant and Occupational Therapist Assistant Major diploma are credit courses and may be transferable individually toward further study at other Alberta institutions. Students presenting a completed diploma in this program may be eligible for a block transfer to other Alberta institutions. For current, detailed information on individual course and certificate transferability, refer to the Learner Pathways System at www.transferalberta.ca or contact the receiving institution directly.

Contact Information

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PROGRAM OFFICE

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Categories of Admission

Applicants may be admitted to one of the following:

Regular Admission

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicants must have a minimum overall average of 65 percent, with no course grade lower than 50 percent, in the following high school courses:

1. ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2
2. Biology 30
3. One subject from Group C
4. Two subjects from Group A, B, C or D

Notes:

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to present a broad range of subjects across the humanities and sciences in order to benefit from the breadth of learning and to increase flexibility of future course choices.
- A maximum of two Group B subjects; they must be from different disciplines.
- A maximum of one Group D subject. Group D subjects used for admission must be one five-credit subject or any credit combination of at least five credits (e.g., two three-credit subjects).

Mature Admission

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicants must be 20 years of age or older and have been out of full-time high school at least one year by the beginning of the intake term. Applicants must have a minimum overall average of 65 percent, with no course grade lower than 50 percent, in the following high school courses:

1. ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2
2. Biology 30
3. One subject from Group C

Previous Post-Secondary Work

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Admission in this category does not imply or guarantee the transfer of any coursework and/or credential unless a block transfer agreement (internal or external) is in effect and published in the calendar by the Office of the University Registrar. In addition, transfer of coursework does not imply or guarantee that an applicant will be admitted.

Applicants must have successfully completed:

- A minimum of 18 post-secondary credits with a minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and must have successfully completed Biology 30.

Additional Admission Criteria

All applicants must meet the following:

1. English Language Proficiency

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicable to All Admission Categories

All applicants must meet an acceptable level of English language proficiency. We will require official documents such as high school or post-secondary transcripts or proof of successful completion of standardized language evaluation. Full details are available in MacEwan's academic calendar or online at MacEwan.ca/ELP (<http://MacEwan.ca/ELP>).

2. Other Admission Criteria

To be evaluated through the Program

Applicable to All Admission Categories

Applicants offered admission must present a clear Police Information Check (or equivalent from another policing agency) that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search. The Police Information Check must be submitted by the published document deadline and have been issued within three months of the start of the program intake term.

Program of Study

Course	Title	Credits
Year I		
Term I		
HLSC 104	Applied Human Anatomy ¹	3
HLSC 105	Applied Human Physiology ¹	6
HLST 101	Interpersonal Skills Development ¹	3
THAS 103	Pathology ¹	4
	Credits	16
Term II		
THAS 115	Human Development ¹	4
THAS 116	Functional Anatomy and Orthopedics ¹	4
THAS 117	Principles and Techniques of Client Contact ¹	3
Three credits of university English (includes WRIT 101)		3
	Credits	14
Year II		
Term III		
THAS 220	Exercise in Physical Therapy ¹	5
THAS 221	Modalities and Acute Care Interventions in Physical Therapy ¹	4
THAS 222	Occupational Therapy in Mental Health ¹	4
THAS 223	Occupational Therapy in Physical Dysfunction ¹	5
	Credits	18
Term IV		
THAS 210	Field Placement I ²	4
THAS 211	Field Placement II ²	4
THAS 212	Field Placement III ²	4
	Credits	12
	Total Credits	60

¹ The minimum passing grade for this course is a C-.

² The minimum passing grade for this course is a CR.

The minimum passing grade for a course at MacEwan University is a D unless otherwise noted next to the appropriate course in the program of study.

Course Substitutions

Credit Earned in:	May Be Substituted for Credit in Program Course:
CORR 100	HLST 101
CYCW 101	HLST 101
ENGL 100	ENGL 111

ENGL 101	ENGL 111
ENGL 102	ENGL 111
ENGL 103	ENGL 111
ENGL 105	ENGL 111
ENGL 108	ENGL 111
ENGL 199	ENGL 111
HLSC 120	HLSC 104
HLSC 122	HLSC 105
HLSC 126 & HLSC 128	HLSC 105
INTD 105	HLST 101
MHST 103	THAS 115
MTST 120 & MTST 122	HLSC 104
MTST 125 & MTST 126	HLSC 105
NURS 101	HLST 101
NURS 105	HLSC 104
NURS 108	HLSC 105
NURS 118 & NURS 228	HLSC 105
OPCA 205	THAS 115
OPCA 206	THAS 116
OPCA 207	THAS 117
OPCA 221	THAS 223
PEDS 101 & PEDS 103	HLSC 105
PHSL 162	HLSC 105
PSSC 141	HLST 101
PTHA 230	THAS 220
PTHA 231	THAS 221
RPPR 103	HLST 101
SOWK 102	HLST 101
THAS 208	THAS 220
THAS 208	THAS 221
THAS 209	THAS 222
THAS 209	THAS 223

Program Regulations

Regulations Governing Clinical Fieldwork Courses

Students must achieve satisfactory performance in all clinical fieldwork courses in accordance with the course/clinical criteria and outcomes. Fieldwork education must include a minimum of 500 clinical hours, of which no less than 150 hours are to be completed in each discipline (physical therapy and occupational therapy). Clinical fieldwork hours may include days, evenings, nights and weekends. Students are to arrange their own transportation for required program activities and any costs incurred for meals, travel and accommodation are the student's responsibility. Students will require daily access to a vehicle for any clinical fieldwork experience not accessible through public transportation. Students cannot be in attendance at clinical agencies as a MacEwan University therapist assistant student except at times and locations authorized by the clinical fieldwork instructor for the course in which the student is currently enrolled. Students must comply with the Work Integrated Learning policy regarding clinical fieldwork practice and/or placement as well as other applicable policies and regulations of the university and the host agency. Students must have completed all prerequisite courses as well as all program and agency pre-clinical requirements prior to the start of any clinical fieldwork course. In accordance with the Work Integrated Learning policy, the

university reserves the right, at any point during the clinical fieldwork placement, to remove a student from the clinical fieldwork placement for serious performance issues (i.e., engaging in behaviour that places the client and/or others at risk or that is contrary to the professional or safety requirements of the placement). In such cases the Chair, through consultation with the Dean, will assign a grade of F in the course. Although the decision may be appealed according to the Appeals policy, the student will not be permitted to remain in the clinical fieldwork placement during the appeal.

agency requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to meet the required timelines for mask fitting.

Police Information Check

Students must meet the specific police information check (PIC) requirement as set out in the admission criteria for the duration of the program or they may be required to withdraw from the program. Students are responsible for obtaining a PIC at intervals specified by clinical agencies or the program and making these available, upon request, to their clinical agency representative. Student may also be required to obtain child welfare checks for some clinical fieldwork placements. Students whose PIC status changes following program admission must self-report this change in status; this may compromise the student's ability to complete the program requirements as they may be denied required clinical fieldwork placements and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.

Immunization

Students must be able to meet agency requirements for immunizations prior to the start of all clinical fieldwork placement courses. Current immunization against specified communicable diseases is required as a prerequisite for clinical fieldwork placements and thus for continued enrolment in the program. Students must meet the specific immunization requirements prior to the start of the third term. Documentation of these requirements must be provided to the program by the start of the third term. Failure to meet the specified immunization requirements may result in a student being denied an approved clinical fieldwork placement and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.

CPR – Basic Life Support for Health Care Provider (C) or Equivalent

Students must meet the specific CPR requirements prior to the start of the third term. The certification must be for Health Care Providers and include one and two person rescuers (adult, infant, child), bag-valve masks, and automated external defibrillation (AED). Certification must be current, with no grace period provided for clinical fieldwork courses. Documentation of these requirements must be provided to the program by the start of the third term. Failure to meet the specified CPR requirements may result in a student being denied an approved clinical fieldwork placement and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.

First Aid – Basic

Students must meet the specific First Aid requirements prior to the start of the third term. Documentation of these requirements must be provided to the program by the start of the third term. Failure to meet the specified First Aid requirements may result in a student being denied an approved clinical fieldwork placement and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.

N95 Mask or Equivalent

Students must be fitted for an N95 mask (or equivalent) as a prerequisite for clinical fieldwork experiences, and refitted in accordance with health