Thank you for considering a career as a Physical Therapist Assistant at Mount Wachusett Community College.

This information packet explains the admissions process, as well as the entrance requirements for the A.S. Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program. Please read this information carefully. Admission to this program is competitive and seats are limited. Therefore, everyone who applies may not be admitted to the program. Files must be complete in order to be eligible for review by the Admission Committee.

If after reading this information packet, you still have questions please call the admissions office at (978) 630-9284.

INFORMATION SESSIONS
General information sessions, as well as program open houses, are held throughout the year that will include program information, the admission process, and financial aid information. Please call the admissions office for a listing of dates and times. Visit our website at www.mwcc.edu.

APPLICAtION PReCSS:
Applicants must submit the following information to the Admissions Office:

☐ 1. A completed college application accompanied by the $10.00 application fee.

☐ 2. REQUIRED BY ALL APPLICANTS: Verification of completion of high school or equivalency. (see page 10 of the college catalog for acceptable documentation) Current high school students must submit a high school transcript. Education completed outside of the U.S. must be officially translated/evaluated for high school equivalency and these documents must be received from the evaluating firm. Documentation in an official sealed envelope or actual diploma/certificate may be hand delivered to the admissions office.

☐ 3. Official college transcripts (if applicable). Transfer credits for education completed outside of the U.S. must be evaluated for equivalency. Documents must be received directly from the college or evaluating firm or may be hand delivered in an official sealed envelope.

NOTE: Transfer credits must be completed at an accredited college and official transcripts must be received 30 days prior to deadline for processing. Photocopies will not be reviewed or accepted. Transcripts that have not been processed for transfer credits will not be used in the ranking process.

☐ 4. Complete and return the enclosed forms:
   • PTA Program Admission Form

☐ 5. Complete College Placement Testing (CPT) by calling 978-630-9244. Official testing scores may be accepted from other colleges. Previous college coursework may be used in place of CPT to demonstrate English, reading and math requirements.

☐ 6. A writing sample in the form of an essay describing how you became interested in a career in physical therapy.

☐ 7. Students are required to submit evidence of 20 hours of observation at two different PT clinical settings.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

June 1, 2012 (Sept. start)*

Completed applications received after this deadline will be reviewed on a monthly basis if seats remain available.
The Physical Therapist Assistant program prepares individuals to work in the health care profession under the direct supervision of a physical therapist in a variety of settings, including acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, long term care facilities, private practices, school systems, and home care/VNA. Primary responsibilities of the PTA include the implementation of treatment procedures in the rehabilitation of injured, ill, or debilitated individuals. While in the program, students gain competence in patient positioning and transfers; range of motion; therapeutic exercise; the safe application of therapeutic modalities such as heat, cold, electricity, ultrasound; measurement, adjustment, and instruction in the use of ambulatory aids; improving cardiopulmonary function and endurance; and measurements of joint range of motion, muscle strength, length, girth, and vital signs. Upon successful completion of the PTA program, students should be able to demonstrate full understanding of the role of the PTA in the profession; perform all learned procedures safely and appropriately following the PT’s plan of care; demonstrate an understanding of ethical behavior integrating this knowledge; demonstrate awareness of the legal responsibilities in patient care; demonstrate a basic understanding of the psychological effect of disease or injury on an individual; and communicate effectively and competently within the physical therapy setting.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Students entering the A.S. Physical Therapist Assistant Degree (PTA) program must be able to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Comprehend textbook material at the 11th grade level.
2. Communicate and assimilate information either in spoken, printed, signed, or computer voice format.
3. Gather, analyze, and draw conclusions from data.
4. Stand for a minimum of two hours.
5. Walk for a minimum of six hours, not necessarily consecutively.
6. Stoop, bend and twist for a minimum of 30 minutes at a time and be able to repeat this activity at frequent intervals.
7. Lift a 40-pound person or assist with a larger person and transfer the person from one location to another.
9. Use the small muscle dexterity necessary to do such tasks as gloving, gowning, and operating controls on machinery.
10. Respond to spoken words, monitor signals, call bells, and vital sign assessment equipment.
11. Identify behaviors that would endanger a person’s life or safety and intervene quickly in a crisis situation with an appropriate solution.
12. Remain calm, rational, decisive, and in control at all times, especially during emergency situations.
13. Exhibit social skills appropriate to professional interactions.
14. Maintain cleanliness and personal grooming consistent with close personal contact.
15. Function without causing harm to self or others if under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter medications.

Students are expected to meet the technical standards for enrollment in college programs. In some cases, assessment and developmental courses may help students meet these standards. Technical standards must be met with or without accommodations. The college complies with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Therefore, the College will make a reasonable accommodation for an applicant with a disability who is otherwise qualified.

ACCREDITATION STATUS:

MWCC’s A.S. Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, which is the functioning body for accrediting educational programs for the preparation of physical therapist assistants.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A.S. PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA) DEGREE *- Day Program.

All applicants must meet the following criteria at time of application.

1. Completion of a 4-credit (BIO115) Human Biology or (BIO203) Anatomy & Physiology I with a grade of a ‘C+’ or greater completed at an accredited college within five years of application. High school coursework will be considered if the courses were completed within the last five years and were at an ‘honors’ or Advanced Placement level. (High school coursework must include one course in human biology.) College course must have been completed at time of application to be considered.

2. Demonstrated proficiency in English and mathematics using one of the following:
   a. Displayed proficiency on the College Placement Test (CPT) with a score of a
      • 5 or greater on WritePlacer Essay
      • 69 or greater on Reading Comprehension
      • 83 or greater on Algebra portion of the Math Accuplacer
   (or)
   b. Completed college coursework in fundamentals of reading and writing with a grade of a ‘C+’ or higher, and MAT126 or higher with a grade of C+ or greater allowing advancement in college level coursework.

3. A writing sample in the form of an essay describing how you became interested in a career in physical therapy.

* Each applicant must submit all required information listed on page 1 of this application.
PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

Upon graduation from this program students shall have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Consistently demonstrate appropriate role utilization of the physical therapist assistant in the application of established treatment interventions as directed by the primary physical therapist.
2. Integrate into practice the Guidelines of Ethical Conduct/Standards of Practice for PTAs in an effort to assure safe and proper conduct for all interactions within the profession.
3. Demonstrate entry-level competence and skill in the implementation of a comprehensive treatment plan including appropriate modifications according to patient response, patient practitioner interactions, and participation in discharge planning and follow-up.
4. Report and communicate regularly with supervising physical therapists regarding patient progress and treatment modifications in accordance with changes in patient status.
5. Perform with entry-level competence data collection procedures, integrating the findings of such procedures to the patient's plan of care.

6. Identify and demonstrate consistent behavior of interactions and teaching with healthcare professionals, patients, and their families while providing the desired psycho-social support among diverse populations.
7. Demonstrate effective and accurate written and verbal communication skills in documenting the relevant aspects of patient care, including patient response and progress.
8. Integrate information obtained from professional literature review into clinical practice as evidenced-based practitioners of physical therapy interventions in keeping with the intent of the APTA’s Vision 2020 statement.
9. Demonstrate consistent commitment to lifelong learning through regular participation in continuing education.
10. Demonstrate successful performance on state licensure examination.
11. Obtain employment as entry-level physical therapist assistant.

SPECIAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Health examination conducted within the past two years by a licensed health care provider.
- Proof of current immunizations (DPT, MMR, Varicella, Hepatitis B series with follow-up TITRE and TB screening) must be provided to the Health Office. Contact the health office, ext. 136 for more information.
- Liability Insurance of $1,000,000/$3,000,000 coverage is required. Students will be covered under the college’s liability insurance policy, which will be billed through student fees.
- (CPR) Certification (Professional Rescuer, Health Provider) is required. A course will be offered in the fall semester for those in need.
- All PTA students must participate in the Massachusetts Community College Health Insurance or provide accurate information regarding comparable coverage.
- Completion of CORI/SORI form as well as drug testing required by clinical agency.

CORI POLICY (CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORDS INFORMATION)

Criminal Offender Records Information (CORI) check procedure has been implemented for students whose services entails the potential for unsupervised contact with persons from vulnerable population (i.e., children, the elderly, the disabled).

The Criminal History Systems Board has authorized MWCC to receive criminal record information regarding present or prospective employees working with the vulnerable populations, and for trainees/student who will need a CORI clearance to work in education work sites (i.e., day care centers, hospitals, and health care facilities, schools, etc.).

Beginning September 1, 2002 individuals requiring CORI checks will also have Sexual Offender Records Information) consistent with current Commonwealth of Massachusetts law M.G.L. C. §§ 178C-178P. Record storage and usage will be in compliance with (M.G.L. C. 275 § 4). Depending upon the results of a CORI or SORI check, a person’s eligibility to participate in the PTA program may be affected.

Compliance with licensure laws in the state of Massachusetts require all A.S. Physical Therapist Assistant Degree applicants to furnish satisfactory proof of “good moral character” (M.G.L. Chapter 112, Sections 23A and 23Q). Physical Therapist Assistant students will be required to complete a CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) check. It must be understood that a conviction in a court of law may prevent them from being placed in a clinical agency. This then will not allow successful completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant program. In addition, it will delay and may prohibit their eligibility to take their respective state’s PTA Licensure Examination.

Please note: Drug testing may be required by clinical agencies for all students.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How do I make an appointment to complete my placement testing?

Once you have submitted a college application with your $10.00 application fee, you may contact the Testing Center to schedule a time to complete your placement testing by calling (978) 630-9244. Placement testing is available both day and evening. If you completed placement testing in the past two years, these scores can be used if they meet the program requirements. An additional fee of $10.00 will be charged for those individuals who request to retest.

(continued on next page)
If I will not meet both the math and science requirements by deadline, will my file be reviewed?
No, unfortunately your file will not go to committee. Only those applicants who display both the math and science requirements at time of deadline will be reviewed. (see minimum requirements for consideration) Your application will be considered for the Allied Health Certificate/Degree.

I haven’t completed the coursework needed to apply to the PTA program yet. Can I still come to MWCC?
YES! Students are encouraged to enter the college as a “Allied Health Certificate/Degree” student. In this major, you will be identified as a potential PTA applicant and will be assigned to an advisor that will will assist you in establishing an educational plan. As a student in this major, you may complete any of your non-PTA courses (i.e. English, mathematics, sciences, psychology, etc.) then apply to the program when you have met the requirements for consideration.

How is my file going to be evaluated?
The PTA Admissions Committee evaluates complete application files within thirty days of the June 1 application deadline. Applicants are rated on a point scale in the following categories:
1. Laboratory science GPA
2. Overall GPA (high school and/or college)
3. Placement from the MWCC assessment test
4. Previous MWCC credits
5. Previous credits from other colleges

Can I work and attend classes full-time?
Physical Therapist Assistant and science coursework is complex and requires a personal commitment. Part-time employment may be appropriate, but will need to be flexible in order to accommodate school requirements. Students are encouraged to balance their employment and school responsibilities.

Where do I attend a clinical setting or placement, and how do I get there?
PTA students are responsible for their own transportation to clinical sites which are located throughout central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. A student may be asked to travel up to one hour in distance from their home to attend clinical. A complete listing of clinical sites is available to PTA students from the program’s Clinical Coordinator.

Is there an interview for admission?
An interview is not required for admission. An applicant may request an interview with the Physical Therapist Program Chair, Jackie Shaker, by calling 978-630-9287 by calling 978-630-9265.

If I am not accepted into the A.S. Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program, will my application automatically be considered for another program at the college?
No. If you would like your application considered for another major, you must contact the office of admissions at 978-630-9110.

Can I apply for Financial Aid?
Yes. Inquire at the Financial Aid Office, 978-630-9169.

I still have more questions, how do I get them answered?
Appointments may be made with the Physical Therapist Assistant Department Chairperson, Jackie Shaker, by calling 978-630-9292. You can also receive information by attending information sessions. Call admissions for specific information session dates.

Additionally, what must I be aware of?
• It is up to the applicant to read the Technical Standards and understand that it is his/her responsibility to discuss any accommodation that he/she may need by contacting the Counselor for Students with Disabilities at 978-630-9120.
• The applicant is responsible for ensuring that his/her application file is complete and that all items are received by the deadlines. Late submissions will be accepted, but the student’s file will be evaluated only if space becomes available in the program.
• The applicant must read the statement on the inside cover of this application packet regarding the CORI/SORI Policies. Physical Therapist Assistant students are required to complete this form. A court conviction may prevent a student from successfully completing the PTA program and/or may prohibit them from taking their respective state’s PTA Licensure Examination.

In compliance with the Clery Act (20 U.S.C. 1092(a) and (f), all prospective students are entitled to review the MWCC Annual Security Report. This report may be accessed online at www.mwcc.mass.edu or by request through the Office of Admissions.

Mount Wachusett Community College seeks to provide equal educational and employment opportunities and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, physical or mental disability, sex, national origin or ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, or veteran status.
**Physical Therapist Assistant Degree (PTA) (selective-day only)**

Physical therapist assistants implement treatment procedures in the rehabilitation of injured, ill or debilitated individuals. The Physical Therapist Assistant Degree program prepares individuals to work in the healthcare field under the direct supervision of a physical therapist in a variety of settings. The program also prepares students for the PTA licensure examination in the student’s respective state of practice. The program is accredited by The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

**Program length:** Five semesters and one winter intersession (full-time) and one part-time summer sessions, or, part-time over a longer period.

**Helpful hints:** Interested applicants are encouraged to register in the Allied Health Certificate/Degree and will be allowed to take courses needed to meet requirements for consideration then apply for acceptance for fall 2012.

**Transfer options:** While there has traditionally been no direct transfer route for PTA graduates, they may choose from a variety of higher level degrees such as exercise physiology, pre-physical therapy, and massage therapy or other complementary health care programs. Consult with your academic advisor.

**Application deadline:** This selective enrollment program requires additional application components. The selection process is competitive and space is limited. The application deadline is June 1 to be considered for admission for the upcoming fall semester.

**Special requirements:** PTA students are required to keep pace with the incoming class and must take courses in sequential order. Applicants must meet all requirements for consideration before entering the program. Students must meet technical standards and additional requirements including immunizations, CPR certification, liability insurance, and a Criminal/Sexual Offender Records Information (CORI/SORI) check. BIO203 and BIO204 must be completed prior to or concurrently with PTA coursework in semesters I and II. Students must maintain a C+ (77 percent) or better in all PTA courses to maintain good standing.

**Career options:** PTAs assist PTs in acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, long-term care, private practices, school systems, and home care/visiting nurse associations.

**Requirements for Consideration:**

Applicants must have completed a math course equal to MAT126 or higher with a C+ or greater; and completed a 4-credit (BIO115) Human Biology or (BIO203) Anatomy & Physiology with a grade of C+ or greater within the last 5 years. High school courses will be considered on a case by case basis. Applicants must also demonstrate ability to enter college-level coursework in English. English competency may be demonstrated through college placement testing or college coursework. Courses in progress at time of deadline will not be considered as meeting these requirements. Further details are outlined the Program Application which is available on our website or by calling or visiting our admissions office.

### 2012 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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<tr>
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<th>Number</th>
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<td>ENG101</td>
<td>English Composition I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY105</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
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**Credit Total:** 16

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<td>BIO204</td>
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<td>PTA107</td>
<td>Therapeutic Exercise</td>
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<td>PTA108</td>
<td>Clinical Orthopedics</td>
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**Semester Credit Total:** 19

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<td>PTA113</td>
<td>Advanced Rehabilitation Techniques</td>
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**Semester Credit Total:** 14

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<td>PTA117</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
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<td>PTA118</td>
<td>Clinical Mgmt &amp; Healthcare Issues</td>
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<td>PTA119</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum III++</td>
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**Semester Credit Total:** 14

**Total:** 81

*These courses must be taken concurrently or prior to PTA courses specified for that particular semester

+ 120 hours in a clinical setting

++ 240 hours in a clinical setting

See page xx of the college catalog for Technical Standards and Program Competencies.
Outlined below are estimated expenses and classroom/clinical schedule requirements associated with the nursing program. This estimate is based upon Fall 2011 Massachusetts resident tuition and fee day rates of $185/credit. Additional per semester fees have been added that include a registration fee, technology access fee, student activity (if applicable), and LEM - Library, equipment and materials fee (if applicable).

Tuition and fees are subject to change and tuition/fee rates may vary based on course selection.

### Prerequisite Semester

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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
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<td>MAT126 Topics in Mathematics</td>
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<td>ENG101 English Composition I</td>
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<td>PSY105 Introduction to Psychology</td>
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<td>CIS127 or Business Elective</td>
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### PTA Fall Year I

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<td>PTA102</td>
<td>Basic Therapeutic Techniques</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTA104</td>
<td>Applied Anatomy and Kinesiology</td>
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<td>Humanities Elective</td>
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### PTA Intercession

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<td>Assessment Techniques</td>
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### PTA Spring Year I

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<td>English Composition II</td>
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<td>PTA107</td>
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### PTA Fall Year II

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<td>Advanced Rehabilitation Techniques</td>
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### PTA Spring Year II

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<td>PTA118</td>
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<td>PTA119</td>
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### College Health Insurance Plan

- **College Health Insurance Plan** ($928/year) **$1,856**
  - **Note:** If you already have health insurance, you will not need to purchase college insurance.

### Miscellaneous Program Expenses

- **Miscellaneous Program Expenses:** **$2,520**
  - Professional Equipment, Liability Insurance, CPR, Textbooks and Miscellaneous Materials

### Approximate Total Program Cost

**$19,771**

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**Approximate classroom/clinical schedule for PTA courses only:**

**Fall - Year 1**
- Academics

**Winter Intersession**
- Academics - 2 weeks (full-time)

**Spring - Year 1**
- Academics

**Summer - (May-June)**
- Clinicals - 4 weeks (full-time)

**Fall - Year 2**
- Academics

**Spring - Year 2**
- 6 weeks - Clinical (full-time)
- 3 weeks - Academics
- 6 weeks - Clinicals (full-time)

This schedule is an estimated schedule only. Classes/clinicals are not held on weekend days.
Mount Wachusett Community College

Application for Entrance
2012 - Gardner Campus

Physical Therapist Assistant

Program Admission Form

Office use only:
Date Received _______________________

MWCC ID ____________________________

Social Security Number: _______ - _______ - _______

Current Email Address: ___________________________________@________________

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Previous Last Name

Mailing Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Street & Apt. #

City

State

Country

Postal/Zip Code

Telephone Numbers:

Home ( ) _____________________________

Work ( ) ____________________________

Are you a current MWCC student?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Have you completed courses at MWCC?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  If Yes, approximately how many credits have you completed at MWCC? ___________________

What is your highest level of academic achievement?  ☐ Some College  ☐ Associates  ☐ Bachelors  ☐ Masters  ☐ Not Applicable

Will you be asking the Committee to review college transcripts from college(s) other than MWCC?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

If Yes, from which college(s)? __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Have you ever applied to MWCC’s PTA program?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  Have you ever been accepted to our PTA program?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

How have you met the math requirement?

☐ Completed a college course equal or greater than MAT126 with a grade of “C+” or greater at ____________________________________________ college name

☐ Met with College Placement Testing

How have you met the science requirement?

☐ Completed a 4-credit college science course with a grade of C+ or greater at ____________________________________________________________

college name

I have read the Technical Standards and understand that it is my responsibility to discuss any accommodation that I may need with the appropriate College representative.  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION STATED ON THIS APPLICATION IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE.

Applicant Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Parent or Guardian Signature (if applicant is under 18) ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Mount Wachusett Community College seeks to provide equal educational and employment opportunities and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, physical or mental disability, sex, national origin or ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information or veteran status.
Mount Wachusett Community College is requesting all the available criminal offender record information on the following individual from the Criminal History Systems Board pursuant to Chapter 6 §172c that mandates agencies which employ or accept as a volunteer or refer for employment any individual who will provide care, treatment, education, training, transportation, delivery of meals, instruction, counseling, supervision, recreation or other services in a home or in a community based setting for any elderly person or disabled person or who will have any direct or indirect contact with such elderly or disabled persons or access to such person’s files shall obtain all available CORI from the Criminal History Systems Board prior to employing such individual, accepting such individual as a volunteer or referring such individual for employment.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION (PLEASE TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY)

LAST NAME ___________________ FIRST NAME ___________________ MIDDLE NAME ___________________

MAIDEN NAME OR ALIAS (IF APPLICABLE) ___________________ MOTHER’S MAIDEN NAME ___________________

FATHER’S NAME ___________________

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ - _____- _____ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____ - _____ - _______

ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________________

List any state you have lived in over the past 10 years. ______________________________________

________________________________________________________

MWCC Use Only:

REQUESTED BY: _____________________________________________ Signature of CORI Authorized Employee

____ Eligible     ____ Ineligible

Date Sent: ___________________________ Date Received: ___________________________