



## PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM Admission Procedures

Thank you for your interest in applying to the PTA program. The PTA Program last received full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education in April 2009. Upon successful completion of the PTA degree plan, graduates will receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree and become eligible to take the national licensure examination as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

The PTA program is committed to a thorough and fair admissions process. We typically accept 20 students each year. The PTA program requires admitted students to complete a criminal background check (CBC) prior to entering the program.

The following information is provided as a guide for successful completion of the admissions process. The selection process is competitive and successful completion of the admissions requirements *does not* guarantee acceptance into the PTA Program.

### Admission Requirements and Procedure

1. For entry in the fall of any year, submit all application materials to the department office by *May 18th, of that year*.
2. Complete immunization requirements. See [www.austincc.edu/health/immunizations.php](http://www.austincc.edu/health/immunizations.php)
3. The Applicant Data Record is optional. However, several of our accreditation agencies require that this data be collected and analyzed. Your cooperation in completing this form is greatly appreciated. This form will be removed from your application packet upon receipt and kept separate from your application file.
4. ACC requires students to successfully complete the THEA, COMPASS, or ACCESS test before enrolling in college-credit classes unless the student meets approved exemptions as listed in the college catalog. See this web site for a list of exemptions. See catalog or an admissions counselor for more information.
5. Submit a signed copy of the Technical Standards. See [www.austincc.edu/health/ptha/documents/Technical\\_standards\\_07.pdf](http://www.austincc.edu/health/ptha/documents/Technical_standards_07.pdf)
7. The HOBET exam is required for all applicants. This exam is offered at regularly scheduled times. Results must be no more than two years old. The PTA Program only uses the final composite score in the selection process. Other portions of this assessment are used by the program to improve the educational process. Please contact ACC's Business Assessment Center at Highland Business Center at 512.223.7769 to schedule this exam.
8. Submit official transcripts or official ACC Admissions and Records transfer credit documentation of previous educational experience to validate completion of:
  - PSYC 2301 Introduction to Psychology
  - MATH any three hour college-credit math from the general education course list
  - ENGL 1301 English Composition I
  - BIOL 2304 Human Anatomy or equivalent
  - PTHA 1409 Introduction to Physical Therapy
  - HPRS 1106 Medical Terminology (A higher credit hour medical terminology may be substituted)

All completed required general education courses in the degree plan are used to determine applicant's GPA. All students must receive a minimum of a C in all courses in the degree plan with an overall GPA of 2.8 in applicable courses.

9. Each applicant must complete a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer experience. This experience must have occurred within the last two years. Physical Therapy aides or technicians may count employment for this requirement. Three work skills assessment forms are required; at least two work skills assessments must be from licensed physical therapy personnel who have knowledge of the applicant's volunteer or work experience. The third work skills assessment form may be from an individual who has experience with the applicant outside of physical therapy (i.e., employer, supervisor, instructor). Accepted documentation of the volunteer experience is explained below.
  - A. Volunteer experience: Two licensed physical therapy personnel from the facility must document this experience on the work skills assessment form provided. Present the cover letter, the form, and log to the appropriate individual at the beginning of your volunteer time to allow the evaluator familiarity with the criteria throughout the experience.
  - B. Work experience: You may use the log form provided or similar work log from your employer. Two licensed physical therapy personnel must document this experience on the work skills assessment form provided.

All three forms submitted are used in calculating the applicant's admission score.

Work skills assessment forms are available for downloading on the application packet page at [www.austincc.edu/health/ptha/packet.php](http://www.austincc.edu/health/ptha/packet.php)

10. Complete a PTA program information session. You may obtain dates of sessions from the PTA program website @[www.austincc.edu/health/ptha](http://www.austincc.edu/health/ptha) or email Terry Johnson-Growden at [tjohnso5@austincc.edu](mailto:tjohnso5@austincc.edu). A face to face information session is recommended or you may take online at: [www.austincc.edu/health/ptha/info/session/ptaInfoSession.pdf](http://www.austincc.edu/health/ptha/info/session/ptaInfoSession.pdf)
11. Complete the PTA application form and essay.
12. All application forms are available by download on our web page at: [www.austincc.edu/health/ptha/packet.php](http://www.austincc.edu/health/ptha/packet.php)

### **Selection Process**

Only applicants that have met all prerequisites and have completed all forms will be considered in the selection process. See checklist on website. Listed below are the criteria used in ranking the applicants:

1. Academic GPA
2. HOBET exam score
3. Essay score
4. Completed work skills assessment forms

Applicants with completed course work will have additional bonus points added to their ranking score. 1.5 bonus points will be awarded for an "A" and 0.75 bonus points will be awarded for a "B". The following courses are eligible for bonus points: PTHA 1409 Introduction to Physical Therapy, BIO 2305 Human Physiology and one additional of the co-requisites listed below that has the highest qualifying grade. A maximum of 4.5 bonus points can be awarded.

Co-Requisites:

- A. SPCH
- B. PSYC 2314 Human Growth and Development
- C. Elective in Humanities/Fine Arts

**Final Selection and Notification**

Each applicant will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- 1. GPA of applicable academic course work           40%
- 2. HOBET scores   40%
- 3. Essay   15%
- 4. Work skills assessment scores                   5%
- 5. Bonus points

The program will notify applicants of their status in early June. Applicants will receive one of the following letters.

*Conditional Acceptance:* complete criminal background check and attend required orientation; directions and dates included with your acceptance letter

*Alternate:* if you are selected as an alternate and wish to know your alternate position or if you would like advising for application the following year, you may contact the Program Department Chair.

*Rejection:* if you would like advising for application the following year, you may contact the Program Department Chair.

**Contacts**

Address any questions or concerns regarding this procedure to:

Jana Israel, PT, MEd	Email: jisrael@austincc.edu
Department Chair	512.223.5938
3401 Webberville RD	Fax: 512.223.5897
Austin, Texas 78702	

**Important**

We reserve the right to update this information periodically. The PTA Program is not responsible for the applicant's misinterpretation of information printed herein.

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Employment at the college and access to its programs or activities shall not be limited on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or physical disability. ACC will take steps to ensure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. All recruitment and admissions material complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Inquiries regarding ACC's compliance with ADA, or requests for accommodations for persons with disabilities can be directed to:

EEO/ADA/Affirmative Action Coordinator  
 5930 Middle Fiskville Rd. Austin, TX 78752-4390  
 (512) 223.7572 (voice)  
 711 (Relay Texas)