
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How many students do we accept per year?

A: The Physical Therapist Assistant program can accept a maximum of 18 students per year.

Q: Do you have a rolling deadline?

A: The portfolio deadline is firm – no portfolios are accepted after the posted deadline. All admissions decisions are made after the deadline.

Q: I want to pursue a career as a Doctor of Physical Therapy/Physical Therapist. Is the PTA program a good starting point?

A: **No**, the PTA program is not a stepping stone for a career as a Doctor of Physical Therapy. The scope of work and educational requirements for a career as a PTA differ greatly from those as a DPT. Information about the differences between the two can be found on the American Physical Therapy Association website (APTA.org).

Q: Do I have to have all of my prerequisite courses completed before applying?

A: The PTA program requires certain courses to be complete with a final grade at time of portfolio submission, while other can be in progress. In-progress courses must be complete with the required final grade by the end of the Fall 2023 semester to be considered eligible for the program. The course requirements can be found on page 15 of this admissions packet.

Q: If I score below the minimum requirements/don't meet the requirements outlined, can I still apply & be accepted?

A: **No**. All applicants must meet all general and selective admissions criteria at time of portfolio submission. Students who do not meet the minimum qualifications will be marked as incomplete and not eligible for the program.

Q: Admissions has all of my transcripts on file, is it necessary to include them in my portfolio?

A: **Yes**, all official college transcripts must be resubmitted in the portfolio. Students must resubmit a high school transcript only if they are using a high school lab science to apply and/or the Admissions office does not have a copy on file.

Q: I finished all of the general education courses in the A.A.S. Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum. Does this mean I can finish the program sooner?

A: **No**. The program takes a full four semesters of coursework and cannot be accelerated or decelerated in any way. All PTA technical phase courses must be completed in the order in which they appear on the program of study.

Q: Do I need to take the HESI exam if I have an advanced degree or have taken the HSRT-AD, SAT/ACT or GRE?

A: The HESI exam is required for all applicants and is non-negotiable. Previous HESI scores do not carry an expiration date for the 2024 Physical Therapist Assistant program.

Frequently Asked Questions (*cont'd*)

Q: I have a higher/different math than College Geometry. Can I use that instead?

A: **No.** College Geometry is the required math course to apply to the PTA program and is non-negotiable. Different math courses (Statistics, PreCalculus, Intermediate Algebra, Calculus, etc.) cannot be used in place of College Geometry.

Q: Where can I set up my observation hours?

A: RCSJ does not provide potential sites for students to complete their observation hours requirement. Students are encouraged to reach out to a PT/PTA they are interested in shadowing directly to establish observation hours. Students can also use the [APTA.org](https://www.apta.org) "Find a PT" database for available, local PTs near their location.

Q: I am transferring from another school. Will you accept my credits?

A: General education courses may be eligible to transfer to the PTA program. Students transferring from another PTA programs should be advised that PTA courses cannot transfer from school to school. Transfer students should have their transfer credits evaluated prior to submitting a PTA portfolio. Please find more information on pages 26–28 of this packet.

Q: Is the time limit just on the lab science or does that also apply to general education classes?

A: Anatomy & Physiology I and Anatomy & Physiology II courses must be no older than five years from point of entry to the PTA program. All other general education classes do not carry an expiration date.

Q: What if my Anatomy & Physiology courses are expired?

A: Students with expired Anatomy & Physiology courses will need to retake the course to update the content. There is no longer a test-out option.

Q: How is the cumulative GPA calculated?

A: The cumulative GPA is taken from the institution the applicant either currently attends or most recently attended. This is verified from inclusion of the student's official transcript in the portfolio. If the student attended more than one institution, the GPAs are not combined and only the most recent cumulative GPA is used. Cumulative GPA does not affect overall admissions ranking to the PTA program.

Q: I met or exceeded all minimum requirements, so that means I am accepted, right?

A: **No.** Admission to the PTA program is not guaranteed. All applicants are ranked objectively based on the published criteria (see page 16). Meeting or exceeding minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance. All applicants should put their best foot forward when submitting their portfolio.