



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

ADMISSIONS POLICY

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program uses a selection process shown in the academic literature to have predictive value for both academic and National Physical Therapy Examination success regardless of the type of program, gender, or ethnicity. 1 Candidates are eligible based on scholastics, a placement examination used for allied health programs such as nursing and personal factors.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SELECTED PER COHORT

The PTA Program is currently admitting up to 28 students per cohort, one cohort per academic year. You will find the formula for selecting the cohort later in this document. After the cohort has been selected, up to 10 additional candidates will be placed on a wait list. If a spot becomes available, the next highest ranked candidate will be invited to join the cohort.

ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES FOR ADMISSION TO THE OTA PROGRAM

To be considered for admission to the OTA Program, a prospective candidate must:

1. Show proof of graduation from an accredited high school or the equivalent (GED).
2. Have completed the following courses with a grade of C or better *before* applying to the Program*. These four courses must meet an average of 2.5 GPA to be eligible to apply to the Program.
 - a. ENGL 101 (English Composition)
 - b. HLHSCI 249 (Medical Terminology)
 - c. Either BIOSCI 201 (Anatomy) and BIOSCI 202 (Physiology) *or* BIOSCI 204 (Anatomy and Physiology I and BIOSCI 205 (Anatomy and Physiology II)[‡]
 - d. PSYCH 172 (Developmental Psychology)
 - e. PSYCH 101 (Intro to Psychology) or PSYCH 240 (Abnormal Psychology) or SOCI 101 (Intro to Sociology) or ANTHRO 103 (Cultural Anthropology)
 - f. COMS 105 (Fundamentals of Public Speaking)
 - g. MATH 140 (Introductory Statistics)

*In Progress: If you are enrolled in a prerequisite course when you submit your application, you must show proof of current enrollment with your submission and final grades at the end of the Spring 2025 semester. Admission into the Occupational Therapy Assistant program will be pending until each prerequisite submitted in the application is completed. If you are taking prerequisite courses at another institution, please verify with Counseling that they will transfer to College of the Canyons and meet program requirements before applying.

‡There is a 5-year Recency Requirement for Anatomy and Physiology courses only.

3. Transfer of credits from other Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) programs will not be accepted. Additionally, experiential learning cannot be used as a substitute for any OTA courses throughout the entirety of the OTA program.
4. Have achieved an overall college GPA of 2.5 or better.
5. Qualified applicants are required to take the ATI TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) and achieve an "Adjusted Individual Total Score" of 62% or greater. The TEAS is a standardized test used by many nursing and allied health programs to assess a candidate's readiness for their programs. Once notified of the status of their application by the School of Health Professions office, qualified applicants may take the TEAS the first time at COC for no charge on a day and time that will be provided. Alternatively, after their application status has been confirmed, qualified applicants may make their own arrangements to take the TEAS test near where they live or online and pay for it themselves. For more information about the TEAS test and to register for the exam and pay for it yourself *after* you've been notified that your application is accepted if that is your choice, please go to <https://atitesting.com/teas/register>.

INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES

Admitted students to the OTA Program must:

- i) Pass a medical examination completed on the School of Health Professions form and be able to meet:
- ii) The [Technical Standards for the OTA Program](#) (Pg.58)
- iii) Show proof of immunity (not just vaccinations) for the following diseases:
- iv) MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)
- v) Varicella
- vi) T-dap (within the past 10 years)
- vii) Hepatitis B*
- viii) Flu (Yearly/Seasonal) *
- ix) COVID-19
- x) TB Test
- xi) PPD Skin Test, or,
- xii) QuantiFERON Gold Blood Test, or,
- xiii) Chest x-ray within the past 3 years

*Note: Some clinical sites require these immunizations and/or proof of immunity in order for students to be placed for clinical experiences. Religious and other exemptions for applicants are handled on a case-by-case basis. Please inquire at otainfo@canyons.edu as to how to proceed.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE OTA PROGRAM

Scholastic eligibility is determined through a multicriteria formula that calculates the candidate's probability of successfully completing the OTA Program, including the following criteria:

1. Anatomy and Physiology courses GPA
2. Overall GPA. The college GPA as it appears on college transcripts, excluding non-credit and not-for-credit courses
3. Assessment Test (TEAS) score

OTHER SELECTION CRITERIA

Final selection to a OTA cohort is made via a multicriteria formula that is compliant with [Education Code § 78262.1 \(b\)\(1\)](#) and that includes scholastic eligibility and assessment test scores, plus the following:

1. Prior academic degrees
2. Work experience on the field
3. Personal factors as listed in the law

DEFERRALS

Candidates selected for the Program are expected to join that cohort. Requests for deferring entry to the next cohort are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, considering reasons such as medical emergencies, military obligations, or personal hardships. Recency requirements for prerequisites will not be extended. Deferrals requested for more than one cohort will not be considered. If a deferral is not granted, candidates must reapply and compete for admission in a future cycle. Candidates who are granted a deferral must complete the Program and will not be readmitted if withdrawn or dismissed before completion.

REENROLLMENT

If a student is administratively withdrawn, voluntarily withdraws, or is dismissed from the PTA program, he or she may petition to reenroll one time. After two failures or withdrawals, a student may not return to the Program. See the PTA Reenrollment Policy