



## PHYSICAL THERAPIST 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 PTA PROGRAM

To be considered for admission to the PTA Program, you 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 C1000/C1000H (Formerly ENGL 101/H (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)<sup>‡</sup>
  - d. PTA 100 (Preparing for Careers in Physical Therapy)<sup>†</sup>

\*In Progress: Candidates are admitted to the PTA Program on a space available basis. Candidates with a complete application will be considered first. You may choose to submit “in progress” grades if you are enrolled in a prerequisite course when you submit your application, but you will not be considered for entrance into the next cohort until you complete all prerequisites. If you choose to apply with a class “in progress” you must show proof of current enrollment with your submission and final grades at the end of the Spring 2025 semester. Admission into the Physical Therapist 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Kabiri LS, Voight M, Gleeson PB, Mitchell K. Predicting Academic and Licensure Examination Success Among Physical Therapist Assistant Students. *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 2017;31(4):29-34. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1097/jte.000000000000014>

## PTA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

‡These courses must be 4 semester units each and include an in-person laboratory component. There is a 5-year Recency Requirement for Anatomy and Physiology courses only. For with a degree that required A & P courses, the 5 years starts at the time of graduation. For those without a degree requiring A & P, the 5 years starts from the semester the course was taken. At COC, A&P have a prerequisite 4-unit course BIOSCI 100 – Introductory Biology or BIOSCI 101- Introductory Biology for Health Professions. Candidates with the requisite A&P courses that have timed out may take NC.PTA 40 and NC.PTA 41 as refresher courses. These are free, noncredit courses offered online.

†Candidates with employer documentation of 1800 or more hours of work experience as a physical therapy aide may provide documentation at the time of the application in lieu of taking PTA 100. Then, if accepted into the PTA program, the PTA student can meet with a COC Counselor to have a Major Course Substitution form completed so as to officially waive the PTA 100 requirement.

3. Have achieved an overall college GPA of 2.5 or better.
4. 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. For more information about the TEAS please go to <https://atitesting.com/teas>.
  - a. Once your application is reviewed and found to be complete you will be asked to take the TEAS exam, Version 7, for Allied Health Care applicants. Only proctored versions of the exam are accepted. Applicants must pay for and take the TEAS test on their own. The highest number of points are awarded to the candidates taking the TEAS only once. You may take the exam one additional time, but you will earn a slightly lower number of points for the second attempt (See the Scoresheet at the end of this policy).

### ADMITTED STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Admitted students to the PTA Program must:

1. Pass a medical examination completed on the COC School of Health Professions Physical Form and be able to meet:
  - a. The Technical Standards for the PTA Program
  - b. Show proof of immunity (not just vaccinations) for the following diseases:
    - i. MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)
    - ii. Varicella
    - iii. T-dap (within the past 10 years)
    - iv. Hepatitis B\*
    - v. Flu (Yearly/Seasonal)\*
    - vi. COVID-19\*
    - vii. TB Test
      1. PPD Skin Test, or,
      2. QuantiFERON Gold Blood Test, or,
      3. 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 [ptainfo@canyons.edu](mailto:ptainfo@canyons.edu) as to how to proceed.

## PTA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

### SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE PTA PROGRAM

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

1. Anatomy and Physiology courses GPA
2. Overall GPA
  - a. 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 PTA cohort is made via a multivariable 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 in 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.

**PTA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA**

**TECHNICAL STANDARDS (ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS) FOR THE PTA PROGRAM**

Access to College of the Canyons facilities, programs, and services is available to students with disabilities. We actively collaborate with students to develop innovative ways to ensure accessibility and create a respectful accountable culture through our specialized disability support. We are committed to excellence in accessibility and *encourage students with disabilities to disclose and seek accommodations*.

This list of Technical Standards is provided to inform incoming and enrolled students of the performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the PTA curriculum and provide effective and safe healthcare. To matriculate (enroll) the student must meet technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations and maintain related satisfactory demonstration of these standards at all times in order to progress through the program.

If you are or become unable to perform these required essential functions, you may pose a risk of harm to patients, fellow students, or yourself. Your inability to perform these functions may result in your being unable to meet course objectives and progress through the PTA Program. If you find that you are not able to demonstrate the following standards and skills without accommodation, or if you aren't sure what avenues are available to you, you should reach out to the Academic Accommodations Center in Seco Hall.

The following Technical Standards represent the essential non-academic requirements of the College of the Canyons PTA Program. These standards are not intended to exclude individuals with disabilities, but rather to ensure the safety of patients and students and the integrity of the educational experience. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), reasonable accommodations will be considered for any individual who, despite a disability, can meet the essential functions of the program with or without accommodation.

<b><i>Technical Standard</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Example</i></b>
<b><i>Cognitive Ability</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate critical thinking sufficient for collecting, analyzing, and integrating information to safely and accurately process instructions, promote positive patient outcomes, and for constant professional behavior</li> <li>• Exhibit ability to create, apply and/or adapt interventions within the plan of care established by the Physical Therapist</li> <li>• Exhibit ability to organize &amp; prioritize tasks</li> <li>• Exhibit awareness of, and ability to work with, diverse populations</li> <li>• Exhibit ability to function effectively under stress and time constraints</li> <li>• Exhibit ability to follow policies and procedures required in clinical and academic settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform measurements and calculations</li> <li>• Maintain focus and attention in class and clinical sessions</li> <li>• Interpret information from team members accurately</li> <li>• Solve problems in patient care.</li> <li>• Organize and prioritize multiple tasks; integrate and analyze written, verbal, and observed data regarding patient care</li> <li>• Discuss the rationale for, and comply with, HIPAA standards, especially confidentiality</li> <li>• Demonstrate the ability to assist accurately with all patient care duties and physical therapy procedures</li> <li>• Follow a process from start to finish utilizing sequential established policies and procedures</li> </ul>

**PTA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA**

<b><i>Technical Standard</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Example</i></b>
<b><i>Communication Ability</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and in a timely manner in English with instructors, peers, patients/families, and other health care providers using verbal, non-verbal, written, and/or assistive communication methods, to ensure safe and effective patient care and collaboration in clinical settings including during emergency situations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interact and establish rapport with individuals, families, and groups from diverse populations</li> <li>• Provide explanations and instructions in a manner that is clear and understandable to recipients</li> <li>• Comprehend written and communication from various sources</li> <li>• Provide accurate concise written and verbal or alternative format reports</li> <li>• Interpret non-verbal communication accurately and respond appropriately</li> </ul>
<b><i>Interpersonal/Intrapersonal Skills and Behavior</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate emotional and psychological stability sufficient to function under stress and to adapt to ever changing situations</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to maintain professional conduct and appearance, maintain patient confidentiality, and operate within the scope of practice of the PTA</li> <li>• Students must demonstrate the ability to maintain composure and continue to function well with patients or clients who are undergoing periods of stress and may exhibit challenging attitudes or behaviors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possess the emotional health required to deliver patient care</li> <li>• Respond professionally and appropriately to emergency situations</li> <li>• Demonstrate empathy for patients and peers, exhibit sensitivity to the needs of others, and treat all with dignity and respect</li> <li>• Maintain composure in clinical and didactic environments.</li> <li>• Demonstrate professionalism in classroom, lab, and clinical settings including but not limited to appropriate personal hygiene, timeliness, preparation, and concentration</li> </ul>
<b><i>Visual Ability</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate visual acuity sufficient to monitor and assess patient status and to read written, handwritten, and printed material with or without assistive devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discern changes in skin or wound color and condition</li> <li>• Read numbers and letters in fine print, such as would appear on patient care equipment, in varying levels of light accurately using visual aids if necessary</li> </ul>
<b><i>Auditory Ability</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate auditory perception or the use of alternative communication strategies or technologies sufficient to interact effectively with patients, caregivers, and the healthcare team, including the ability to detect relevant sounds in the clinical environment (e.g., alarms, cues, or verbal instructions).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect high and low frequency sounds, such as faint voices, telephones, and monitor alarms using auditory aids if necessary</li> <li>• Perceive and respond to auditory cues to communicate with patients, peers, instructors, and other members of the health care team</li> </ul>
<b><i>Tactile Ability</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate tactile ability sufficient for patient care including physical assessment and interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify tremors, vibrations, edema, or skin changes in various body areas</li> <li>• Identify physical characteristics such as bony landmarks, muscles, and tendons</li> <li>• Palpate accurately carotid, radial, femoral, and pedal pulses using appropriate techniques or tools</li> </ul>
<b><i>Olfactory Ability</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate olfactory ability sufficient to assess patients and healthcare environment</li> <li>• Demonstrate olfactory ability sufficient to detect unusual odors/smells emanating from patients and/or the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect malodorous or unusual odors from bodily fluids and wounds</li> <li>• Distinguish smells which contribute to assessing and/or maintaining the patient's health status and environment (fire, noxious fumes, etc.)</li> </ul>

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<b><i>Technical Standard</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Example</i></b>
<b><i>Strength and Mobility</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate physical abilities and strength sufficient to perform clinical and emergency procedures with or without reasonable accommodations</li> <li>• Demonstrate energy and vitality sufficient to interact with people of all ages and to help them accomplish their tasks</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to freely walk, stand, sit, squat, balance, climb, reach, grip, lift, pull, and push as needed in the performance of clinical duties with or without assistive devices</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to move in tight quarters</li> <li>• Demonstrate proper body mechanics</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to stand for long periods of time</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to move quickly to perform direct patient care</li> <li>• Essential motor tasks must be performed directly or through reasonable accommodation, including the effective direction of aides or use of assistive technology, when appropriate and safe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain balance in any position</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to maneuver in small spaces (walk, stand, and bend over) while providing patient care with appropriate accommodations if needed</li> <li>• Quickly intervene for a patient’s health and safety, including the ability to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), if needed</li> <li>• Demonstrate strength to position, lift, move, and transfer patients with or without assistance or devices</li> <li>• Push or pull heavy objects such as occupied hospital beds and gurneys, physical agent units, and lift and move heavy equipment with assistance</li> <li>• Lift and/or carry up to 50 pounds frequently and safely and occasionally more than 50 pounds, in a clinical setting with reasonable and appropriate accommodations</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to effectively use appropriate ergonomic techniques (good body mechanics) and manual handling</li> <li>• Move quickly when necessary</li> </ul>
<b><i>Motor Skills</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate sufficient postural control, neuromuscular function, strength, coordination and endurance to perform physical therapy interventions safely, effectively, and efficiently in the classroom, community, and clinical environments during a full workday. This includes fine and gross motor functions needed to safely operate equipment, position patients for treatment, and demonstrate desired actions for educational purposes, responding to emergent or unexpected situations in a timely manner with or without reasonable accommodations</li> <li>• Demonstrate physical ability sufficient to maneuver in small spaces (including standing, walking, bending, and range-of-motion of extremities) with or without assistive devices</li> <li>• Essential motor tasks must be performed directly or through reasonable accommodation, including the effective direction of aides or use of assistive technology, when appropriate and safe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate or perform patient positioning and movement as required for therapeutic interventions</li> <li>• Handle equipment and tools necessary for patient care</li> <li>• Write legibly or produce written documentation in an accessible format</li> <li>• Use electronic devices</li> <li>• Demonstrate keyboarding skills sufficient to complete data entry and/or clinical duties in a timely manner using adaptive technology if necessary</li> </ul>
<b><i>Physical Endurance</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate sufficient physical endurance to complete assigned periods, the required shift, and assigned tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work for 8 hours or more</li> <li>• Sit or stand for long periods of time, including up to 4 hours</li> </ul>

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<i>Technical Standard</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Example</i>
<i>Environmental Tolerance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate ability to function safely in a typical clinical environment</li> <li>• Demonstrate awareness that the health care environment may contain latex and other allergens, including but not limited to medication (topical and ingestible), chemical, and mundane; tolerance of such allergens in the workplace must also be demonstrated</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for extended periods of time during patient care</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to tolerate prolonged periods of time amidst artificial lighting, air conditioning, dust and odors, residue from cleaning products, noise, congested workplace, and bodily fluids</li> <li>• Demonstrate sensitivity and ability to protect self and others from environmental risks and hazards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves, mask, protective eyewear and gown for extended periods of time during patient treatment, educational study, and labs</li> <li>• Perform Universal Precautions to work safely in an environment that includes respiratory and blood borne pathogens</li> <li>• Don and remove isolation garb</li> </ul>

**ADA, ADAA, 504, and CA Govt Code § 11135 (2024) Compliance**

Nothing in these PTA Technical Standards should be read as a limitation on students' rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and CA Govt Code § 11135 (2024), nor do these PTA Technical Standards limit reasonable accommodations (i.e., consistent with the aforementioned laws) written in Academic Accommodations Plans by the Academic Accommodations Center (AAC).

In keeping with applicable federal and state laws regarding disabilities and with our program philosophy, we are committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities to enable them to successfully complete their education and to perform the skills necessary to carry out the role of an entry-level physical therapist assistant. There is an expectation that every student will be able to perform the essential functions required for entry level physical therapist assistants, with or without reasonable accommodations, while practicing safely, ethically, and in a legal manner. A reasonable accommodation is any reasonable modification of the institution’s rules, policies or practices. This may include, but is not limited to, environmental adjustments (such as the removal of architectural or communicative barriers) or auxiliary aids and services. An accommodation is not reasonable if it would result in undue financial or administrative burdens, require a fundamental alteration to the vertical and horizontal integrity of the physical therapy program curriculum, violate accreditation requirements, or require the waiver of essential program requirements.

I certify by my signature below that I have read and understand the above Essential Functions required of me for selection into the College of the Canyons Physical Therapist Assistant Program. I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF STUDENT (PLEASE PRINT)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS  
SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

**PTA PROGRAM APPLICANT MULTICRITERIA RATING FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PREREQUISITES AND GPA						POINTS
Course	Here?	Where?	Course	When	GPA	↓ Max = 20
ENG C1000 / ENGL 101	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/> C or better?	
HLHSCI 249	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/> C or better?	
BIOSCI 201 OR 204	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> 2020 or later?	<input type="checkbox"/> C or better?	
BIOSCI 202 OR 205	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> 2020 or later?	<input type="checkbox"/> C or better?	
PTA 100	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> Substitution Form?	<input type="checkbox"/> C or better?	
≥ 4.0 = 20 pt    ≤4.0-≥3.5 = 15 pt    ≤3.5--≥3.0 = 10 pt    ≤3.0--≥2.5 = 5 pt			<b>ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY GPA</b>			
Prerequisite GPA must be ≥ 2.5 GPA			<input type="checkbox"/> PREREQ GPA ≥ 2.5?			↓ Max = 25
≥ 4.0 = 25 pt    ≤4.0-≥3.5 = 20 pt    ≤3.5--≥3.0 = 15 pt    ≤3.0--≥2.5 = 10 pt			<b>TOTAL GPA</b>			
<b>TEAS TEST</b>			<b>Score</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Attempt</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Attempt</b>	
			100% – ≥ 90%	25 pt	20 pt	
			≤ 90% – ≥85%	22 pt	17 pt	
			≤ 85% – ≥ 80%	19 pt	14 pt	
			≤ 80% – ≥ 75%	16 pt	11 pt	
			≤ 75% – ≥ 70%	13 pt	8 pt	↓ Max = 25
			≤ 70% – ≥62%	5 pt	0 pt	
<b>ACADEMIC DEGREES/DIPLOMAS (Choose only 1 or none)</b>						↓ Max = 6
			≥ BACHELOR'S DEGREE		6	
			ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE		3	
<b>WORK EXPERIENCE (Choose only 1 or None)</b>						↓ Max = 15
			VOLUNTEER > 80 HOURS		3	
			RELATED MEDICAL		6	
			PT AIDE (VERIFIED BY PT EMPLOYER)			
			6 mo. – 1 yr.		9	
			1-3 yrs.		12	
			3 yrs. or more		15	
<b>LIFE EXPERIENCES OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES</b>						↓ Max = 9
DISABILITIES					1	
LOW FAMILY INCOME					1	
FIRST GENERATION OF FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE					1	
NEED TO WORK					1	
DISADVANTAGED SOCIAL OR EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT					1	
DIFFICULT PERSONAL AND FAMILY SITUATIONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES					1	
REFUGEE OR VETERAN STATUS					1	
LIVING IN A MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA OR POPULATION AS DESIGNATED BY HRSA					1	
PROFICIENCY OR ADVANCED LEVEL COURSEWORK IN HIGH FREQUENCY LANGUAGE*					1	
<b>TOTAL APPLICANT SCORE (Maximum 100 points)</b>						

\*American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese (all dialects), Farsi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, African continent languages