



## 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 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)<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

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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>

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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.

†Candidates with employer documentation of 2000 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 invited to come to the Valencia campus and take the TEAS test at no charge on a date and time selected by the Program. Applicants may pay for and take the TEAS test on their own. If you wish to take the TEAS test near you, you should check with the Health Professions Office and make sure you take the version of the test currently being accepted by the Program. The highest number of points are awarded to the candidates taking the TEAS only once. You may take the exam one additional time at your own expense, 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.

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### 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.