How Do I Prepare for Application to the PTA Program?

The **Physical Therapist Assistant** (PTA) program is a selective entry program. You must apply for admission to the program separate from the admission application that you have submitted for JSCC. Applications for the PTA program are accepted each spring with a deadline of June 1. **In order to be competitive in the PTA program's applicant pool, you should strive to exceed the program's minimum requirements**. Below you will find the requirements for the program and the courses that will help you to be a strong applicant in the PTA selection process. Successful completion of these courses will provide you with a solid educational background to be successful in the PTA coursework once you are admitted into the program.

Program Application Academic Requirements

To be eligible for application to the PTA program you must:

1. Have an ACT Math score of 19, English score of 18, and Reading score of 19 or the equivalent as determined by the JSCC Admissions Office OR have completed all required learning support competencies as applicable. ACT scores of 21 or above are preferred but not required.
2. Have a minimum high school GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale if ≤ 9 college credits OR an overall college GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (excluding learning support coursework).
3. Have a grade of a "C" or better in all PTA general education coursework that is taken prior to applying to the program.

(Note: Applicants are also required to have observed in a physical therapy setting prior to applying. See website for all application details.)

Program Course Requirements

Required General Education Courses (24 credit hours): A required general education course is one that must be completed by the student before they are eligible to graduate from JSCC with an A.A.S. degree in PTA. These courses may **be taken before** a student is officially admitted into the program or **during** the five semester PTA program. To be competitive in the program's highly competitive applicant pool, however, it is highly recommended that students complete most or all of this coursework prior to applying to the program.

- Human Anatomy and Physiology I **and** II (BIOL 2010 and 2020)
- Survey of Physical Science (PSCI 1010)
- English Composition I (ENGL 1010)
- General Psychology (PSYC 1030)
- Fundamentals of Communications (COMM 2025)
- Humanities elective

Please note:

1. Grades of A's and B's in **all** of the above courses are most beneficial for the competitive applicant. Each course grade is calculated into your overall grade point average (GPA) and the higher your GPA, the more competitive you will be in the program admissions process. Overall GPA includes **all** JSCC courses **in addition to** any college courses from **other** institutions (excluding Learning Support courses).
2. Credit **will not** be given in the program admissions process for science classes completed before the 5-year period prior to the application deadline.
3. The most efficient way to improve a low GPA is to repeat courses in which you earned an unacceptable grade (D or F). If applicable, please check with a Financial Aid representative to see how repeating a course may affect your award.

Recommended Courses: These courses are **NOT REQUIRED** to graduate from JSCC with a degree in PTA; however, points are earned in the program's application process if you have completed these courses with a grade of C or higher.

- Medical Terminology (HSC 111)
- Any other 4-credit hour natural science course (BIOL 1010, for example)

Other Suggested Courses:
If you require full-time hours and want to enhance your college experience with other helpful courses relative to a career in the health care field, please consider the following courses. These courses, however, do not factor into your application points for the PTA program.

- Computer Literacy and Application (CITC 1308)
- Statistics and Probability (MATH 1530)
- Health and Wellness (PHED 2050)
- First Aid and Safety (PHED 2010)
- Introduction to Ethics (PHIL 2110, this course can be used as your Humanities requirement)
- Life Span Psychology (PSYC 2130)
- Beginning Spanish (SPAN 1010)

Required PTA Courses (42 credit hours):
These courses are only open to those students who have been officially accepted into the program through the program's application process. Class size is limited to a maximum of 24 students.

PTA Program Class Schedule:
Once admitted into the PTA program, students will begin taking the required PTA courses. These are daytime, on-campus courses, with students attending classes and labs Monday through Thursday. Specific class schedules and times will vary depending on the semester. In addition, open lab is available on Friday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to provide students with opportunities for additional practice and skill development.

PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE PTA ADVISORS BELOW TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO DEVELOP YOUR ACADEMIC PLAN:

Dr. Felicia Ingram, PT, DPT
Program Director, Associate Professor
Office Phone: (731) 424-3520, ext. 50214
Office: HSB222
Email: fingram3@jscc.edu

Dr. Patricia (Patty) Easley, PTA, EdD
Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education, Professor
Office Phone: (731) 424-3520, ext. 50392
Office: HSB218
Email: peasley@jscc.edu

Amy White, PTA, MAEd
PTA Lab Coordinator, Associate Professor
Office Phone: (731) 424-3520, ext. 59586
Office: HSB219
Email: awhite11@jscc.edu