

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM ADMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REVISED FOR 2009

I. INITIAL ADMISSION PROCEDURE

A. Overview and Timeframes

Genesee Community College accepts applicants who it determines can benefit from an educational program. However, admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program is competitive and therefore selective. Applicants who have submitted a complete application and have a sufficient academic background in math, biology, and chemistry and/or physics, will be offered acceptance into the PTA Program on a first-come-first-serve basis until the class and wait list are full. A class of 30 students is admitted for the class starting in the Fall semester. No new first-time applicant will be admitted to start taking PTA courses in the Spring semester. Evaluations of applications will begin **early January** of each year and continue until the class and wait list are full. In some years, acceptances have been offered to qualified applicants as late as June and July.

B. Admission Process

Each application is evaluated by the PTA Program Admissions Committee after an applicant has submitted the College application, all necessary transcripts and the volunteer/work experience recommendation form to the Admissions Office at GCC. Once an application is complete, it will be assigned a consideration date. Applications will be evaluated by the Admissions Committee in the order of their consideration dates.

Applicants who have submitted a complete application and have a sufficient academic background in math and science will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Competitive applicants will be offered full acceptances until the class of 30 is full. After that point, competitive applicants will be offered wait list acceptances.

C. Types of Applicants and Materials to Submit

Admission to the PTA Program may be accomplished by applying either as a high school or a college applicant. **High School Applicants** are those applicants who are currently attending high school at the time of their application. These applicants should submit high school transcripts with midterm grades of classes in progress at the time of application. They also need to complete at least 20 hours of volunteer or work experience in physical therapy and submit a completed Volunteer/Work Experience Recommendation Form to the Admissions Office at GCC.

College Applicants are those applicants who are not currently attending high school at the time of their application. These are applicants who have either attended college or who have not had any college experience since graduating from high school. College applicants should submit their transcripts from high school and all colleges attended other than GCC. In addition, at least 20 hours of volunteer or work experience in physical therapy must be completed and the Volunteer/Work Experience Recommendation Form submitted to the Admissions Office.

D. Academic Criteria

The technical education coursework, which begins with PTA 101, builds on an academic foundation in the biological sciences. **In order to promote student success in the program, all students are required to complete BIO 104 or its equivalent prior to starting PTA 101 in the fall semester.** Since BIO 104 (Cell Biology) is a prerequisite for BIO 105 (Anatomy & Physiology 1), BIO 104 needs to be completed prior to taking BIO 105. The PTA course sequence is designed to be completed within a two year timeframe from starting PTA 101. Students need to take BIO 105 at the same time that they are enrolled in PTA 101, if they haven't previously taken BIO 105.

1. Prerequisite Coursework at the Standard Level of Difficulty

In order to select applicants who are academically prepared for the PTA courses, specific **admission criteria** have been established. Academic prerequisites at the standard level of difficulty are as follows:

- a. **Biology** – BIO 104 (Cell Biology) at Genesee Community College (GCC) or an equivalent college course. Examples of equivalent courses include: Advanced Placement Biology Credit, BIO 120 at Monroe Community College (MCC), BIO 111 At Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) and BIO 110 & 111 at Erie Community College (ECC). All biology prerequisites must have been completed within the past five years from starting PTA 101.

- b. **Math** – Basic algebra, such as high school Math Sequence I & II or an equivalent college course. Equivalent courses are as follows: MAT 092 (Algebra 1) at GCC, MTH 098 at MCC, GST 142 at FLCC and MT 102 at ECC.

- c. **Chemistry and/or Physics** – High School Regents coursework or equivalent college course(s). Equivalent courses are as follows: CHE 100 (Environmental Chemistry) and PHY 110 (or 121 or 122) at GCC, CHE 100 and PHY 131 at MCC, SCI 102 and PHY 118 at FLCC and CH 100 and 101 and PH 240 and 241 at ECC. Please note that although physics is highly recommended, it is no longer a requirement if the applicant has taken an appropriate Chemistry course.

Only courses with a grade of “C” or higher will be considered as fulfillment of an academic prerequisite. High school grades in the 90’s are considered an “A”, 80’s a “B”, and 70’s a “C”.

SAMPLE #1

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK:

	GRADE:	DIFFICULTY:	SCORE
BIO 104	B = 3	x 1 =	3.0
MAT 092	B = 3	x 1 =	3.0
PHY 121	C = 2	x 1 =	<u>+ 2.0</u>
		TOTAL SCORE	8.0

As can be seen in Sample #1, a grade of “B” or “C” in the standard level difficulty courses would produce a total academic prerequisite score of 8.

2. Prerequisite Coursework that is Above or Below the Standard Level of Difficulty

Applicant's grades in academic prerequisites that are above the standard level of difficulty will be multiplied by 1.5 to produce an equivalent score. Examples of academic prerequisites that above the standard level of difficulty are as follows:

- a. **Biology** - BIO 105 and 106 (Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2) at GCC, BIO 142 and 143 at MCC, BIO 171 and 172 at FLCC and BIO 150, 151, 152 and 153 at ECC.

- b. **Math** - Advanced Placement Math in high school, MAT 121 (Technical Math 1), MTH 140 or 165 at MCC, MAT 145 at FLCC and MT 121 or 126 at ECC.

- c. **Chemistry** - Advanced Placement Chemistry in high school, CHE 101 (General Chemistry 1) at GCC, CHE 121 or 151 at MCC, CHE 121 at FLCC and CH 300 and 301 at ECC.

- d. **Physics** - Advanced Placement Physics in high school, PHY 131 (General Physics 1) at GCC, PHY 151 at MCC, PHY 151 at FLCC and PH 480 and 481 at ECC.

Applicant's grades in academic prerequisites that are below the standard level of difficulty will be multiplied by .75 to produce an equivalent score. High school non-Regents courses are considered to be below the standard level of difficulty.

SAMPLE #2

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK:

	GRADE:	DIFFICULTY:	SCORE
BIO 105	C = 2	x 1.5 =	3.0
MAT 092	B = 3	x 1.0 =	3.0
Non-regents Chemistry/Physics	A = 4	x .75 =	<u>+ 3.0</u>
		TOTAL SCORE	9.0

As can be seen in Sample #2, a higher grade in a less difficult level course would produce an equivalent score. For example, a grade of “A” in non-Regents chemistry would earn a point value of 3 since “A”, or 4, multiplied by .75 (less than standard level difficulty course) is equal to 3. A lower grade in a more difficult level course would also produce a similar score. For example, a grade of “C” in BIO 105 would earn a point value of 3 since “C”, or 2, multiplied by 1.5 (greater than standard level difficulty course) is equal to 3.

Applicants who have submitted a complete application and have an academic prerequisite score of at least 7.0 will be offered acceptance into the PTA Program on a first-come-first-serve basis until the class and wait list are full.

E. Time Limits on Academic Prerequisites

There is no time limit for the math, chemistry or physics prerequisite; however, the biology prerequisite must have been completed within the five years prior to application to the program. If an applicant successfully completed a college level biology course more than five years prior to application, a recent CLEP exam score in biology would fulfill the five year requirement.

F. Additional Considerations

On a first-come-first-serve basis, if there are several applicants who have the same consideration date, then the applicants who are residents of the GLOW counties (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming) will be evaluated before residents from other counties.

High school applicants can have ½ point added to the total score for each additional consideration stated below:

- Class rank in the upper half
- Successful completion of three years of math or three years of science
- ACT composite score greater than 18 or SAT scores greater than 400 in **both** verbal and math

College applicants can have ½ point added to the total score for each additional consideration stated below:

- Successful completion of both chemistry and physics
- A “B” average in two semesters of anatomy and physiology (Bio 105 and 106 at GCC)
- Fewer than three “W” and “F” grades on their college transcripts

G. Acceptances to the College and PTA Program

Applicants will receive either a full acceptance to the PTA Program, a wait list acceptance to the PTA Program or admission to the College.

A full acceptance is one in which the applicant has met all the admission criteria and is academically prepared to start the coursework for the PTA Associate in Applied Science Degree. After receiving an acceptance letter from the Admissions Office, the fully accepted applicant will respond by sending a \$50 tuition deposit to confirm his/her intention to attend GCC in the Fall. These applicants will be notified of the orientation sessions in which they will be expected to register for their Fall classes. The \$50 paid deposit will be deducted from their Fall course registration bill.

A wait list acceptance is one in which the applicant has met all the admission criteria and has submitted his/her competitive application after the class is already full. The first 25 competitive applicants in this situation would be offered a wait list acceptance. When an applicant who received a full acceptance withdraws at a later date, then the person at the top of the wait list will be offered a full acceptance. If the admissions committee is unable to convert an applicant's wait list acceptance into a full acceptance prior to the start of the Fall semester classes, then the wait list acceptance will be converted into a full acceptance the following Fall semester.

Applicants who are not accepted for the PTA Program will be offered admission to GCC. Unaccepted applicants who elect to pursue their interest in PTA will be advised to enroll in the Health Studies certificate program. Individuals selecting this option may reapply for admission to the PTA Program under the Transfer requirements. **Successful experience in the Health Studies Program does not guarantee admission into the PTA Program.** This option will allow an applicant to take some of the courses supportive to the PTA courses while (s)he works toward meeting the admission requirements.

II. TIME LIMITS FOR COMPLETION OF THE PTA COURSES:

The sequence of PTA courses must be completed within five years after completing PTA 101.

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUING ENROLLMENT IN THE PTA PROGRAM

Students must earn a grade of “C” or higher in all courses which are directly applicable to the PTA Program (such as courses beginning with a PTA, BIO or MAT prefix) and at least a 2.0 GPA in all courses which are required in the PTA Program in order to maintain enrollment in the PTA curriculum.

IV. READMISSION INTO THE PTA COURSE SEQUENCE:

In the event that a student does not meet the requirements to continue in the PTA Program, a student may apply for readmission into the PTA Program. Readmission to the PTA Program is not an automatic nor guaranteed. A student’s request for readmission will be considered only after the applicant has had an exit interview with the Program Director and submitted a letter requesting readmission. An applicant’s letter should identify the reasons for his/her inability to continue in the program and propose a realistic plan of action to address effectively the area(s) of concern. The letter and interview requirements need to be met by December 1 for reacceptance into the Spring semester and May 1 for reacceptance into the Fall semester. Under no circumstances is readmission into the PTA Program guaranteed, but it will be offered on a space available basis to worthy candidates.

The Program Director will notify candidates of their reacceptance status by phone after the conclusion of the semester in which they applied. The Program Director will mail written acknowledgement of changes in applicants' reacceptance status prior to the beginning of the new semester.

Upon readmission to the PTA Program, students are expected to perform at the same level as continuing students in the clinical and academic portions of the curriculum. The returning student is responsible to review materials from previous courses to ensure an entry level similar to that of other students beginning the course. Upon re-entry into the PTA course sequence, students will be required to retake the course(s) in which they previously earned a grade of less than a "C". Students are permitted to repeat a particular PTA course only once. An applicant who is applying for readmission for the first time will be given precedence over an applicant who has been previously granted readmission.