

Procedure 300.3 Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admission

June 25, 2025

Supersedes previous procedure 300.3 dated October 9, 2019



Summary

Admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program is competitive and selective.

Process

I. Overview and Timeframes

Applicants who have submitted a complete application and have a competitive academic background in math, biology, and chemistry and/or physics, will be offered acceptance into the PTA program according to their academic prerequisite score until the class and wait lists are full. Up to 30 students are admitted for the class starting in the fall term. The PTA program does not begin a cohort in the Spring semester. Evaluation of applications will begin on **January 15** of each year. Acceptances will be offered to qualified applicants who have a complete application on a first-come-first-serve basis after the January 15 review and will continue through summer if needed, until all acceptance spots are full. The only exception to this is a July 1 application deadline for high school applicants. If the three high school applicant spots are not filled after the July 1 application deadline, then the remaining spots will be offered to qualified applicants from the general applicant pool.

A. Application Process

An application to the program is complete when the following items have been submitted to the Genesee Community College Admissions office:

1. **GCC application** specifying PTA as curriculum of choice
2. **Official high school transcripts**
3. **Official college transcripts** that the applicant attended in the past
4. **PTA Program Volunteer / Work Experience form**
5. Met reading, math and English proficiency requirements at GCC
6. Has a minimum GPA of 2.0 at GCC
7. **Completion of BIO 104** (Cell Biology) or higher (BIO 152 and/or BIO 153) course, or equivalent course at another college, with grade of C or higher and within the past five years. A score of 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement Biology Test through College Board is another option.
8. **Completion of math**, preferably algebra based (such as MAT 092) with grade of 'C' or higher high school final average of at least 80% in Algebra / Trigonometry or higher math
9. **Completion of chemistry, or physics**, with grade of 'C' or higher or high school final average of at least 80% in Chemistry or Physics.

B. Admission Process

A competitive applicant should complete the academic prerequisites in math, biology, chemistry and/or physics by the end of the fall term in order to submit a complete application by the January

15 application deadline. Each complete application is evaluated by the PTA Program Admissions Committee and is assigned an academic prerequisite score based on grades earned in the following areas: math, biology (within past 5 years and at Cell Biology level or higher) and chemistry (or physics). A higher score is assigned to applicants who earn higher grades in more academically difficult courses. Applications will be ranked according to their academic prerequisite scores. **A prerequisite score of 7.0 or higher is needed to be considered a qualified applicant. Sample calculations are on pages 3 & 4 of this document. Acceptances will be offered only to qualified applicants.**

Preference will be given to those applicants with higher academic prerequisite scores who submit a complete application by January 15. Any remaining spots not filled after the January 15 application deadline will be filled by qualified applicants on a rolling basis.

If applicants have the same academic prerequisite score, then applicants residing in Genesee, Livingston, Orleans or Wyoming (GLOW) counties will be given preference over applicants who do not reside in the GLOW region. 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 until the wait list of 25 is full. **The wait list will not carry over into the next year.**

C. Types of Applicants and Transcripts 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.

College applicants are those applicants who are not currently attending high school at the time of their application. This would include students who have either attended college or those who have not had any college experience since having graduated from high school. College applicants should submit their transcripts from high school and all colleges attended other than Genesee Community College.

D. Academic Criteria

In order to select applicants who are academically prepared for the PTA courses, specific academic criteria for admission have been established. An academic prerequisite score is determined by adding points from each of the three areas: biology, math and chemistry or physics. A higher score is assigned to applicants who earn a higher grade in a course that is above the standard level of difficulty.

1. Prerequisite Coursework at the STANDARD LEVEL of Difficulty

Applicant's grades in academic prerequisites that are at the standard level of difficulty will be **multiplied by 1.0** to produce an equivalent score. Examples of 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

course from another college. Another option is earning a score of 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement Biology Test through College Board. All biology prerequisites must have been completed within the past five years from the application deadline date.

- b) **Math** – MAT 092 (Algebra 1) at GCC, an equivalent course from another college or grade of 80% or higher earned on high school Algebra 1.
- c) **Chemistry and/or Physics** – CHE100 (Introduction to Chemistry) at GCC, an equivalent course from another college, or grade of 80% or higher earned on high school Chemistry. Introductory level Physics from another college or grade of 80% or higher earned on High School Physics can also satisfy this requirement.

For calculation of the academic prerequisite grade, a course grade of A or A- will be assigned 4 points. A course grade of B+, B or B- will be assigned 3 points and a grade of C+ or C will be assigned 2 points. 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."

EXAMPLE #1

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK:	GRADE:	DIFFICULTY:	SCORE:
BIO 104	B = 3	x 1	= 3.0
MAT 092	C = 2	x 1	= 2.0
CHE 100	C = 2	x 1	= 2.0
TOTAL SCORE = 7.0			

As can be seen in Example #1, a grade of "B" in a standard level difficulty courses would produce a score of 3 and a grade of "C" would produce a score of 2.0. This adds up to a total academic prerequisite score of 7.0, which is the minimum score needed to be a qualified applicant.

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 are above the standard level of difficulty are as follows:

- a) **Biology** – BIO 152 and 153 (Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2) at GCC, or equivalent courses from another college.
- b) **Math** – Advanced Placement Math in high school, MAT 121 (Technical Math 1) at GCC, or an equivalent course from another college.
- c) **Chemistry** – Advanced Placement Chemistry in high school, CHE 101 (General Chemistry 1) at GCC, or an equivalent course from another college.
- d) **Physics** – Advanced Placement Physics in high school or Introductory Physics from another college.

Applicant's grades in academic prerequisites that are **below** the standard level of difficulty will be **multiplied by 0.75** to produce an equivalent score.

A minimum academic prerequisite score of 7.0 is required for an applicant to be considered a qualified applicant. Qualified applicants who have met the January 15th application deadline will be ranked and those with higher academic prerequisite scores will be considered more competitive than applicants with a lower score. When spots in the program are limited due to a large applicant pool and there are more qualified applicants than available spots, then spots will be offered to the most competitive applicants first according to the ranking of their academic prerequisite scores.

E. Time Limits on Academic Prerequisites

There is no time limit for the math, chemistry or physics prerequisite; however, the biology prerequisite course must have been completed within five years prior to application to the program.

F. Additional Considerations

If there are several applicants who have the same prerequisite scores, then the applicants who are residents of the GLOW counties (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming) will be given preference over residents from other counties.

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 (Health Studies Program).

A **full acceptance** is one in which the applicant has met all the admission criteria and has submitted a competitive application with a higher academic prerequisite score.

After receiving an acceptance letter from the Admissions Office, the fully accepted applicant will respond by registering for their fall semester classes to confirm his or her intention to attend Genesee Community College in the fall. These applicants will be notified of the orientation sessions in which they will be expected to register for fall classes if they haven't already registered.

A **wait-list acceptance** is one in which the applicant has met all the admission criteria and has submitted a competitive application but the class is already full. Qualified applicants with higher academic prerequisite scores will be given preference over those with lower scores. The first 25 competitive applicants in this situation would be offered a wait-list acceptance. If 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 term classes, then the applicant will need to start over by reapplying before January 15 of the next year. It is recommended that those on the wait list take courses, such as BIO 152 and 153 or its equivalent, to increase their academic prerequisite score before reapplying.

Applicants who are not accepted into the PTA program will be offered admission to Genesee Community College in another program. Unaccepted applicants who elect to pursue their interest in

PTA will be advised to enroll in the Health Studies program. Individuals selecting this option may reapply for admission to the PTA program by submitting an internal transfer application. **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 program while working toward meeting the admission requirements.

Once admitted to the college, all students should familiarize themselves with [Genesee Community College's Student Code of Conduct](#). In addition to explaining the behavioral and academic expectations of GCC students, this document outlines the student's right to an appeal for disciplinary and academic decisions.

II. Time Limits for Completions of the PTA Courses

The sequence of PTA courses must be completed within five years after completing PTA 101. Any absence beyond a semester may require an audit of prior PTA coursework to ensure continued competency in clinical interventions.

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 Program

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 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 or 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 term, and May 1 for reacceptance into the fall term. Under no circumstances is readmission into the PTA program guaranteed, but it will be offered on a space available basis to candidates who are likely to be successful.

The program director will notify the candidate of the reacceptance status after the conclusion of the term in which the candidate has applied. The program director or designee will send the applicant a ~~written~~ acknowledgement of changes in the applicant's reacceptance status prior to the beginning of the new term.

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 reentry 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 PTA course only once throughout the entire PTA curriculum.

V. Non-discrimination Policy

Genesee Community College's nondiscrimination policy can be found at

<http://www.genesee.edu/assets/file/policies/POL1020.1.Nondiscrimination.pdf>.

Forms

None

Related Documents

Procedure 300: Admissions

Policy 1005: Full Opportunity Program