

PTA PROGRAM APPLICANT CHECKLIST 2023-24

SNAPSHOT:

Application OPENS:	September 15, 2023
Application CLOSES:	April 30, 2024
Application Website:	https://ptacas.liasoncas.com/
Odessa College PTA Program Webpage:	https://www.odessa.edu/programs/Schools/HealthSciences/Physical-Therapist-Assistant
# of students accepted:	14-16

ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM

Those students who have successfully completed the application procedure by the deadline of April 30th will be considered for admission. Acceptance into the Program is determined by a point system based on:

- Score on Test of Essential Academic Skills / TEAS test
- Academic Record
 - **Grades** in Anatomy and Physiology I & II (BIOL 2401 and 2402)
 - **Number of** general education classes completed
 - **If general education/prerequisite courses are repeated, the grades from all attempts will be averaged**
- Minimum of 3 professional/ personal confidential letters of reference in support of applicant
- Score from face to face interview with a panel of stakeholders
- Score of handwritten writing sample completed at the time of the interview—a response to a prompt evaluated on the basis of grammar/sentence structure (≤1 point), content (≤1 point) and ability to express thoughts in a written format (≤1 point)
- Score on reasoning test taken onsite after completion of interview
- Completion of 40+ Observation hours of physical therapy treatment by a PT *and* PTA where roles of the two clinicians are understood by the observer (**REQUIRED: 2+settings**. Examples of settings: acute care, inpatient rehab, outpatient rehab, skilled nursing; home health is not accepted). Observation hours expire after 1 year.

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***General Education courses are:**

- **PSYC 1300 Learning Framework (or any 090 core)**
- **PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth & Development (preferred) OR PSYC 2301 General Psychology**
- **HUMA 2319 American Minority Studies (preferred) OR HUMA 2323 World Cultures (preferred) OR any 040 core [Language, Philosophy & Culture] OR any 050 core [Creative Arts]**

(ITSC/BCIS & HPRS have been removed as current requirements pending Curriculum Committee approval in Fall 2023.)

Not all applicants will progress to the interview stage of the process; based on point totals **prior** to the interview. Upon completion of the reasoning assessment test, interview and writing sample, the total number of points will determine acceptance. The relative weight of points for each component of the process can be found below:

Application Components:	Points
Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS Test)	≤30
Grades in Anatomy & Physiology I and II (BIOL 2401 & 2402)	≤20
Number of General Education* Courses Completed (up to 3 courses)	≤5
Reference Letters in support (professional preferred)	≤6
Interview	≤25
Reasoning Test (completed at interview)	≤9
Writing Sample (completed at interview)	≤5
Total	≤100

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Program has selective admissions. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS will NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

****Submit all application components to [PTACAS](#) as outlined below:**

In order to be admitted to the PTA Program, students must:

1. Be a high school graduate or have earned a GED
2. **If not previously enrolled at Odessa College**, please visit <http://www.odessa.edu> (click Future Student, then Apply Now) regarding Applying to the college:
 - a) Initiate the admissions process to OC
 - b) Submit transcripts from other institutions
 - c) Apply for Financial Aid (if applicable)

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3. If ever enrolled outside of Odessa College, request a Transcript Evaluation for all other colleges or universities attended. To complete this process:
 - a) Electronically request other colleges / universities to send official transcripts to Odessa College. This can be done from the website of the institution where the courses were taken.
 - b) Request the Transcript Evaluation online at <https://www.odessa.edu/current-students/records/transcripts/request-evaluation-of-another-colleges-transcript>. The Records office will evaluate non-OC transcripts for the Pre-Requisites and General Education courses taken outside of Odessa College, required for the Odessa College degree in Physical Therapist Assistant (besides the PTA Classes taken *after* accepted into the PTA Program).
4. Complete up to three attempts on the Test of Essential Academic Skills by April 30th. At least 30 days is required between each attempt. For more information, contact the Testing Center (link here: <https://www.odessa.edu/current-students/testing/>) via phone at 432.335.6620
 - a) The exam may be taken more than once and the applicant's best scores from each section will be used; however, there must be a minimum of four (4) weeks / 30 days between attempts. All TEAS exam scores expire after 1 year.
 - b) Resources may be found on the [Assessment Technologies Institute \(ATI\) website](#)
5. Select three (3) or more persons to complete and submit a **Reference Form** to [PTACAS](#).
 - a) PTACAS will email a confidential link for the Reference to complete and upload any additional letters of support.
 - b) Professional references are preferred over personal references. Professional references are individuals with whom the applicant has worked as a volunteer / observer / student.
 - c) Examples of a professional reference are: a PT/PTA, other healthcare professional with credentials, Anatomy and Physiology professor.
6. Complete forty (40) hours *or more* of observation / volunteer / paid work hours in 2 different types of facilities where physical therapy treatment is provided. Only a PT or PTA may complete the link emailed from PTACAS for the **Observation Hours**. Applicant should provide the email address of the PT/PTA to PTACAS.

Other:

- BIOL 2401 & BIOL 2402 must be completed within the ***last three years*** of starting the PTA Program in the fall. If applying for a place in the Program to begin in Fall 2023, these courses must be completed as recent as Fall 2020. Courses completed earlier than Fall 2020 will not be accepted as part of the application process.

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- If BIOL 2401 & BIOL 2402 are not completed prior to *application* deadline, acceptance into the program is provisional; the student must *complete* both courses with a minimum grade of C before the PTA Program begins in the fall semester in order to take his/her place in the class.
 - If an applicant is enrolled in either BIOL 2401 or BIOL 2402 during the spring semester when admission decisions are made, points equivalent to a grade of C will be added to the total for the purpose of sorting for interview selection.
 - Applicants are required to provide proof of enrollment in either of these classes by way of an unofficial transcript.
 - Admission decisions will be based on the applicant's final grade in the course (if enrolled in BIOL 2401 or BIOL 2402); therefore, applicants must provide a transcript as soon as possible upon completion of the course.
- *BIOL 2404 Human Anatomy is not accepted as a refresher course and will not replace the BIOL 2401 or 2402 grades in the application process.*

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The application deadline is April 30. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.** Applications are considered complete if items 'i'- 'iii' are submitted by deadline. See below:

1. Students should complete the afore mentioned requirements and compile the following items together, for submission to [PTACAS](#):
 - i) Unofficial transcripts or copies of transcripts from all other colleges or universities attended.
 - ii) Copy of ODESSA COLLEGE transcript as evidence of Transcript Evaluation process, **REQUIRED** if any transcripts submitted besides Odessa College.
 - iii) Copy of up to three TEAS exam scores—Individual Performance Profile with the break-down score from each section.
2. The above items (i-iii) should be submitted to [PTACAS](#) by April 30 at 11:00pm CST/midnight EDT.
 - a) If you have any questions about how to complete your PTACAS application, please contact the PTACAS Support Center at ptacas@liaisoncas.com or 617-729-2869.
 - b) Any questions regarding the Odessa College PTA Program can be emailed to pta@odessa.edu.
 - c) Applications will only be accepted through PTACAS.
3. After the application deadline, a PTA Program representative will contact qualified applicants to schedule interviews. Contact information (phone numbers and email) provided on in PTACAS will be used for communication.