

PTA PROGRAM APPLICANT CHECKLIST 2025-2026

SNAPSHOT:

Application OPENS:	October 1, 2025
Application CLOSES:	March 31, 2026
Application Location:	OC PTA Website
PTA Program Webpage:	Physical Therapist Assistant
Number of students accepted:	14-16

ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM

Those students who have successfully completed the application procedure by the deadline of March 31st will be considered for admission. Acceptance into the Program is determined by a point system based on:

- Score on HESI Exam
- Academic Record
 - **Grades** in Anatomy and Physiology I & II (BIOL 2401 and 2402)
 - **Grades in** general education courses
 - **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, content and ability to express thoughts in a written format
- 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, HESI exam scores, and reference letters are valid only for the duration of the current application cycle. Students who choose to reapply in a future cycle must complete and submit new documentation for each of these requirements.

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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)**

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
HESI Exam	≤35
Grades in Anatomy & Physiology I and II (BIOL 2401 & 2402)	≤22
Grades in General Education* Courses	≤3
Reference Letters in support (professional preferred)	≤3
Interview	≤20
Reasoning Test (completed at interview)	≤12
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 pta@odessa.edu 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 Online OC Admissions Application) 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 two attempts on the HESI Exam by March 31st. At least 30 days is required between each attempt. For more information, contact the Testing Center (link here: [Testing Center](#) 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 HESI exam scores expire at the end of the application cycle.
5. Select three (3) or more persons to complete and submit a **Reference Form** to pta@odessa.edu

Each Reference Form should be:

- a) Confidentially completed and signed on the envelope seal by the person selected as a reference
 - b) E-Mailed to pta@odessa.edu. Applicant should not hand-deliver references, due to reasons of confidentiality.
 - c) Professional references are preferred over personal references. Professional references are individuals with whom the applicant has worked as a volunteer / observer / student.
 - d) 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. It is required that observation hours be completed in at least **TWO** different clinical settings. Only a PT or PTA may complete the Odessa College Physical Therapist Assistant Program **Observation Hours Form** and email it to pta@odessa.edu. Observation hours expire at the end of the application cycle.

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 2025, these courses must be completed

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as recent as Fall 2022. Courses completed earlier than Fall 2022 will not be accepted as part of the application process.

- 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 March 31st. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications are considered complete if items i-iv are submitted by deadline.

1. Students should complete the afore mentioned requirements and compile the following items together, paper or electronic depending on submission format:
 - i) Application for Admission to PTA Program
 - ii) Unofficial transcripts or copies of transcripts from all other colleges or universities attended.
 - iii) Copy of Transcript Evaluation, REQUIRED if any transcripts submitted besides Odessa College.
 - iv) Copy of HESI exam scores
2. The above items (i-iv) should be either
 - a) Emailed to pta@odessa.edu by March 31st, by 11:59pm
 - b) Hand delivered to the PTA Department by the due date of March 31st at 5:00pm

Please note: **any PTA representative may accept hand delivered application documents.** Reference Forms and Observation Hours should be emailed directly to the pta@odessa.edu , and will be added to applicant's file when received.
3. After the application deadline, a PTA Program representative will contact qualified applicants to schedule interviews.