

**ODESSA COLLEGE  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR DEGREE SEEKING FOREIGN-TRAINED  
PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS**

In the State of Texas, applicants for physical therapist assistant (PTA) licensure must be graduates of a PTA Program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Physical Therapists (PTs) and Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) who were not trained in a CAPTE accredited PTA program can be awarded an AAS degree as a PTA from Odessa College (OC) by meeting the following standards and successfully completing the following procedures.

- A. The applicant must comply with the OC guidelines for International Students (see current OC catalog). English proficiency must be demonstrated by meeting state and institutional requirements for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). No exemptions from the TOEFL will be accepted. Contact Tracy Hilliard, Associate Director of Admissions, at 432-335-6816 or [thilliard@odessa.edu](mailto:thilliard@odessa.edu) for assistance.
- B. The applicant must meet the following OC requirements; either:
  1. A minimum of 30 semester hours must be completed at OC, or
  2. A minimum of 18 semester hours with at least 12 semester hours immediately prior to the granting of the degree must be completed at OC.
- C. The applicant must meet the following PTA Program requirements:
  1. Either credit for BIOL 2401 and 2402 within the last five years or the ability to complete both courses with a minimum grade of C prior to beginning the PTA Program courses,
  2. Either credit for or the ability to complete all required general education courses prior to the proposed graduation date,
  3. Admission Exam scores equal to or greater than the lowest scores of the current students in the program.
- D. If admission is sought for any semester other than the first semester of the program, there must be classroom and clinical space available to accommodate an additional student.
- E. The applicant must submit the following:
  1. An application to the OC PTA Program (found in the PTA Program Application Packet);
  2. A transcript evaluation completed by an OC approved agency for evaluation of international transcripts;
  3. Copies of all college level transcripts;
  4. Any available course descriptions, syllabi, and other information needed by the PTA faculty to compare courses;
  5. A copy of the diploma from the college from which the applicant earned a degree to practice as a PT or PTA;
  6. Documentation of PT or PTA work experience and a copy of the PT or PTA license to practice (when applicable);
  7. PTA Program Admission Exam Scores;
  8. Three personal references (forms found in PTA Program Application Packet).
- F. The applicant must complete an interview with the PTA Program faculty.
- G. The Associate Director of Admissions will evaluate transcripts, the foreign transcript evaluation, course descriptions, and any other materials submitted by the applicant to determine which general education courses may be eligible for transfer credit. Any general education course for which there is no transfer credit must be completed by the applicant.

- H. PTA faculty will evaluate transcripts, physical therapy course descriptions, syllabi, information from the interview, and any other materials submitted by the applicant to determine which courses may be eligible for transfer credit. Physical therapy courses must have a grade of C or better to be eligible for transfer. If the applicant has not practiced as a PT or PTA, no physical therapy courses older than 3 years will be accepted for transfer.
- I. For any course that is considered to be eligible for transfer, the applicant must pay for and pass an OC PTA course final examination with a grade of C or better to receive credit by Advanced Standing Departmental Examination.
1. Only 30 credit hours can be obtained via credit by Advanced Standing Departmental Examination.
  2. The applicant is allowed only one attempt at credit by Advanced Standing Departmental Examination for each eligible course; if the applicant fails a departmental examination, he/she will be required to take the associated course.
  3. PTA faculty, in conjunction with the applicant, will develop an individualized plan for attempting credit by Advanced Standing Departmental Examination.
  4. Only the following PTA Program courses are eligible for credit by Advanced Standing Departmental Examination:
    - a. PTHA 1201 The Profession of Physical Therapy,
    - b. PTHA 1405 Basic Patient Care Skills,
    - c. PTHA 1321 Pathophysiology,
    - d. PTHA 1325 Communication in Health Care,
    - e. PTHA 1413 Functional Anatomy,
    - f. PTHA 1431 Physical Agents,
    - g. PTHA 2201 Essentials of Data Collection.
  5. The final examination in the following courses will include a practical examination as well as a written examination:
    - a. PTHA 1405 Basic Patient Care Skills,
    - b. PTHA 1413 Functional Anatomy,
    - c. PTHA 1431 Physical Agents,
    - d. PTHA 2201 Essentials of Data Collection.
  6. The final examination in PTHA 1405 Basic Patient Care Skills will include writing progress notes for the medical record.
  7. Course syllabi for the eligible courses will be provided to the applicant.
  8. The applicant will have the option of purchasing textbooks and course packets for the eligible courses.
  9. All such examinations must be passed prior to taking any courses in the PTA Program
  10. The fee for each Advanced Standing Departmental Examination is \$20.00; all exams, except the practical portions listed above, are to be taken at the Odessa College Testing Center.
- J. The following courses must be taken at OC; no Advanced Standing Departmental Examination or transfer credit will be allowed. The courses must be taken in the order indicated by the OC PTA Program Course of Study:
1. PTHA 2409 Therapeutic Exercise,
  2. PTHA 2435 Rehabilitation Techniques,
  3. PTHA 2431 Management of Neurological Disorders,
  4. PTHA 2460, 2461, 2462 – Clinicals I, II, & III.
- K. Additional requirements may be necessary as determined by the Physical Therapist Assistant Department.