

Self-Assessment of Readiness for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program

To be completed by ALL applicants: If you have questions, please meet with a counselor in the Counseling Center or make an appointment with the Health Sciences coordinators' assistant (ext. 5355) to review admission requirements. Make sure to bring your transcripts with you, to verify completed coursework.

Yes No I have met the requirements necessary to complete the General Education courses needed for the PTA program (i.e., placement scores in Math, Reading and Writing that are sufficient to enroll in BIOL, ENG, PSYC, SOC & SPCH)

If Yes, I have already registered for or completed the necessary GE courses for the program Yes No

If unsure, please reference the Application Planning Guide on the website, or for more information seek a counseling appointment

To: Prospective PTA Students:

Due to limited seats in the program and SWIC's desire to retain students once admitted, we would like you to **consider the following statements and submit this self-assessment document, along with your program application.** The statements provided are meant to allow prospective students to making a more informed decision regarding the application.

Directions: Please **review the PTA program Web pages at swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/**. Reference the topic headings (found in bold, below) and respond to each of the statements listed below it, by selecting the Yes or No box. NOTE: topic headings are identical to the website and sequenced the same, for easier reference. *Answer honestly! This is a self-assessment and how you answer will in no way jeopardize your chance of being accepted into the program.*

Job Description and Career Opportunities:

- Yes No I am confident in my communication skills (verbal and written) and comfortable with one-on-one conversations with people.
- Yes No I do not have issues with personal space and am aware that the job requires hands-on application.
- Yes No I am aware that developing the necessary skills of a PTA will require hands-on practice and simulation of patient scenarios.
- Yes No I am comfortable with the use of technology for producing emails, papers, etc.

Course Schedules (located under Course Sequence/Course Information):

- Yes No I am aware that the course schedule requires me to be in attendance during day hours and that course schedules are subject to change.
- Yes No I am aware that I will be required to practice outside of class time; in the PTA lab, to master necessary skills.
- Yes No I am aware that I may be required to take a fully on-line course(s).

Program Capacity:

- Yes No I am aware that the program is highly competitive and a limited number of seats are available.
- Yes No I am also aware that there is no "waiting list" for program admission; therefore, in the event that I am not accepted this year, I would need to re-apply during the following application period.

Selection of Applicants:

- Yes No I reside in-district and have proof of residency (i.e., real estate tax bill, utility receipt, driver's license or pay stub).
- Yes No For persons living outside the district only: I have checked the list of "inter-district cooperative agreements" and found that I qualify under this, as an "in-district" student for purposes of admission/costs (see college catalog for details).

Program Location:

- Yes No I understand that all PTA courses are held on the Belleville Campus, during the day.
- Yes No I realize that students are assigned a four-week clinical experience (40 hours/week) in the third semester (summer).
- Yes No I realize that students are assigned two, six-week clinical experiences (40 hours/week) in the fifth semester (spring).
- Yes No I understand that these clinical experiences require travel within a 50-mile radius of SWIC and hours are set by clinical site(s).

Program Costs:

- Yes No I have reviewed the PTA program cost sheet.
- Yes No I am aware that financial aid is available but that it is my responsibility to meet with the Financial Aid office for details.

Time Commitment & Additional Requirements:

- Yes No I have read the essential functions of the job and feel that I should have no difficulties or I have contacted the Disability & Access Center to discuss potential concerns.
- Yes No I am aware there are mandatory orientation sessions in the Summer, for those students accepted into the program.
- Yes No I realize that I will need to provide proof of health insurance, prior to going out on clinicals; if accepted into the program.
- Yes No I am aware that a medical examination and all applicable tests and vaccinations are required for those students accepted into the program.
- Yes No I am aware of the background checks (and associated costs), necessary for program start once accepted into the program.
- Yes No I am aware of disqualifying convictions, and if necessary, need for an IDPH waiver.
- Yes No I am aware that I should be drug-free and that random drug screens will take place, if accepted into the program.

Licensure Requirements:

- Yes No I am aware that there is a licensure examination, upon graduation.

PTA Applicant Name: _____

I am willing/able to commit to:

Yes No ...helping others, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin/ancestry, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

Yes No ...an intense, two-year (five-semester) program of study
I.e., grading scale throughout program: 92-100 percent A, 85-91 percent B, 75-84 percent C
Grade of C or better required to pass all program related courses

Yes No ...classes that require a high level of problem solving/critical thinking
I.e., written examinations require students to apply the information they have learned to various scenarios/situations. This will require students to have a higher level of understanding of the material. Rote memorization of facts will not assist the students in applying the material to real-life situations.

Written Exam Policy: In the event that a student is unable to pass a written examination (scoring a 74 percent or lower), the student will be required to take a new examination within one week of the original exam being returned by the instructor. This criterion is consistent throughout all lecture courses in the PTA program. Further details regarding retakes and other program policies are provided to accepted students during mandatory, orientation session(s).

Yes No ...hands on practice and testing of skills
I.e., practical examinations are utilized throughout the curriculum to assess the student's comprehension of Physical Therapy theory and application. During practical exams, students receive a patient scenario/chart and perform the physical therapy intervention as indicated in the Plan Of Care. In general, during practical examinations, students are graded on their ability to communicate with their ("simulated") patient, conduct themselves in a professional manner, maintain safety, collect the appropriate data to report patient status, position and drape patient properly, maintain good body mechanics, provide the intervention effectively and efficiently, and document.

Yes No ... spending time on campus, which may consist of occasional day, evening and Saturday hours to complete skill competencies
I.e., students are to practice and refine skills, following initial instruction given during lab (application courses). When students feel they are competent in performing a skill, they can ask an instructor to critique their performance and "check-off" the skill. The student then draws a scenario card, which includes information such as: Date of Onset, Diagnosis, and Plan of Care (prescribed treatment). The student then performs the simulated treatment (or intervention) on a fellow classmate or instructor and is critiqued on his/her performance. The majority of skill check-offs require outside time to complete.

If you were unable to check "Yes" in any of the preceding boxes, the PTA faculty ask you to answer the following:

- What was it about the statement that concerned me? Why was I not able to check the Yes box?
- Is there any way that I can re-arrange my work schedule/personal life to meet the demands and time constraints of this program? Do I have a support system (family/friends/babysitters/etc.) to rely on?
- Is the only reason for my not marking the box with a Yes, FEAR? Can I overcome this fear?

If you are able to answer the prompting questions (listed above) positively – you may wish to start now in making the necessary accommodations that will allow you to be successful in the program. We are excited by the prospect of you joining us in the fall! Please begin working on the necessary steps you will need to put into place, to be successful. Now is not too early to create a plan. Acceptance letters are issued in late April/early May.

If, after answering the above noted questions, you don't feel you are ready for this level of commitment, you may wish to reconsider applying to the program so that someone else can take advantage of the opportunity. You may consider applying to the program the following year, when the timing may better suit your needs. Applications are accepted Sept. 1 through Feb. 1 each year.

If you easily checked all the preceding boxes "Yes" without hesitation – you are already on your way to becoming a great PTA. The SWIC PTA program requires a lot of commitment on your part but is extremely rewarding. We are very excited by the prospect of you joining us this fall! Submit this form with your PTA Application & Transcripts.

Student Signature (required)	
Student Name: (last, first, middle): Printed	SWIC Student ID Number
Email Address:	Date

PTA Applicant Name: _____