

# Application Planning Guide for Physical Therapist Assistant Program (0027)

## Physical Therapist Assistant Planning Guide for Admission Fall 2025:

**Applications are accepted from September 1, 2024 to May 1, 2025. All official transcripts and necessary documentation must be in May 20, 2025.**

**IMPORTANT:** Please remember that all communication regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant application will be sent to your [student.swic.edu](mailto:student.swic.edu) email account, including notification of acceptance.

Once notified of acceptance, you have 10 business days to schedule a meeting with the program coordinator before accepting the seat. If enrollment does not receive a response in 10 days, your seat will be given to the first alternate and your name will be removed from the list of students who are accepted into the program.

Once you have been notified of your acceptance into the program, your journey as a physical therapist assistant will officially begin with mandatory preparation to enter the program throughout the summer. If you are unable or unwilling to begin the preparatory work before the beginning of the program, your seat will be given to the next alternate.

Prior to entering the program, attendance to a full, 2-day orientation (16 hours) is mandatory during the last week of July. Students will also have to complete a background check and physical. Working in healthcare requires workers to be vaccinated. The vaccination requirements are based on what is expected from our clinical partners and requirements may change throughout the course of the program.

The PTA program is competitive. Each year, 20 seats are available. For suggestions on how to improve your chance of being accepted, review the application, seek an appointment with a SWIC academic advisor, and/or review the PTA program web pages at [swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/](http://swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/).

Selection of qualified applicants will be based on a numerical ranking procedure. Apply online by clicking the program applications tile in your Student Center homepage on eSTORM.

# Getting Ready to Apply:

- ✓ Review program website: <https://www.swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/>
- ✓ Perform the “PTA Self-Assessment of Readiness” found on the PTA program website.
- ✓ Meet with an Academic Advisor or Program Specialist to discuss program readiness, transcripts from other institutions and determine course placement for general education requirements. Determining Course Placement is encouraged prior to enrolling in general education courses such as ENG 101 and BIOL 105.
  - Meet with an advisor to develop a plan for completing developmental coursework; as needed. Academic Advising assistance is available via email at [advising@swic.edu](mailto:advising@swic.edu) or call, Belleville Campus 618-235-2700, ext. 5455.
- ✓ Take general education courses required for graduation from the PTA program prior to applying. This will increase the chance of acceptance and off-set a heavy course load while in the program. Remember the PTA program is academically rigorous and your grade point average will determine if you are accepted into the program or not.
- ✓ The program highly recommends haven taken Human Anatomy and Physiology, (BIOL 157 and 158) or Human Biology (BIOL 105) prior to beginning the program. The more general education credits that are completed prior to the beginning of the program, the more manageable the coursework.
  - ✓ **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:** Seek dual credit courses in your high school to improve your chances of acceptance to the program. See chart below for general education courses required for graduation from the PTA program. Please seek more information through [advising@swic.edu](mailto:advising@swic.edu).
- ✓ **NOTE:** To be considered for application. All coursework must be completed by Spring semester of 2025.
- ✓ **Determine if High School GPA or College Transcript will be referenced for application:**

Course	Credits (Units)	Check if completed
<b>BIOL 105*</b>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ENG 101</b>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PSYC 151</b>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HRO 100</b>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>COMM 151</b>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PSYC 210</b>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOC 153</b>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>

- ✓ If Credit Hours/Units achieved = **0-8**, will reference **High School GPA**
- ✓ If Credit Hours/Units achieved = **9 or more**, will reference **most recent college transcript**
- ✓ **\*BIOL 157 & 158 may be substituted for BIOL 105**
- ✓ **Note PSYC 210 is not able to be substituted for another 200 level PSYC class due to program accreditation**

## The following forms must accompany the application:

- Official High School transcript or GED verification (college credits = 8 or less)
- Official transcript(s) from all colleges/universities attended or awarding dual credit. (college credits = 9 or more)
- Transcript Credit Eval, found in your eSTORM Student Center in the other academic... drop down.
- Proof of Residency via a real estate tax bill, utility receipt, driver's license or pay stub. **Out-of-District students** must contact their local college for inter-district Cooperative/Career Agreement paperwork and submit to SWIC prior to application deadline.
- PTA Self-Assessment of Readiness - found on PTA program web pages at [swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/](https://www.swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/)

Note: The minimum GPA for the program is 2.5, however, if you are returning to school or have extenuating circumstances. You may request an individualized transcript review.

# Important Information:

- The PTA program is preparing you for the physical therapy profession which requires application of knowledge, critical thinking, independence, collaboration, flexibility communication, and reliability. For this reason, ON TIME IN PERSON ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.
- The students are expected to meet homework deadlines and take responsibility for their own learning. Most students need to adapt previous study habits to be successful in the program
- The passing score in the PTA program is 75% so the program is looking for A/B students who strive for excellence or students whose passion will motivate them to work necessary to stay above the 75% average. The rigor of the program requires many hours of homework outside of class to be successful
- Students who do not demonstrate professional behaviors and are unwilling to adapt their behavior to those behaviors expected of a PTA, will be dismissed from the program even if their academic course work is passing. Competency is the combination of knowledge, skills, and attitudes, so if you are unwilling to modify your behaviors based on feedback you will be dismissed from the program.
- This program is time intensive. This program has mandatory LACE hours that are outside scheduled class time. The program consists of 18 weeks of full-time clinicals. The most successful students are the students that are tenacious, persistent, and committed to their career change and willing to prioritize their education as such. Students need to assess their outside commitments between family, work, and hobbies and recognize some sacrifices will be necessary to complete this program.
- For students planning to work greater than 20 hours/week, the faculty suggests completing all General Education courses, prior to beginning program.
- To help students succeed in this rigorous, fast-paced program, the college and program have many resources to help students succeed, but the student has to be willing to utilize the resources provided. The lab classroom is available to practice with peers outside of class and the program employs lab instructors to help students outside of the class. The program also partners with the success center to hire a peer tutor.
- The PTA degree is not a stepping stone for a Doctorate in PT. Once graduating with a PTA degree, the student must obtain a bachelor's degree and then apply for a DPT program to become a physical therapist
- The PTA coursework builds on the foundation of Anatomy and Physiology, so the students that perform well in Anatomy and Physiology coursework are usually successful in the program. Anatomy and Physiology (BIOL 157 & 158) are not required to graduate from the program. However, the program recommends students who are planning in advance to apply to the program complete BIOL 157 and 158. The applicants who have taken BIOL 157 and 158 by the application deadline will receive 3 points on their program application. Those students who have completed BIOL 105 (Human BIOL) by the application deadline, will received 2 points toward their application.

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Don't forget to submit your application online by the required deadline
- ✓ Don't forget to submit all necessary documentation
  - Official Transcripts
  - Transcript Credit Evaluation form
  - PTA Self-Assessment of Readiness
  - Proof of Residency
    - Out-of-District Students must provide Inter-District Cooperative/Career Agreement paperwork for "in-district" status in this application process.
- ✓ Students will be notified by the end of June the status of their application and the student will have 10 days to inform enrollment in their intention to proceed into the PTA program. After which, they will schedule a meeting with the program coordinator before accepting their seat into the program
- ✓ Students will be expected to attend a 2 day (16 hours) mandatory orientation the last week in July.

# HOW APPLICATION POINTS ARE AWARDED

**Step 1:** Check with advising that you are eligible for college level Math (Math 95) and English (ENG 101)

**Step 2:** If you have taken Anatomy and Physiology (BIOL 157 and 158) by the application deadline you will receive 3 points toward your application if you have scored an A or B. If you have taken Human Biology (BIOL 105) by application deadline you will receive 2 points toward your application if you have scored an A or B.

<b>Highly Recommended to be completed before entry to the program</b>	
BIOL 157 & 158, Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II, or equivalent with A or B. (High School or College)	3
BIOL 105, Human BIOL, or equivalent with A or B	2

**Step 3:** Determine your cumulative grade point average. If you have 9 college credit hours or more, use your cumulative grade point average from your most recent college transcript. If you have 8 college credit hours or less, you will use your high school cumulative grade point average.

**NOTE:** Due to the academic rigor of the program, the minimum cumulative GPA is 2.5.

<b>Minimum cumulative GPA is 2.5</b> 9 or > college credits; use cumulative college GPA < 9 credits; use cumulative HS GPA	
<b>Cumulative GPA</b>	<b>Points</b>
3.84-4.0	8
3.67-3.83	7
3.50-3.66	6
3.33-3.49	5
3.16-3.32	4
3.00-3.15	3
2.84-2.99	2
2.67-2.83	1
2.5-2.67	0

**Special Consideration:** The PTA program believes in holistic admissions and want to provide fair and equitable opportunities for everyone while keeping in mind program rigor and licensure requirements. Applicants who may be returning to school or experienced extenuating circumstances that affected your GPA, you may request an individualized transcript evaluation.

**Step 4:** Determine how many points from previous degrees, military, or work experience.

<b>Extra Points for Military, Previous Degrees &amp; Work Experience</b>	
Bachelor's or Master's Degree	2
Military, Associates Degree, CNA, PT Tech, Massage Therapist	1

**Step 5:** Determine how many points you have based on number of general education requirements are completed with a grade B or better.

General education requirement classes completed with A or B			
COMM	151	3 Hours	
ENG	101	3 Hours	
HRO	100	1 hour	
PSYC	151	3 Hours	
PSYC	210	3 hours	
SOC	153	3 Hours	
		<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	

Total Credit Hours Completed in General Education Requirements with B or Better	
Hours	Points
15 Hours or more	5
12-14 Hours	4
9-11 Hours	3
6-8 Hours	2
1-4 Credits	1

**Step 6: Calculate Your Points:**

Calculate Total Points In Each Category	
Category	Points
1. BIOL 105 or BIOL 157 & 158	
2. Grade Point Average	
3. Completed degree. Military or Work Experience	
4. General Education Credit Hours	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	

**Step 7:** Apply to the program through your eSTORM account by clicking the “Program Applications” tile.

The PTA program faculty and staff are excited you are interested in becoming a PTA. The program is rigorous, but the faculty and staff are committed to your success and willing to help you along your journey to become a PTA.

For more information make an appointment with a Program Specialist or email Academic Advising at: [advising@swic.edu](mailto:advising@swic.edu) or reach out to the Program Coordinator: Jeannette Saak, PTA, M.S.Ed at 618-222-5390 or [jeannette.saak@swic.edu](mailto:jeannette.saak@swic.edu).