

Physical Therapy Assistant Program Application Planning Guide

This is not an application. The intent of this guide is to help applicants develop a plan of readiness. An online application is available and may be submitted through your eSTORM account by selecting the “Program Applications” tile during the following period:

Campus	Admission	Application Period	Notice of Acceptance
Belleville	Fall annually	September 1 – May 20	June each year

The application and all supporting documentation must be submitted during the application period.

VIEW THE <https://www.swic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/PTA-Program-Readiness.pdf> TO
DETERMINE YOUR READINESS TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM.

Application Requirements

A. Proof of Residency

Applicants who reside in-district receive priority admission over out-of-district and out-of-state students. Illinois residents may qualify for in-district status through an Interdistrict Cooperative Agreement. Proof of residency and any approved agreement must be on file with Enrollment Services prior to the application deadline.

Due to the competitive nature of this program, it is highly unlikely that out-of-state or out-of-district students without an Interdistrict Cooperative Agreement will be admitted.

B. Math Placement

Applicants must demonstrate placement for Math 95 or higher by completing one of the following:

- ALEKS placement test administered by a SWIC Testing Center, or
- Submission of official documentation for one of the following multiple measures:
 - ACT or SAT scores
 - GED or HiSET scores
 - High School GPA

Multiple measures are valid for six (6) years.

Previously completed appropriate college coursework may also be used to meet this requirement and does not expire.

C. English Placement

Applicants must demonstrate placement for English 101 or higher by completing one of the following:

- Accuplacer Reading placement test administered by a SWIC Testing Center, or
- Submission of official documentation for one of the following multiple measures:
 - ACT or SAT scores
 - GED or HiSET scores
 - High School GPA

Multiple measures are valid for six (6) years.

Previously completed appropriate college coursework may also be used to meet this requirement and does not expire.

Additional Application Point Opportunities

D. Biology Completion – Point Earning

A point advantage is given to students who have completed the biology general education course requirement with a B or better prior to applying. It is highly recommended to take biology before beginning the program. There are two options:

SWIC Course	Application Points
Biology 105	2
Biology 157 and 158	3

Section D Points: _____/3

E. General Education Coursework – Point Earning

While not mandatory before applying, you can earn additional points towards your application by completing the required general education courses for the program. “C” grades or higher are required for all coursework; however, points are awarded based on the amount of credit hours completed with grades of “B” or higher.

Coursework through Spring 2027 is accepted. The deadline for official transcripts is May 20, 2027 or as soon as final grades are posted.

Course	Semester/Year	Grade Earned	Credit Hours	“B” or higher
English 101	_____	_____	3	☐
Communications 151	_____	_____	3	☐
Psychology 151	_____	_____	3	☐
Psychology 210	_____	_____	3	☐
Sociology 153	_____	_____	3	☐
Health Related Occupations 100 or 160	_____	_____	1	☐

Total credit hours completed with a “B” or higher: _____

≥ 4 credit hours = 1 point
≥ 8 credit hours = 2 points
≥ 11 credit hours = 3 points
≥ 14 credit hours = 3 points
15+ credit hours = 5 points

Section E Points: _____/5

F. GPA – Point Earning

Application points are awarded based on cumulative GPA. Students who have completed 9 or more college credit hours will have their college GPA used, while those with 8 or fewer credit hours may use their high school GPA instead. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for program eligibility.

Cumulative GPA	Application Points
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

Section F Points: _____/8

G. Previous Degree – Point Earning

Applicants are awarded application points for attainment of a previous degree.

Degrees	Points	Select
Bachelor's or Master's degree	2	☐
Military, Associate degree, CNA, PT Tech, Massage Therapist	1	☐

Section G Points: _____/3

★Total Application Points: _____/19

Items to submit prior to May 20, Late Documents may disqualify applicant

- ✓ Online Physical Therapy Assistant application
- ✓ GED or HiSet verification (if applicable), high school transcripts, and all college transcripts. If enrolled for spring semester courses, submit transcript as soon as final grades are posted.
- ✓ Confirmation of English 101 and Math 95 or higher eligibility
- ✓ Transfer Credit Evaluation Request form for all college transcripts
- ✓ Proof of residency and, if applicable, an Interdistrict Cooperative Agreement

Post-Application Requirements

H. Professional and Academic Expectations

The PTA program prepares students for the physical therapy profession, which requires strong knowledge application, critical thinking, independence, collaboration, flexibility, communication, and reliability. For this reason, on-time, in-person attendance is mandatory.

Students are expected to meet deadlines, take responsibility for their learning, and adjust study habits as needed. Because the program requires a minimum passing score of 75%, it is best suited for students who strive for excellence or whose passion motivates them to consistently maintain strong academic performance. The rigor of the curriculum demands substantial study time outside of class.

Professional behavior is an essential component of competency. Students who do not demonstrate required professional behaviors—or who do not modify behaviors based on feedback—may be dismissed from the program even if academic grades are passing.

The program is time-intensive and includes mandatory LACE hours outside scheduled class time, as well as 18 weeks of full-time clinicals. Successful students are typically persistent, committed, and willing to prioritize their education. Evaluating outside commitments such as family, work, and hobbies is essential, as some sacrifices will likely be necessary.

Students planning to work more than 20 hours per week are encouraged to complete all General Education courses before entering the program.

To support student success, the program provides numerous resources, including access to the lab classroom for independent practice, assistance from lab instructors, and tutoring through the college's success center.

The PTA degree is not a direct pathway to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). Graduates who wish to pursue a DPT must subsequently earn a bachelor's degree and then apply to a DPT program.

Program coursework builds on the foundation provided by Anatomy and Physiology. Students who perform well in these subjects typically excel in the PTA curriculum. Although BIOL 157 and 158 are not required for graduation, they are recommended for applicants planning ahead. Completing BIOL 157 and 158 by the application deadline earns 3 application points; completing BIOL 105 earns 2 points.

All communication regarding your application is sent to your SWIC email account.

Need assistance or have questions? Contact Academic Advising at Advising@swic.edu or 618-235-2700 ext. 5455.