SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM FALL 2024 APPLICATION

The South Texas College Physical Therapist Assistant Program is a comprehensive 2-year program offered in cooperation with area medical facilities, which is designed to prepare students to be providers of care and members of the dynamic and highly rewarding physical therapy profession. Graduates of the STC PTA Program receive an Associate of Applied Science as a Physical Therapist Assistant and are eligible to sit for the national licensure examination. Physical Therapist Assistants must hold a license from the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners to practice in the state of Texas.

Applicants must understand that the role of a Physical Therapist Assistant expands far beyond that of a technician, athletic trainer, or massage therapist. PTA's are trained to work with all populations, from infants to the elderly. PTA's work with a multitude of diagnoses and in varied settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, home health, pediatric centers, rehabilitation units, outpatient clinics, etc. PTAs do not merely receive instructions and perform routine treatments such as walking patients or applying heat and massage. PTA education is expansive and requires the application of in-depth knowledge related to human structure and function as well as injury, illness, and disease. PTAs work under the direction and supervision of a PT, however, must be able to problem-solve, think critically, engage in decision-making, recognize signs and symptoms, interpret data, and make suggestions to the therapist regarding findings or interventions, supported by sound rationale. An effective PTA must also demonstrate a genuine concern for patients, work well with others, be emotionally stable, adaptable to changes and tension, and be highly ethical, dependable, and professional. A PTA's training and the job are very physical; therapists must be able to manipulate and move equipment and patients, sequence work, and handle heavy work schedules, with or without accommodations, and have effective verbal and written communication skills.

Following admission, the STC PTA Program is five semesters in length and spans 21 calendar months (Fall, Spring, Summer, Fall, Spring). The program is fast-paced and includes an extremely heavy workload, daily quizzes, weekly skills checks, and frequent examinations. Active communication and continuous collaboration with cohort members, instructors, lab assistants, and tutors are crucial, and students must be able to convey and receive feedback and constructive criticism without jeopardizing personal feelings. In addition to 40 hours of weekday class/lab attendance, the average student can expect to engage in 30+ hours of evening and weekend study group activities, skills practice, and/or tutoring. Classes are held 5 days a week between 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Select campus labs are typically open early evenings for additional student practice. Students are to be advised that quizzes, exams, and Student PTA Club service activities may extend into evening or weekend hours. As such, the program requires a full-time commitment, good communication, and effective time and stress management strategies. Employment for cohort students accepted into the PTA Program is NOT recommended. The program has maintained a long-standing 100% licensure exam pass rate and 100% job placement rate for graduates seeking PTA employment, but success as a PTA student requires significant commitment and dedication from you and your family.

The technical component of the program includes lecture and laboratory courses in physical therapy science and procedures, which are completed every semester. PTA classes are traditionally held face-to-face, in the Dr. Ramiro R. Casso Nursing & Allied Health Campus located at 1101 E. Vermont, McAllen. However, students are to be advised that schedules and instructional format may be adjusted in response to state, county, and/or college mandates related to current and future medical crises; if necessary the Program will transition to a hybrid or fully online format. Applicants are to be advised the purchase of textbooks, a laboratory kit, and program uniforms are required of cohort students; likewise, personal laptops are utilized for examinations, quizzes, activities, and assignments. Clinical/Practicum experiences are completed during the third and fifth semesters at assigned clinical education facilities such as hospitals, outpatient centers, and nursing homes across the Valley from Brownsville to Rio Grande City. Practicum experiences may require early evening, weekend attendance, and/or a different schedule, which is determined by the clinical facility. Students must plan accordingly to ensure proper transportation is available for full and active participation in all classes, labs, and

Practicum experiences.

The application deadline for the fall 2024 semester is the **last Wednesday of May 2024**, **before 5:00 pm**. The application process requires that you meet the minimum requirements of the South Texas College Office of Admissions and Records, the Division of Nursing and Allied Health, and the PTA Program. If you meet the requirements, your file will be considered for Phase I of the selection process, and possible admission.

Please be advised, that if identified for Phase II of the selection process, applicants will be expected to participate in all remaining selection activities, which will take place in June 2024. If notified of acceptance, students will immediately begin program onboarding followed by summer Boot Camp and Orientation programming; full and active participation is required. Fall classes will begin in August.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact Mari Ponce-Vargas, Guided Pathways Specialist at 956-872-3216 or the PTA Program office at (956) 872-3152. Our office hours are 8 am - 5 pm Monday through Thursday and 8 am - 12 pm on Friday.

Thank you for your interest in our program!

Sincerely, Diana Hernandez, PT, MEd. Chair, Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Every effort is made to assure the accuracy of the information in this packet, but be aware that stipulations set forth are subject to change!

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM 2024 APPLICATION

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HESI Test Date=	HESI Composite Sco	ore =
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Demonstrate documented cor or better.	npletion of pre-requisite courses	or equivalent as listed in the degree plan with a "B"
Earn a "B" or better in the Intro	oduction to Physical Therapy <u>with</u>	in the last two years.
supervision of a PT or PTA, (r different setting, i.e. one volun facility), and the other volunted clinic or pediatric center. Hom NOTE: Therapists who super Student applicant.	ninimum total of 50 hours). Each teer experience should be completed experience should be completed he health hours are not accepted vise volunteer experiences cannot https://nah.southtexascoll	5 hours of volunteer or work experience under the volunteer experience form must represent a eted in an inpatient setting (hospital or nursing ed in a different type of setting such as an outpatien of the a relative or personal friend of the ege.edu/pta/. Click on the Resources link and
and mailed directly to: Diana PTA	nce Forms" should be addressed a Hernandez, PT, MEd Program Chair Box 9701, McAllen, TX 78502-970	•
Submit a signed Nursing & All	ied Health Disclosure Statement	to your completed application. (Form attached)
Attach an STC final transcript supporting courses along with	,	ript must show grades for all prerequisites and
Complete, sign, and date the	application.	
Sout NAH Stud	application to <u>Mari Ponce-Varg</u> h Texas College Dr. Ramiro R. Campus, 1st Floor ent Success Center Rm# 100 D E. Vermont, McAllen, TX 78504	Casso

Note: Keep a copy of the completed application for your records.

Application deadline: May 29, 2024, before 5:00 pm. Application and all verification documents must be on file by the application deadline to be considered in the applicant pool for the fall 2024 class. Spring 2024 classes will be considered for points; Summer 2024 classes will NOT.

Applications that are not complete will NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Selection Criteria/Points:

The PTA Program selection process includes 2 phases.

Phase I: The PTA Program selection process is based on a Point System Evaluation.

The following selection criteria are used in Phase I to determine the applicant's points:

I.	Pre-requisite Courses	(Max 12)
II.	HESI Scores	(Max 9)
III.	Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better	(Max 2)
IV.	Physical Therapy Observation Forms	(Max 2)
٧.	Additional/Optional Points	(Max 13)

Completed applications will be processed to determine PTA Program Selection Process eligibility. Applicants who do not satisfy all requirements will be notified via email within 30 days.

PHASE II-A

Following submission of a completed application, all qualified applicants will receive an emailed copy of the most recent *PTA Program Manual of Student Standards*. You are to study the Manual <u>in detail</u> in preparation for the upcoming timed Phase II-A Selection process assessment, which will take place on **Friday**, **June 7**, **2024**, **from 8:30 to 12:30**. You will receive an email with information on where to report to take the exam via Blackboard, earlier that week.

This open-book assessment is made of a random assortment of 70-80 questions concerning the standards and guidelines that pertain to all PTA students. *All students are responsible for clearly understanding the content as it will apply throughout the PTA Program.* You must earn an 85% to pass and proceed to Phase II-B of the Selection process. The examination window will be open for a 4-hour testing period.

As this is an "open book" assessment, you are expected to utilize a printed copy of the *PTA Program Manual of Student Standards* during the assessment. Multiple attempts are permissible; candidates are allowed to restart from the beginning for additional attempts as needed and as time allows, during the 4-hour testing window. Questions will be randomized for each exam attempt. Please make sure you have current access to Blackboard and Respondus Lockdown Browser.

To complete the required online *PTA Program Manual of Student Standards* assessment, applicants will need a laptop computer. I-pads or tablets are not compatible with testing requirements.

NOTE: Applicants who earn the required passing score of 85% on the FIRST ATTEMPT will be assigned three (3) Phase I bonus points.

Applicants who earn the required passing score of 85% within TWO ATTEMPTS will be assigned one (1) Phase I bonus point.

Applicants who are unable to complete this assessment with an 85% or better during the scheduled 4-hour testing period will not be considered for Phase II-B of the PTA Program selection process. There will be no additional opportunity to take the assessment during the 2024 application cycle.

Phase I: PTA Program 2024 Application & Selection Process (38 points)				
I. PRE-REQUISITE COURSES (12) The following courses must be completed with a "B" or higher	Pre-requisite Grades A= 4 B=0 (circle one)	Course Repeat - 1 point (Deduct 1 pt. each time the course was repeated)	Enter Points	
a. BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I	A =4 B =0			
b. ENGL 1301 Composition	A =4 B =0			
c. PTHA 1409 Introduction to Physical Therapy	A =4 B =0			
II. HESI A² (ADMISSION ASSESSMENT) EXAM (9) HESI A² Exam must have been taken within the last two years		² Score e one)	Enter Points	
If completed, please indicate score information: HESI A ² Exam Composite Score = 75 % or better	Composi —	te Score: %	N/A	
a. English Language Composite = 75% or better Test Score: Test Date:	100% - 90% 89% - 83 %	English 6 = 3 points = 2 points 6 = 1 point		
b. Math Composite = 75% or better Test Score: Test Date:	100% - 90% 89% - 83 %	2 Math 5 = 3 points = 2 points 6 = 1 point		
c. Science Composite = 75% or better Test Score: Test Date:	100% - 90% 89% - 83 %	Science 6 = 3 points = 2 points 6 = 1 point		
III. CUMULATIVE GPA 3.0 or better (2)	Cumula	tive GPA	Enter	
Cumulative GPA as listed on the South Texas College Transcript:	4.0 – 3.5	e one) = 2 points = 1 point	Points	
IV. PHYSICAL THERAPY OBSERVATION FORM (2)	averaged fr	om 2 forms	Enter Points	
	reservation Recommended v 1 p	ded without n = 2 points with reservation = oint uded = 0 points		

V. ADDITIONAL/OPTIONAL POINTS: (13) The following courses are not required to apply for the program; however, of assist the applicant to earn additional points. Unless otherwise indicated, the needed to graduate.		Additional Points (circle one)	Course Repeat -1 point (Deduct 1 pt. each time the course was repeated)	Enter points
BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology II		Grade A = 3 points Grade B = 2 points		
PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development		Grade C (S) = 0 points Grade A = 2 points		
		Grade B = 1 points		
Humanities Elective: (Check one) HUMA 1301 Introduction to Humanities		Grade C (S) = 0 points Grade A = 2 points		
PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy		Grade B = 1 points		
PHIL 2303 Logic PHIL 2306 Ethics		Grade C (S) = 0 points		
		(circle	,	Enter points
CSFH 0101 STC College Success for Healthcare Course (not required to graduate)		Grade A = 1 p Grade B = 0.5 p		
PTHA 1409 Introduction to PT Final Course Grade 95% or better on 1st ATTEMPT (course must have been taken within the last 2 years)	Final Course Grade:	Grade 95% or bet	ter = 3 points	
Note: Course repeat does not apply.				
PREVIOUS DEGREE: (Points awarded for highest degree earned) (Must submit proof of the previous degree earned) Master's Degree or Higher		Masters + = 2 po		
Bachelor's Degree				
Associate's degree		Associates = 0.5 Certificate = 0.25		
Certificate (Verifiable and related to the medical profession/allied heal	th)	Certificate - 0.25	point	
PHASE I Maximum Total Points = 38		Total I	Points	

All qualified applicants will be scheduled to participate in Phase II-A. This phase includes an open book, timed online PTA Program Manual of Student Standards Assessment. A personal laptop and Respondus Lockdown Browser is required. A score of 85% or better is required during the scheduled 4-hour testing period to proceed to Phase II-B. Points will be awarded to candidates who achieve the required passing score within 2 attempts; students who are unable to pass the assessment will be ineligible to proceed to Phase II-B.

Phase II-A: PTA Program 2024 Application & Selection Process (3 points)			
PTA PROGRAM MANUAL OF STUDENT STANDARDS ASSESSMENT: Qualified applicants are required to earn a score of 85% or better during the scheduled 4-hour testing period.	Additional Points (Circle one)	Enter Points	
Number of exam attempts = %	A passing score of 85% on 1st Attempt = 3 bonus points		
Does Applicant proceed to Phase II-B (please circle one) Yes or No This exam will be on campus and administered via Blackboard Respondus. A personal laptop is required.	A passing score of 85% on 2nd Attempt =1 bonus point		
PHASE II-A Maximum Points = 3	Total Points		

PHASE II-B:

Once APPLICATION (Phase I) POINTS and SELECTION Phase II-A points have been tabulated, the 30-40 applicants with the highest scores will be notified via email and asked to return for Phase II-B. Phase II-B activities will tentatively take place on June 20th (in-house written assignment) and 21st (personal interview and group activity), 2024 on STC's NAH Campus; individual appointment times will be emailed the week before. Other applicants not selected for the second phase will be notified via email within 30 days of the application deadline.

Selection Phase II-B: The following selection criterion is used in Phase II to determine the applicant's points:

Phase II-B (59 points)	Available Points	Enter Points
Written Assignment	Excellent = 5 points	
Applicants will receive an on-site prompt related to their observation/experience hours and instructions related to length and formatting for the completion of a written submission.	Good = 3 points	
Writing will be scored utilizing a rubric for a maximum of 5 points; points will be awarded for the development of a clear, concise, quality response, utilizing proper format, spelling,	Fair = 1 point	
grammar, and syntax.	Poor = 0 points	
Interview Applicants will meet face-to-face on campus with interview committee members and respond to a series of interview questions. This offers candidates an opportunity to demonstrate communication and interpersonal skills, judgment, maturity, and the qualities that are important for a future therapist.	35 points max	
Group Activity Applicants will work in small groups to complete a task. This offers candidates an opportunity to demonstrate problem-solving and communication skills, teamwork, and other qualities essential to the healthcare environment.	19 points max	
PHASE II B	Total Points	
Maximum Total Points = 59	Total Follies	

Phase I and II scores will be added, and applicants will be ranked from highest to lowest points.

FOR PTA FACULTY/STAFF USE ONLY	
FINAL APPLICATION POINTS:	
PHASE I/Application Points:	(Max. 38)
PHASE II-A Handbook Points:	(Max. 3)
PHASE II-B Written Assignment	(Max 5)
PHASE II-B Interview Points:	(Max. 35)
PHASE II-B Group Activity Points:	(Max. 19)
FINAL Application Points:	(Max. 100)
STUDENT RANKING:	

The typical number of new positions available on an annual basis is 20-21. The final number of admissions is dependent on available resources. Applicants will receive a notice via email of their status, i.e. accepted, alternate, or not accepted, by the first week in July of the current year. In the case of tied applicants, finalists will be chosen based on 1) previous acceptance/alternate status, and 2) the date of application.

NOTE: The applicant's responsibility is to ensure an appropriate South Texas College student email address is provided to allow for timely notification of application status.

Please be advised of the following:

- Applicants who are accepted will have two weeks to purchase a Complio subscription and provide proof of meeting
 all clinical requirements including immunizations, health/accident insurance, CPR certification, TB testing, cleared
 criminal background check, and/or evidence of Texas licensure eligibility, negative urine drug/alcohol screen, and
 all related expenses. (approximate cost = \$245.00)
- Applicants who are accepted will have <u>two weeks</u> to place their order for a clinical skills lab packet (approximate cost = \$125.00)
- Applicants who are accepted will have two weeks to place their order for uniform tops and purchase the required uniform bottoms. (approximate cost = \$125.00)
- Applicants who are accepted will be required to purchase all 1st_semester textbooks <u>before</u> the start of the semester. (approximate cost = \$575.00)
- Applicants who are accepted will be required to participate in mandatory evening success workshops in July and new student orientation programming in August before the fall start date. Specific dates will be provided upon program acceptance.

I have read and understand the following statements:

- According to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, PT Rules 343.5 the Board may deny a license to or discipline an applicant/respondent who has been found to have a history of substance abuse.
- According to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners PT Rules 343.9 the Board may revoke or suspend an
 existing valid license, disqualify a person from receiving or renewing a license, or deny a person the opportunity to
 be examined for a license because of a person's conviction of a felony or misdemeanor if the crime directly relates
 to the practice of physical therapy.

NOTE: Applicants with criminal histories are required to provide proof of licensure eligibility from the Executive Council of OT and PT Examiners upon acceptance. Please log onto the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy website at http://www.ecptote.state.tx.us for additional information and to request a Criminal History Evaluation Letter.

The Board of Trustees approved Board Policy (#3337) for all students participating in a Nursing or Allied Health Program clinical course requires all students to pass a criminal background check, and meet immunization, and medical health requirements prior to enrolling in a clinical course. In addition, students participating in the program are subject to periodic— "for cause" drug screening. This policy is being implemented to ensure uniform compliance with Joint Commission standards pertaining to Human Resource management and state licensing regulations. Moreover, the public is demanding greater diligence in light of national reports of increasing numbers of medical errors.

Following acceptance to the program, students will be provided with specific procedures for obtaining the prescreening criminal background check and drug test. The student is responsible for the cost of a criminal background check and alcohol and drug test.

Students having questions about this rule should see the NAH Clinical Affairs Specialist, PTA Program Chair, or the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Division. All consultations are confidential.

I have read and understand the ADA Statement in the South Texas College Catalog. If I choose not to disclose a disability to the Student Services Counselor, the Physical Therapist Assistant Program and/or Program faculty are not held accountable.

I understand that the STC Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Additional information regarding accreditation may be obtained from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; accreditation@apta.org.; (703) 684-2782 or (702) 706-3245.

I certify that the information provided within this application is complete and correct. I understand that reporting untrue information or omitting information may result in my disqualification from the applicant pool, refusal/cancellation of admission to the program, and/or render me ineligible to apply at a later date.

SIGNED		DATE
	Applicant Signature	

Applicants are encouraged to keep a copy of the application for their records.

NOTE: The applicant's responsibility is to ensure an appropriate South Texas College student email address is provided to allow for timely notification of application status.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION IN PERSON TO:

Mari Ponce-Vargas South Texas College Dr. Ramiro R. Casso NAH Campus – Bldg. A 1st Floor, Student Success Center Rm# 100 D 1101 E. Vermont McAllen, TX 78504

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE NURSING/ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

IMPORTANT: This document must accompany your application for admission to the PTA Program

The Nursing/Allied Health (NAH) Division requires applicants for admission to all programs leading to licensure, certification, or requiring field placements (e.g. clinical or practicum experiences) to complete the following disclosure statement.

Applicants for admission must disclose whether they have ever been charged with or convicted of any crime and whether licensure of any kind has ever been denied or revoked in any state for reasons other than insufficient credits or courses. The existence of a criminal record or denial or revocation of licensure does not constitute an automatic bar to admission or automatic cause for removal from the program but will be considered only as they substantially relate to the duties and responsibilities of the program and eventual licensure, certification or clinical/practicum practice.

Falsification or omission of information relevant to these questions may constitute grounds for denying your admission to the program or for termination of your admission if the falsification or omission is discovered after admission. Further, after you have submitted the disclosure statement, while your application is being considered or while you are a student in a program, you have an affirmative duty to supplement or update the answers that you have provided at any point in time when any answer would no longer be true as stated. You must immediately inform the department's Program Chair of the changed responses.

An affirmative response to an item does not mean that you will be denied admission. You will be contacted to explain the circumstances leading to the affirmative response. It will be your responsibility to provide the department with any further information needed to determine the best course of action regarding your admission or removal. The department will take the information provided into account in determining whether to admit you to the program, postpone admission, remove you from the program, or provide special accommodations.

In the event you are denied admission to the program based on your responses to the questions, you have the right to appeal that decision. Notice of the grievance procedure will be forwarded to you in the event of a denial. A copy of the grievance procedure is also available from the NAH division office.

Please sign the Disclosure Statement and attach the signed form to your PTA Program application. Failure to return a signed disclosure statement will result in the non-acceptance of the application.

- According to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, PT Rules 343.5 the Board may deny a license to or discipline an
 applicant/respondent who has been found to have a history of substance abuse.
- According to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners PT Rules 343.9 the Board may revoke or suspend an existing valid license, disqualify a person from receiving or renewing a license or deny a person the opportunity to be examined for a license because of a person's conviction of a felony or misdemeanor if the crime directly relates to the practice of physical therapy.
- Additional information regarding rules governing licensure may be found in the complete Physical Therapy rules located on the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy website at www.ecptote.state.tx.us.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

NAM	E		Student ID Number	
	ollowing country.	questior	ons apply to adult and juvenile proceedings in <u>any</u> state or federal ju	risdiction in this country or in any
1.	Yes	No	Have you ever been arrested for any offense (whether or not the	case was adjudicated)?
2.	Yes	No	Have you ever pleaded guilty or nolo-contendre to any Class B of	or Class A misdemeanor?
3.	Yes	No	Have you ever pleaded guilty or nolo-contendre to any felony off	ense?
4.	Yes	No	Have you ever served a sentence of imprisonment or incarceration in any jail or prison?	
6.	Yes	No	Are you now or have you ever been on probation, deferred adjudication, pre-trial diversion, or parole?	
7.	Yes	No	Do you have any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrests (driving under the influence of any drug or intoxicant is not a min	
8.	Yes	No	Have you ever been dismissed from a health professions professional conduction an academic deficiency)?	
9.	Yes	No	Have you ever had any license, certification, or registration revolution any local, state, or federal agency; or have you ever been a part license, certification, or registration was being revoked, suspens the outcome.	ty to any proceeding in which your
chair	for the s	elected	S" to any of the questions above, please meet with the NAH Clinical d NAH program you are seeking admission to or in which you are cure policy #3337 requirements concerning criminal histories.	
swea that I would	r or affil am und d no lon	rm that der an a ger be	ed a copy of policy #3337, and I am aware of its requirements it the answers that I have provided herein are true and correct. affirmative duty to supplement or update my answers at any percorrect as stated. I further understand and acknowledge that it rounds for denying me admission to the program or for removing	I understand and acknowledge point in time when my answers if I have provided false answers
	Printe	d Nam	me Signature Da	ate

I certify that the information provided within this form is true and realize that reporting untrue information will result in my disqualification from the applicant pool and program and I will not be eligible to reapply.