

Northwest Florida State College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What steps do I need to take to apply to the PTA Program?

Students should start by talking with a [Student Success Navigator](#). We also recommend attending an information session and reviewing the [Program Application Packet](#) on the program webpage. Students must [Apply](#) to the college first, selecting the PTA General Education Cohort. Once admitted into the General Education Cohort, students can register for any required pre-requisite coursework. Students enrolled in the General Education Cohort will receive information for the online application to the PTA Technical Program.

2. How do I submit required forms for the PTA Technical Program Application?

Students will complete the initial technical application. Once received and entered into our system, students will be emailed additional links to submit all the required and/or optional materials. This includes: Charter Class Acknowledgement, Drug Screen & Criminal Background Check Policy Statement, Essential Functions of a PTA Student Form, Introduction to the Profession Assignment, Health-Related Certification (optional), Work Verification (optional), and Military Service Verification (optional).

3. Is there an admissions exam requirement?

Yes, students must complete the HESI for Health Professions Entrance Exam by the published deadline. Students must receive a **cumulative score** of 75% or higher on the required five sections: Math, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary, Grammar, and Anatomy & Physiology. More information on the HESI can be found at the end of the Application packet. Students can [register online](#) to take the exam at our testing center. Select the following: HESI – Health Sciences Exams, HESI A2 – Nursing Entrance Exam (Fee Required). Check the site frequently for available test dates. Once you check out, the testing center will reach out to confirm which program you are applying to. Please let them know you are taking it for application to the PTA Program and remind them again when you arrive to take your exam. The content on the HESI A2 for Nursing is the same for the HESI for Health Professions. The only difference is in the tracking of data and which program can view results.

4. How can I prepare for the HESI for Health Professions Entrance Exam?

There is a HESI Study Guide: "HESI Admission Assessment Exam Review," 4th ed. By Elsevier (ISBN 978-0-3233-5378-6). It is available for purchase at the NWFSC College Store or online. Student can also find free resources by using a google search for anatomy and physiology reviews. Some interactive sites include: [Get Body Smart](#) and [Web Anatomy](#). If a student is enrolled at NWFSC, they can access free tutoring through [Learning Commons](#).

5. What if I don't achieve a cumulative score of 75% or higher on the HESI?

Students can take the HESI up to two times per year. The highest scores from both attempts will be used for the overall cumulative score.

6. What is the math requirement for the program?

We have recently updated our math requirement to allow for MGF 1106 **or higher** level math course such as MAC 1105 College Algebra or STA 2023 Statistics.

7. How many students are admitted into the program?

We can take a maximum of 24 students. This number may vary each year based on job market outlook and clinical site availability.

8. Is there an age requirement to apply to the program?

Yes. Students must be 17 by the first clinical rotation. Students admitted who are under 18 will be required to have a parent or legal guardian attend the mandatory orientation session and co-sign some documents.

9. Do you require observation hours?

No. Students are welcome to complete observations hours on their own, but they are not required for admission. Students must complete a "Introduction to the Profession Assignment" as part of the application process. It will be scored using a rubric as part of the selective admissions points system. This can be found in the Program Application Packet.

10. Do you give bonus points to students who have completed observation hours?

Not currently. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for students to obtain observation hours and we want to keep the selective admissions process fair for all students.

11. Do you offer night classes?

No. All PTA Technical classes will be offered during daytime hours at the FWB campus.

12. Can I work during the Technical Program?

We strongly discouraged attempting to work during the technical semesters. Students can expect to be in class approximately 7-8 hours/day during the week and participate in full-time clinicals M-F. Students can expect to study approximately 15-20 hours outside of the classroom per week.