

**School of Health Sciences
Physical Therapist Assistant-Associate of Applied Science
Admission Criteria for Fall 2025**



Applicants are selected annually using a merit-based/competitive admission process. The program accepts **24 students** every fall semester. Applying does not guarantee admission. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the most current [admissions criteria](#). Please see the [Health Sciences Admissions website](#) for the current application information. Review [this video](#) for an overview of the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

The PTA Associate of Applied Science degree at Salt Lake Community College is **not** meant to prepare students for a Bachelor’s degree nor does it lead to a graduate level degree to earn a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). Students seeking to eventually earn a DPT degree should meet with an academic advisor in the [Science, Engineering and Math Pathway](#) for appropriate course planning. The PTA AAS degree prepares students to obtain specific skills and competencies to take the NPTE exam for physical therapist assistants and to become licensed to work as a physical therapist assistant.

SLCC ADMISSIONS PROCESS

1. [Apply to SLCC](#) as a degree seeking student and declare Health Sciences as your Area of Study and Physical Therapist Assistant as the Program of Study. Due to the selective admission process, you will be declared as a Pre-Health Sciences-AS student with a concentration in Physical Therapist Assistant. The Pre-health sciences degree is as a placeholder degree while preparing to enter the PTA program.
2. For transfer credit, complete all the required steps in the [SLCC Transfer Evaluation process](#). Be sure to submit transcripts for ALL colleges and universities where prerequisite coursework has been completed. *This process may take 4-6 weeks and must be completed before a student’s application will be considered.*
3. Complete [SLCC Placement Process](#) or submit current SAT/ACT test scores if MATH and ENGL coursework have not been transferred to SLCC. [Placement process preparation](#).
4. Schedule an appointment with your [PTA Academic Advisor online](#) or call 801-957-6215. Students are encouraged to meet regularly with their PTA advisor.
5. ALL communication will be through BruinMail. Can access Bruinmail through [MySLCC](#) portal.

PTA PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCESS

Items 1 thru 5 must be completed **before** applying to the program. Items 6- 7 list criteria that are preferred but not required to apply.

1. Mandatory Prerequisite Courses.

ALL prerequisites must be completed with the minimum grades BEFORE the application deadline to remain eligible. Depending on the student’s academic preparation, additional prerequisite courses may be required. It is the student’s responsibility to examine each course description for details of other prerequisite courses required. See the application deadline in the important dates section below and plan to meet with your academic advisor to create a course plan and determine a timeline for applying.

Prerequisite courses will account for a maximum of 40% of the overall admissions score.

The following prerequisites require a C or better and have no time limit nor attempt restrictions.				
NOTES	COURSE	TITLE	CR	PREREQUISITE
	ENGL 1010 or any English Composition (EN) course	Intro to Writing (EN)	3	ENGL 0990 w/ a C or better or appropriate course placement. Students are encouraged to learn/use APA referencing style in ENGL 1010.
Select one math course	MATH 1045, or MATH 1040, or MATH 1050, or higher	Intro to Statistics with Integrated Algebra (QL)	4-3	MATH 1045: ENGL 0900 w/ C grade or better or appropriate course placement. See Catalog for prerequisites for other math options.
	PSY 1100 or FHS 1500	Human Growth & Dev. (SS) or Lifespan Human Dev. (SS)	3	None.

	HS 1100	Medical Terminology	3	None.
The following prerequisite course must be completed with a B or better <u>within the past five (5) years</u> and can only be taken three (3) times within a 5-year period.				
NOTES	COURSE	TITLE	CR	PREREQUISITE
Take both	BIOL 2320/ BIOL 2325	Human Anatomy w/Lab	4	BIOL 1610 w/C grade or better. Students who have not taken BIOL 1610 previously must take BIOL 1615 concurrently.
The following prerequisite course must be completed with a B or better <u>within the past seven (7) years</u> and can only be taken three (3) times within a 7-year period.				
NOTES	COURSE	TITLE	CR	PREREQUISITE
Online only	PTA 1010	Intro to Physical Therapy	3	None.

ADVISING NOTE: [Tutoring](#) is available for writing, math, and biology courses. Ask PTA Academic Advisor how [AP](#), [CLEP](#), or [Challenge exam](#) scores are calculated in the admissions process.

POTENTIAL FIRST SEMESTER PREREQUISITE SCHEDULE			
Based on Math & English placement and full-time enrollment			
OPTION A:		OPTION B: If placed into Math 1010/1040 and ENGL 1010 Levels	
MATH 1045 Intro to Statistics w/Integrated Algebra or Math course based on placement	4	MATH 1040 Intro to Statistics	3
ENGL 1010 Intro to Writing or English course based on placement.	3	BIOL 1610/1615 College Biology & Lab	4
PSY 1100 or FHS 1500 Human Growth and Lifespan Development	3	ENGL 1010 Intro to Writing	3
PTA 1010 Intro to Physical Therapy	3	PTA 1010 Intro to Physical Therapy	3
Total	13	Total	13

ADVISING NOTE: Sample schedule does not replace professional academic advising. Individual needs may differ. Students should meet with their assigned program advisor on a regular basis to discuss course planning

- High School Diploma or Equivalent (GED).** Verification of high school graduation or equivalent (GED) will be required before the Physical Therapist Assistant admissions deadline. Applicants will upload a copy of their high school diploma or transcript, GED certificate, or a letter of explanation if they do not have supporting documentation to the admissions application portal.
- Essential Functions.** Students enrolled in the PTA program must perform certain essential functions in order to participate safely in and to complete the program requirements. Review the [PTA Essential Functions Document](#) for more details. Sign and date the Essential Functions document and upload to the application portal where indicated.

4. HESI Exam. The [HESI](#) exam accounts for a maximum of 14% of the overall admissions score.

Students must complete the HESI Pre-Admission Assessment Test by the admissions deadline. A **minimum overall score of 75% is required.** **There is a limit of three (3) attempts with no expiration date.** Students are required to wait a minimum of two (2) weeks before retesting. The **highest score** of the three (3) attempts will be used; there is no averaging of the scores. The exam must be scheduled at least one week in advance, so plan accordingly.

The areas tested include: Anatomy & Physiology, Biology, Math, Grammar, Reading Comprehension, and Vocabulary.

Below are details on how to register:

- [SLCC Testing Center](#): \$120 Registration Fee. Price is subject to change.
- [Out of Area](#); Fee may vary.

Study Aides:

- HESI Admissions Exam Study Guide: SLCC Bookstores, \$43.95 (prices subject to change)
- www.test-guide.com/hesi
- <https://evolve.elsevier.com/studentlife/hesi.html>
- <https://uniontestprep.com/hesia2>
- <http://home.brainfuse.com/>

- <http://www.pocketprep.com/>

5. Admissions Essay

Applicants will upload an admissions essay to the application portal. **The essay will account for a maximum of 28% of the overall admissions score.** Read the [Selective Admissions Criteria](#) for the essay prompt and formatting requirements.

6. Preferred (But Not Required) Items.

- Completion of a Utah Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program or CNA and/or Medical Assistant certification within the past 5 years or Licensed Massage Therapist degree. Upload a copy of certification or degree to the application portal. **5% of the overall admissions score.**
- Applicants that have demonstrated a willingness to serve others through volunteer community engagement will receive additional consideration on their application. Read the [Selective Admissions Criteria](#) for more information. **4% of the overall admissions score.**

7. Prior Degrees

Prior Associate’s and/or Bachelor’s degree will be given additional consideration in the application process. Prior degree(s) should be posted on official college transcript(s) sent to SLCC. **4% of the overall admissions score.**

8. Veterans

Veterans verified through the [Veteran Services Office](#) will be given additional consideration in the application process. **5% of the overall admissions score.**

9. Apply Online

- Application access instructions: Log-in to “MySLCC”>Click on “Discover” (Found on the top left under the 3 horizontal lines next to the SLCC logo) >Type in and click on “Selective Admissions Forms”> Click on "Start Here" under Health Sciences Programs if you're a first-time applicant > Click on "here" under apply to open admissions sessions if you've already registered for the Health Sciences Admissions Portal> Choose the Physical Therapist Assistant application. The application will only appear on the menu during open application periods. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$25.
- **Please review the application portal instructions carefully. All application support documents must be uploaded to the application portal at the time of applying. Applicants will not be able to make changes to their application or upload documents after it is submitted. The Health Sciences Admissions Office will not accept documents via email. It is the applicants’ responsibility to ensure they include all supporting documents at the time of application submission.**
- Applicants should check the email associated with the application portal account regularly for notices from the Health Sciences Admissions Office.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program accepts up to **24** students every fall semester.

Physical Therapist Assistant Important Dates
<p>Applications Accepted for Fall *January 15 through May 15</p>
<p>Notification of Acceptance/Denial June</p>
<p>Orientation Information will be sent via “Full Acceptance” letter</p>
<p>Classes Begin August</p>
<p>*The School of Health Sciences may reopen the application after the established deadline if it is in the best interest of the program to do so. Please check http://www.slcc.edu/hs/admissions/ regularly to see if the application has been reopened. All application requirements will still need to be fulfilled for an application to be considered. Applicants that apply by the original application deadlines will take priority.</p>

AFTER PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance into the program will be given on a “Conditional” basis. Students must complete the following within the allotted time in their “Conditional Acceptance” letter (about 30 days) to receive “Full Acceptance”. **If students don’t complete these requirements, they will forfeit their spot.** Once “Full Acceptance” is granted, students can register for Physical Therapist Assistant classes.

1. **American DataBank Complio:** Students are required to create an American DataBank Complio account to order their background check, submit necessary documentation, and meet immunization compliance requirements. Create an account by going to: <https://saltlakecc.complio.com/>

If you have any problems setting up the account or questions on submitting information, please contact the Customer Service Department for American DataBank Complio. Phone: 1-800-200-0853 (7am-6pm MT Monday – Friday) OR email: complio@americandatabank.com.
2. **Immunizations:** Order “Immunization Compliance Package” from American DataBank Complio, \$16.
 - a. This subscription will need to be renewed every 12 months while in the program for \$16.
 - b. For specific information, please see the “After You’re Accepted Into The Program” section under the desired program on the [Health Sciences Admissions website](#).
 - c. Immunization requirements are subject to change, therefore check the website often and far enough in advance to be able to accommodate deadlines. For questions on immunizations, please contact 801-957-6253 or healthsciencesadmissions@slcc.edu.
 - d. Required immunizations officially documented and uploaded into American DataBank Complio:
 - i. Annual Influenza Vaccination
 - ii. Annual Tuberculosis (see HS website)
 - iii. Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap)
 - iv. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
 - v. Varicella (Chicken Pox)
 - vi. Hepatitis B (Series and titer may take up to 1 year, so start well in advance)
 - vii. Hepatitis A vaccination series (highly recommended but not required)
 - viii. COVID-19
3. **Background Check:** Order “Criminal Background Check Package” through American Databank Complio, \$29
 - a. Students assume the risk if their criminal background check is not clear. If students do not pass the background check, they may not be accepted into the program. This may result in withdrawal from the program after the tuition refund deadline has passed. The clinical site will make the final determination about accepting students for clinical placement.
 - b. It is **strongly** recommended that prospective students take measures to have criminal offenses [expunged](#) or sealed from their record if possible. Students can review [Criminal History Guidelines on DOPL’s website](#). Students are advised to contact the [Health Sciences Admissions Coordinator](#) with any questions or concerns prior to applying to the program.
4. **CPR Certification:** Documentation uploaded into American DataBank Complio account
 - a. Current [American Heart Association](#) OR [American Red Cross](#) 2-year BLS Healthcare Provider certification. BLS (CPR) Certification may be obtained at any certified provider. **Students will need to ensure their BLS (CPR) certification is current throughout the program.**
5. **Drug Screening:** Order “Drug Screening Package” through American DataBank Complio, \$35
 - a. You will have 48 hours to complete the test once ordered.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The program consists of four (4) consecutive semesters after prerequisites, including a summer semester. All accepted students will be enrolled on a full-time basis while in the PTA program. The program consists of theory, skill-based, and clinical courses. The program content is rigorous and presented in an accelerated manner. Students will attend clinical instruction during the summer and second fall semesters of the program. The facilities have two therapy labs, a cadaver lab, a therapy pool, and personal lockers for students.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE			
Fall Semester (1 st)		Spring Semester	
PTA 2010 Functional/Neuro Anatomy	3	PTA 2350 Data Collection PTA	2
PTA 2015 Appl of Functional Anatomy	1	PTA 2360 Implement Data Collection	2
PTA 2100 Patient Care Skills	2	PTA 2400 Musculoskeletal Disorders	3
PTA 2110 Implement Patient Care Skills	2	PTA 2410 Interventions Musculo Disorders	3
PTA 2200 Therapeutic Modalities/Integ	2	PTA 2510 Spec Disorders/Populations I	3
PTA 2210 Implement Ther Modalities	3	PTA 2520 Interventions Special Disorders	3
PTA 2300 Therapeutic Exercise	2	PTA 2530 Gerontology	2
PTA 2310 Implement Therapeutic Exercise	2	PTA 2850 Special Studies for PTA	2
Total	17	Total	20
Summer Semester		Fall Semester (2 nd)	
PTA 2450 Neurological Disorders	2	PTA 2700 Clinical Internship II	5
PTA 2460 Interventions Neuro Disorders	3	PTA 2710 Clinical Internship III	5
PTA 2550 Rehabilitation Psychology	2	PTA 2750 Seminar for PTA	1
PTA 2540 Special Disorders II	1		
PTA 2600 Clinical Internship I	5		
Total	13	Total	11

Program Hours & Minimum Grades

Classes are typically taught during the day only M-TH from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the [Jordan Campus](#), except for when students are in clinical settings during the summer semester and the second fall semester. The student's clinical schedule will be determined by the clinical site. Students will be expected to participate in three (3) clinical internships. Attendance for clinical internships will be five (5) days a week, forty (40) hours per week. Students should expect each clinical internship to last five (5) to six (6) weeks. For more clinical information, visit [PTA clinicals](#). Clinical sites have discretion over who they accept for clinical instruction. To integrate classroom and skill-based learning with real-life, students are also expected to participate in an on-site [pro-bono physical therapy clinic](#).

To maintain their position in the PTA program, students must maintain a **C (77%) grade or better** in each required class and complete the technical curriculum in the order outlined.

National Exam

Licensure is required to practice as a physical therapist assistant in the State of Utah. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are awarded the AAS degree (Associates of Applied Science) which allows students to sit for the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) for Physical Therapist Assistant through the Federation of State Boards in Physical Therapy ([fsbpt.org](#)). If a student passes the exam, they will be eligible for licensure/registration in all states. For state licensure information, visit [www.dopl.utah.gov](#). For program pass rate information, visit <http://www.slcc.edu/ptassistant/accreditation.aspx>.

Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Salt Lake Community College is accredited by the **Commission of Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)**, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: www.capteonline.org.

Estimate Program Cost

The total cost of the PTA program is estimated at \$13,000, not including prerequisite courses. See the [Tuition Fee Schedule](#) for more details. This amount is only an estimate. Tuition rates are subject to change and vary by registration.

For more information, please contact:

<p>Academic Advisor(s) PTA Academic Advisor(s) or call: 801-957-6215 3491 W. Wights Fort Road West Jordan, UT 84088 Jordan Student Center 203</p>	<p>Health Sciences Admissions Office 3491 W. Wights Fort Road, West Jordan, UT 84088 Jordan Health Sciences Center 065 Office: (801) 957-6253 Fax: (801) 957-6324 http://www.slcc.edu/hs/admissions/index.aspx healthsciencesadmissions@slcc.edu</p>
---	---

Helpful Websites

[Math & Science Tutoring](#)

[Reading & Writing Tutoring](#)


[Physical Therapist Assistant Main Page](#)

[Physical Therapist Assistant Admissions](#)

[Physical Therapist Assistant Student Handbook](#): (Essential Job Functions-pg 9, Program Outcomes, etc.)

[Career Services](#)

[Physical Therapist Assistant Career Information](#)

Instagram: Follow us @slcc_hs and @slcc_pta 



Learn more about SLCC Health Sciences
and
Schedule an appointment with your
Health Sciences Advisor
www.linktr.ee/SLCC_HealthSciences

Updated: 11/15/2024