

PTA Program FAQs

Q: *Is there a waitlist to be admitted to the PTA program?*

A: No. Students are admitted on a competitive admissions basis. Application does not guarantee admission, and there is no waitlist, so if you do not make it into the program, you will have to try again at another time.

Q: *Are any potential students named as alternates for admission?*

A: Typically, two students are identified as alternates should an applicant who was accepted into the PTA program decline their seat. If you are identified as an alternate, you will receive a letter indicating whether you are the first or second alternate. An accepted student may decline their seat up until the end of the second week of fall semester.

Q: *Why are only 20 students accepted if interest in the program is so high?*

A: All students who are accepted into the program complete a series of practicum courses in actual clinical environments. To ensure that there will be enough sites and qualified clinical instructors, admission is limited to 20 students annually. Additionally, Zane State College is committed to not saturating the market with graduates. It is important to us that graduates are able to find employment in the field upon graduation.

Q: *How long does the application process take?*

A: It is recommended that you allow two to three months to complete all necessary steps of your application folder. (See page 3 of the PSI.)

Q: *I have previous college experience at an institution other than Zane State College. Which courses will transfer?*

A: The PTA Program Director does not make this determination. All questions regarding transfer credits should be directed to the Registrar's Office. Make sure to submit an official copy of transcripts from all previous institutions to the Registrar's Office to evaluate possible transfer credits.

Q: *Do I really need to order two copies of my transcripts from institutions that I have previously attended?*

A: Yes. You will submit one copy to the Registrar's Office for evaluation for transfer credit. The other copy is to be placed in the application folder for the Program Director to review. These should be in sealed envelopes from the institution and should include grades through the end of fall semester prior to application.

Q: *Is it possible to complete the PTA Program more quickly if I have already completed all of the **general education** courses?*

A: No. Any PTHA course is only offered once each academic year, in the semester in which it appears on the Course of Study sheet. The PTA Program will take a minimum of four consecutive semesters regardless of previous coursework. It is possible, however, that the summer semester of the first year may be satisfied via transfer credit.

Q: *When completing observation hours, what constitutes a setting type?*

A: Examples of setting types are: Inpatient/hospital, outpatient, skilled nursing facility, home health, schools, etc. Completion of a minimum of 20 hours of observation of Physical Therapy practice with either a licensed Physical Therapist or PTA is required. The total must include time spent in at least two different types of Physical Therapy settings. (See page 4 of the PSI.)

Q: *Do I need to take the Health Occupations Aptitude Exam (HOAE) if I have taken the ACT or if I have a college degree?*

A: The HOAE can be waived if the applicant provides documentation of an ACT score of 20 or above; however, if an applicant has a score lower than a 25 on the ACT, it is highly recommended that they take the HOAE. This is regardless of whether or not the applicant has a college degree. (See pages 3 and 4 of the PSI.) SAT scores can be substituted for ACT scores and will be converted to an ACT equivalent score.

Q: *Are there other degrees that I may pursue while applying to the PTA Program, given the limited number of available seats?*

A: There are a number of options. It is important that each student understands the value that any program they choose will have to the PTA Program.

- There are other health related programs at the college that do not follow a selective admissions process. Those include Sport and Fitness Management, Health Information Management and Medical Assisting.

- It will not affect the chances of being accepted to the PTA Program if a student chooses to apply to another selective admission health program. Those include the Occupational Therapy Assistant, Medical Laboratory and Radiologic Technology Programs. It is possible that you may be accepted to all or none of these programs.
- The Associate of Science and Associate of Science – Health Concentration degrees are also options. Students need to understand that these are meant to be transfer degrees and should be pursued when you have plans to transfer to a 4 year school to complete a Bachelor's degree.

Q: *If I graduate from the PTA Program, is there an avenue for me to become a Physical Therapist in the future?*

A: In Ohio, The University of Findlay does have a PTA to DPT option. Additional information should be obtained directly from that institution.