

---

# Pennsylvania College of Technology

---

PENNSTATE



**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND ADMISSIONS OFFICE**  
**Bachelor of Science in Physician Assistant**  
**Admission Ranking System**

Students desiring entrance into the Physician Assistance major must first gain admission to Penn College. Applicants who are accepted into the College will initially be placed in the pre-major (pre-professional phase). While in the pre-major status, students complete a total of 61 prerequisite credits that will prepare them for courses specific to the professional phase (final two years) of the major.

Transfer students must submit their application and transcripts to the Penn College Admissions office by January 15 (prior to the fall semester in which they seek admission into the professional phase). In some cases, students currently enrolled in fall courses elsewhere will not have an official transcript available by this date. An unofficial copy may be sent initially; however, an official copy must be received for admission consideration. Applications and transcripts submitted after the January 15 deadline will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

All students selected for the professional phase must have at least 300 documented hours of health care exposure (including a minimum of 16 hours with a practicing physician assistant). Documentation verifying completion of these hours must be received by the Penn College Admissions Office no later than May 30 prior to the start of the professional phase. Students with more than 300 health care exposure hours will receive more points in the admission ranking system.

When there are more qualified applicants than seats available, students are ranked based on a comprehensive admission system outlined below. This ranking system includes grades earned at Penn College, as well as those reflected on external transcripts\*.

**Acceptances into the professional phase are granted in March for the fall start of classes. In some cases, students may receive conditional acceptances pending completion/review of spring grades.**

The provisions within this admission ranking system are not considered an irrevocable contract between the student and the College. The College reserves the right to change the requirements and regulations at any time during the student's term of enrollment.

## **1. MATH AND SCIENCE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (Approximately 50%)**

- **A minimum of a 3.0 grade-point average (GPA) is required for selection consideration**
- Courses considered in ranking include:

BIO 115 – Anatomy and Physiology I  
BIO 125 – Anatomy and Physiology II  
BIO 201 – Microbiology  
BIO 220 – General Biology I

CHM 111 – General Chemistry I  
CHM 202 – Principles of Organic Chemistry  
Two MTH Courses<sup>^</sup>

<sup>^</sup> Students are required to take two math courses at/above the MTH 160 (Elementary Statistics w/Computer Applications) level. If more than two were taken, the highest two grades will be used in admission ranking system.

## **2. PROGRAM INTERVIEW (Approximately 35%)**

- Up to 50 candidates will be invited for an interview for the 30 seats available. Interview consideration will be based on points earned in Math and Science GPA, Other GPA, and Degrees/Credits.
- The interview will be conducted by the Physician Assistant Program.
- The interview score will be based on health care exposure hours, and oral and written communication skills.

### 3. OTHER GRADE-POINT AVERAGE (Approximately 10%)

Courses considered in ranking include:

ENL 111 – English Composition I	CSC 124 – Information, Technology, and Society
ENL 121 – English Composition II	PSY 111 – General Psychology
or^	SPC 101 – Fundamentals of Speech
ENL 201 – Technical & Professional Communication	or^
	SPC 201 – Interpersonal Communication

^The highest grade will be used in admission ranking system if both courses were taken.

### 4. DEGREES/CREDITS (Approximately 5%)

Doctorate	5 points
Master's degree	4 points
Bachelor's degree	3 points
Associate's degree or more than 61 credits	2 points

#### **NOTES:**

Only the *specific* courses listed above will be used in the admission ranking process.

Students will be limited to 61 attempted credits (taken at Penn College, excluding all developmental courses) in the pre-physician assistant major. Following the annual March selection, interview candidates not selected for the professional phase of the PA program, and pre-physician assistant students who have attempted 61 credits but failed to meet ranking eligibility, will be required to meet with the program director to discuss viable education options.

Upon appropriate documentation, Advanced Placement (AP) and/or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credit will be included in the ranking system.

#### **FOOTNOTE:**

\*External courses with grades below a "C" will not transfer to Penn College for credit; however if applicable, these grades (D's and F's) will be calculated into the math-science (see section #1 above) and "other" (see section #3 above) GPAs during the admission ranking process.