
Pennsylvania College of Technology

PENNSTATE



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

Overview

Students desiring entrance into the Physician Assistant major must first gain admission to Penn College. Applicants who are accepted into the College will initially be placed in the pre-PA status where they will complete a total of 62 prerequisite credits that will prepare them for courses specific to the major.

Transfer students must submit their applications and transcripts to the Penn College Admissions office by January 15 (prior to the fall semester in which they seek admission into the PA major). In some cases, students will not have an official transcript available by this date. An unofficial copy may be sent initially; however, an official copy including scheduled spring courses (if applicable) must be received for interview consideration in February.

Students have until January 15 prior to the start of PA major (fall semester) to document 300 hours of health care exposure (including a minimum of 16 hours with a practicing PA). Students must submit the Health Care Exposure Logging Form to the Physician Assistant Program office by January 15 in order for these hours to be considered in the admission ranking/interview process. Students with more than 300 health care exposure hours will receive more points in the admission ranking system. Guidelines for acceptable health care exposure hours and logging form can be found at <http://www.pct.edu/schools/hs/pa/BPALoggingForm.pdf#zoom=75>.

In order to qualify for selection consideration into the major, the applicant must have a combined math and science grade point average (GPA) in pre-requisite courses of at least a 3.0. Additionally, all grades in the pre-requisite math and science courses as well as grades in ENL 111, ENL 121 (or ENL 201), CSC 124 and PSY 111 must be at or above a grade of "C." 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 major are granted in March for the fall start of classes. In some cases, students may receive conditional acceptances pending review of grades in courses that are completed during the spring semester.

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. DEGREES/CREDITS (Approximately 6%) – Mathematical calculations used to determine the point value of degrees/credits are based on an expected average of 2.5 points. Points are awarded on the following scale:

DEGREE/CREDITS	POINTS
Doctorate	5 student points
Master's degree	4 student points
Bachelor's degree	3 student points
62 academic credits or more	2 student points

2. MATH AND SCIENCE GPA (Approximately 71%) – Mathematical calculations used to determine the weight/percentage value of the math and science GPA are based on an expected average GPA of 3.5. Actual student math and science GPAs that are higher or lower may increase or decrease the percentage accordingly. The following must be noted:

- Only grades of "C" or higher will be used to calculate GPA.

- Students are required to take two math courses at or above the MTH 160 (Elementary Statistics with/Computer Applications) level. If more than two courses were taken, the highest two grades will be used for ranking purposes.
- Math and science courses included in this GPA include:

BIO 115 – Anatomy and Physiology I	CHM 111 – General Chemistry I
BIO 125 – Anatomy and Physiology II	CHM 210 – Organic Chemistry I
BIO 201 – Microbiology	Two MTH Courses (MTH 160 and higher)
BIO 220 – General Biology I	

3. OTHER GPA (Approximately 23%) – Mathematical calculations used to determine the weight/percentage value of the GPA from other pre-requisite courses are based on an expected average GPA of 3.0. Actual student GPAs that are higher or lower may increase or decrease the percentage accordingly. The following must be noted:

- Only grades of "C" or higher will be used to calculate GPA.
- If ENL 121 and ENL 201 are taken, the higher grade will be used for ranking purposes.
- Courses included in this GPA include:

ENL 111 – English Composition I	CSC 124 – Information, Technology, and Society
ENL 121 – English Composition II	PSY 111 – General Psychology
or	
ENL 201 – Technical & Professional Communication	

NOTE: The ranking areas below are applicable *only* to students who achieve grades of W, D, or F in noted Math, Science and Other courses taken at Penn College and those reflected on external transcripts.

4. Math and Science Reduction (Approximately minus 6%) – Mathematical calculations are used to evaluate students with grades of W, D, or F. These grades result in point reductions in the ranking system. This point reduction is based on an average number of courses in which a W, D, or F was achieved (**1.1264). The reduction applies to W, D, or F grades in the following courses:

BIO 115 – Anatomy and Physiology I	CHM 111 – General Chemistry I
BIO 125 – Anatomy and Physiology II	CHM 210 – Organic Chemistry I
BIO 201 – Microbiology	MTH Courses (MTH 160 and higher)
BIO 220 – General Biology I	

5. Other Reduction (Approximately minus 2%) – Mathematical calculations are used to evaluate students with grades of W, D, or F. These grades result in point reductions in the ranking system. This point reduction is based on an average number of courses in which a W, D, or F was achieved (**0.3531). The reduction applies to W, D, or F grades in the following courses:

ENL 111 – English Composition I	CSC 124 – Information, Technology, and Society
ENL 121 – English Composition II	PSY 111 – General Psychology
ENL 201 – Technical & Professional Communication	

6. PROGRAM INTERVIEW (Approximately 25%)

- Interview consideration will be based on points calculated in ranking areas 1 through 5 above. Candidates will be invited for an interview for approximately 34 available seats.
- The interview will be conducted by the Physician Assistant Program staff.
- The interview score will be based on health care exposure hours, and oral and written communication skills.

NOTES & FOOTNOTES:

An "Academic History Score" is determined using ranking areas 1 through 5 above. An "Interview Score," ranging from 0 to 35, is determined by the results of the required student interview process. The final student ranking score weights the "Academic History Score" 75% and the "Interview Score" 25% and is calculated as follows:

0.75 times "Academic History Score" plus 0.25 times "Interview Score" equals Student Ranking Score

Only the **specific** courses listed in ranking areas 1-5 above will be used in the admission ranking process.

Students will be limited to 62 **attempted credits** (taken at Penn College, excluding all developmental courses) in the pre-PA major. Following the annual March selection, interview candidates not selected for the major, and pre-physician assistant students who have attempted 62 credits but were not interviewed, 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.

Footnotes

*External courses with grades below a "C" will not transfer to Penn College for credit; however, if applicable, these grades (W's, D's and F's) will be calculated into the Math/Science and Other reduction areas during the admission ranking process.

**The calculated average for each reduction area is based on three years of historical data.