

Altus Suite and Casper Test

All applicants to the Pennsylvania College of Technology Combined BS/MS in Physician Assistant Studies program are required to complete an online suite of assessments (Altus Suite), to assist with our selection process.

- **High school students** seeking a conditional seat in the PA program will complete Altus Suite as part of the application process prior to December 1 of the year preceding their expected entry to the College—this means these applicants will complete Altus Suite prior to starting semester 1 of the 5-year [curriculum](#), typically during their senior year of high school. High school applicants should select **Undergraduate Physician Assistant (CSP-10106 – U.S. Undergraduate Health Sciences)** when registering.
- **Pre-Physician Assistant college students** who do not possess a completed bachelor's degree and are seeking to be ranked for selective admission into the professional phase of the program (semester 7 of the 5-year [curriculum](#)) will complete Altus Suite prior to January 15th of the year in which they plan to undergo selection for entry into the professional phase of the program—this means these applicants will complete Altus Suite in year 3 of the 5-year curriculum, typically during their junior year of college. Pre-PA applicants should select **Physician Assistant (CSP-10101 - U.S. Professional Health Sciences)** when registering.
- **Direct transfer students** who have completed a bachelor's degree and the prerequisite science coursework needed for selection and are seeking to be ranked for selective admission into the professional phase of the program (semester 7 of the [curriculum](#)) will complete Altus Suite prior to January 15th of the year in which they plan to undergo selection for entry into the professional phase of the program. Direct transfer applicants should select **Physician Assistant (CSP-10101 - U.S. Professional Health Sciences)** when registering.

How to Complete Altus Suite

In order to take Altus Suite, you will be responsible for securing access to a laptop or desktop computer with webcam and audio capabilities. You will require the following for both account creation and completing Altus Suite:

- Government-issued photo ID
 - Valid email address (the same one you will use to submit your application)
 - Working webcam
 - Working microphone
 - Reliable high-speed internet connection
1. Please go to www.TakeAltus.com to create an Altus Suite account. To register, you will need your **CASPA ID number** or your **9-digit Penn College ID number** and a government-issued photo ID.

2. Once registered, click on “Dates and Fees” and then “BROWSE TEST DATES AND TIMES”
3. Select “United States of America” and then choose either:
 - **Undergraduate Physician Assistant (CSP-10106 – U.S. Undergraduate Health Sciences)** → for high school applicants trying for a conditional seat
 - **Physician Assistant (CSP-10101 - U.S. Professional Health Sciences)** → for non-high school, professional phase applicants
4. Choose **Pennsylvania College of Technology** and select your Casper test date. You will be provided with a limited number of testing dates and times. Please note that these are the only testing dates available for your Casper test. There will be no additional tests scheduled. Please use an email address that you check regularly and that you have used for your application; there may be updates to the test schedule.
 - a. Important: To account for identity verification and payment processing timeline, ensure that you register for your test at least three (3) days before your preferred test date and time. Last-minute bookings are not recommended.
 - b. The most up to date information can be found by browsing the [Test Dates and Times](#) on [TakeAltus.com](#).
5. You may complete Snapshot any time after you have registered for your Casper test at [www.TakeAltus.com](#) and up to 10 days after completing your Casper test. **After 10 days, you will no longer have access to Snapshot and your Altus Suite will be deemed incomplete.**
6. Please direct any inquiries on Altus Suite to support@altus.as. Alternatively, you may use the chat bubble in the bottom right-hand corner of your screen on the takeAltus.com website.

Accommodations: If you require testing accommodations for Altus Suite you will need to submit the [Accommodations Request Form](#) signed by you and your qualified professional three (3) weeks in advance of your desired test date. More information regarding accommodations can be found [here](#).

More About Altus Suite

Altus Suite consists of a two-part online assessment of non-cognitive skills, interpersonal characteristics, and personal values and priorities that we believe are important for successful students and graduates of our program. Altus Suite will complement the other tools that we use for applicant screening. In implementing Altus Suite, we are trying to further enhance fairness and objectivity in our selection process.

Altus Suite consists of:

- **Casper:** a 60-90 minute online situational judgment test (SJT)
- **Snapshot:** a 10-minute one-way interview with standardized questions

About Casper

The Casper test is comprised of 12 sections (8 video-based and 4 written scenarios). Following each scenario, you will be required to answer a set of probing questions within a pre-set time limit.

The test typically takes between 75-90 minutes to complete. Each response is graded by a different rater, giving a very robust and reliable view of personal and professional characteristics important to our program. No studying is required for Casper, although you may want to familiarize yourself with the test structure at [TakeAltus.com](https://www.takealtus.com), and ensure you have a quiet environment to take the test. We strongly urge you to take advantage of the 12-section practice test, which will not only immerse you in the test environment, but will also ensure you meet the technical requirements to access and complete the test.

Casper test results are valid for one admissions cycle. Applicants who have already taken the test in previous years will therefore be expected to re-take it.

For a more detailed look at the Casper test, please see this [video](#).

About Snapshot

Snapshot is a one-way interview tool that takes 15 minutes to complete. It is used to help programs get to know their applicants better by assessing verbal and non-verbal communication skills, as well as motivation for the profession. Snapshot includes two mandatory practice questions to allow applicants to get familiar with the format and to test their audio and video capabilities. After they complete the practice portion, they will move on to record responses to three standardized interview-style questions. Applicants have two minutes to record each response. They will have time to read and consider each question during a 30-second reflection period before they begin recording. All recorded responses will be submitted to the program for review. While Altus Assessment

*****PLEASE NOTE:** The vendor (Altus Assessments, Inc) requires all applicants to complete both Casper and Snapshot as part of the Altus Suite package. Penn College utilizes the results of the Casper test in its selective admission process, but Penn College does NOT utilize the results of Snapshot at this time. All applicants to the Penn College PA Program must complete both Casper and Snapshot, or their Casper results will be canceled. There are no additional costs to applicants associated with Snapshot, and applicants' Snapshot responses do not impact the selective admission ranking score.