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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (MODIFIED FOR COVID-19) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How long is the PTA Program?

The PTA program is five terms starting in the Summer, and graduation is the following Fall. The first two terms are all coursework (6 courses), the third term is two courses and one 4-week clinical, the fourth term is all coursework, and the fifth and final term is two 6-week clinical.

2. Who is the Director of the Physical Therapist Assistant program?

Kelly Thompson is the Director of the PTA program. She can answer any questions you may have at Kelly.Thompson@pit.edu.

3. What is the graduation rate of the PTA class?

The graduation rate is 96.3% (2-year average for 2018/2019).

4. What is the pass rate for the National PTA licensure exam?

The pass rate is 85.2% (2-year average- 2018/2019).

5. After completing the PTA program, how many students have a PTA position with the first year after graduation?

Of the students that successfully pass the national exam- 95- 100% have full or part-time PTA positions within six months.

6. What do I need to submit to apply to the PTA Program?

You must submit:

- an application,

- a letter of intent,
- proof of completion of prerequisite courses,
- Two professional reference letters.

7. What is the last term that prerequisites can be completed to apply for admission to the PTA Program?

The Spring term (April-June) is the last term that prerequisites can be completed for admission into the PTA program.

8. How many students are accepted into the program?

This number depends upon the number of qualified applicants.

9. When do classes meet?

Classes in the PTA program are Monday- Thursday between the hours of 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Because of Covid-19, all lectures are being taught online via zoom, and labs continue to be held on campus on a modified schedule.

10. How many different instructors are there in the program?

Currently, there are four full-time instructors and one adjunct faculty in the PTA program.

11. How are in-person labs managed during COVID-19?

For in-person labs, students are divided up into small groups to maintain social distancing.

12. When and how do I complete my background checks?

Once you are accepted into the PTA program, you will get instructions on how and when to complete these background checks. You do not need to complete these before accepted into the program.

Please note: if anything concerning comes up on your background checks, you may be dismissed from the program.

13. What is considered a passing grade in a PTA class?

A C+ (or 75% or higher) is a passing grade in the PTA program. This grade was chosen because you need to achieve a 75% or higher to pass the national exam.

14. Who is responsible for setting up the clinical experiences for the PTA curriculum?

It is the clinical coordinator's responsibility for the PTA program to place all students at clinical sites. If a student has a specific place in mind that they would like to do a clinical at, they would need to talk to the clinical coordinator in advance.

15. Is transportation provided to and from the clinical sites?

Students are responsible for their own transportation.

16. Is tutoring available?

PIT is organized for student success. PIT provides peer, private, and group tutoring in our Student Resource Center. Additionally, PTA instructors are available for academic advising, tutoring, guidance, and students' support.

17. What types of student services are available on campus?

Student Services provides academic support and career and transfer counseling and referral to social and community services. Other student services available include the cafeteria, student lounge, and student lockers. P. I. T. van service between PIT and SEPTA's 101 Trolley Station at Providence Road and State Road is available.

PIT also offers a full-service library providing both on-campus and virtual assistance. The librarian works directly with students to help them find research materials and verify online resources.

18. What resources are available to help fund my education?

Financial aid is available for those students who qualify through federal, state, institutional, and special programs. Student loans are available. Some employers offer tuition forgiveness (repay outstanding loans for education) programs in exchange for employment. There are also professional and community organizations that provide scholarships to students. For further information on federal, state, or college aid, go to www.fasfa.gov. P. I. T. Students who need assistance should contact their representatives from the Financial Aid Office to help students apply for financial aid.

19. If I do not plan to enroll in the PTA portion of the program until next year, would my admissions requirements be accepted if completed this year?

You would want to wait until the following admissions cycle to complete the admissions requirements if you apply for the next year. If turned in too early, you may be asked to re-submit this information.

20. What are the academic prerequisites to qualify for entry to the PTA program?

Students must successfully complete the following classes to be considered for entry to the PTA program.

- English Composition
- Analytical Writing
- Introduction to Psychology
- Human Growth & Development
- Mathematics for Healthcare Professionals
- College Algebra & Trigonometry
- Healthcare in a Transcultural Environment
- Anatomy & Physiology I
- Anatomy & Physiology II
- Introduction to Physical Therapy Kinesiology

Classes taken at other accredited colleges and universities can be applied to the prerequisites listed above. The Associate Dean will review transcripts that have been submitted by the admissions department.