

Panola College OTA Program Admission Point System

Summary of Selection Criteria and Weight

Overall GPA =	15%
Residency =	5%
TSI =	5%
Narrative =	15%
CORE Points =	30%
Interview =	30%
	100%

Overall GPA

The applicant's overall grade point average will be calculated based upon grades from every College course that has been taken, including repeat coursework. For applicants who have completed less than 15 hours of college coursework, the high school GPA will be considered. The overall GPA will be divided by the maximum (4.0) and then multiplied by .15.

Residency

The applicant earns a 1, 2 or 3 based on residency as follows:

3 = in service area (Panola, Harrison, Shelby, Marion)

2 = in Texas

1 = out of state

The raw score is divided by 3 and then multiplied by .05

TSI

Texas Success Initiative evaluates basic reading, writing and math skills. There are several tests that can be taken for measuring these skills (TASP, ASST, ACMP, AACP). OTA program applicants are considered exempt or meet this requirement if

- they earn a C or better in college Algebra and English 1301 (Composition I)
- they earn an associates degree or higher

TSI complete or exempt = 1

TSI incomplete = 0

Score is multiplied by .05

TSI completion is a requirement for graduation from Panola College. Students entering the OTA program TSI incomplete have one calendar year from the date of admission to meet the requirement.

Application Narrative

OTA faculty grade application narratives using a 20 point scale rubric which equally considers the writer's introduction and conclusion, organization, content, structural quality and neatness. The raw score is multiplied by .15.

CORE Points

Applicants are able to earn points by completing select core courses required in the OTA program. Point values are based on the number of core courses completed AND the quality of the grade earned in each course. Over the past decade, students who have completed most of the core courses, especially A & P I and II, have a better success rate in the Program. However, these eight courses are not prerequisites.

A&P I	5 pts
A & P II	5 pts
English 1301	2 pts
Microcomputer Applications	2 pts
General Psychology	1 pt
Life Span Growth and Development	1 pt
Health Care Spanish	1 pt
Introductory Sociology	1 pt

The points associated with each course are multiplied by the value of the letter grade earned in that course, for example, an “A” has a value of 4, a “B” a value of 3 and so on. The maximum score is 72 (this would be the point value for a student who earned an “A” in each course above). The raw score is then multiplied by .30

Selection Process Summary

Each completed application will be considered and applicants ranked according to the criteria above (overall GPA, residency, TSI, narrative and CORE points). The top 50 applicants will be selected to continue the process and will be scheduled for an interview. The remaining students will be notified of non selection via letter.

Interview

The importance of the therapist-patient relationship is an essential element of the mission and philosophy of the OTA program. The OTA faculty members know that an effective therapist-patient relationship is the key to establishing and reaching successful patient outcomes in OT. Face to face interviews provide insight into the applicant’s ability to relate to and communicate effectively with others. Since eight hours of OT observation is required of each applicant, area COTA and OT practitioner rating scores and narrative comments are also given consideration in the calculation of interview scores. The raw interview score is divided by the maximum possible score and multiplied by .30.

Final Applicant Selections

Each student is then ranked according to their overall score. The top 24 applicants are offered a position in the program. Two additional applicants, ranked in positions 25 and 26, are invited to enlist as “alternates” in the event that one of the accepted 24 students declines or has academic difficulties during their first semester in the program. In such situations, alternates will be selected on the basis of academic performance and professional skill development demonstrated in OTHA 1405.

*Applicants who were previously enrolled in OTA courses (including alternates) must completely repeat the entire application process. Interview Committee members will be apprised of circumstances related to withdrawal.