Panola College OTA Program
Admission Point System

Applicants must obtain full admission to Panola College and have a minimum overall GPA* of 2.5 or better in order to be considered for selection. Prior to applying to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program, students must successfully complete all prerequisite courses as described below. Occupational Therapy Assistant students must earn a grade of “C” or above in all required curriculum courses.

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 completed, 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 core courses required in the OTA program. Point values are base on the number of core courses completed AND the quality of the grade earned in each course.

Prerequisite Courses
- BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I 5 pts
- ENGL 1301 Composition & Rhetoric I 2 pts
- PSYC 2301 General Psychology 3 pts
- HUMA Humanities 1301 or 1302 2 pts

Non prerequisite Courses
- BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II 10 pts
- PSYC 2314 Life Span Growth and Development 6 pts

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. One additional point is awarded if the applicant has completed an Associate’s degree. Two additional points are awarded if the applicant has completed a Bachelor’s degree or higher. The applicant’s total 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. 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. 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.