

Panola College OTA Program Admission Requirements

Applicants must obtain full admission to Panola College, complete prerequisite courses identified below, and have a minimum core curriculum course GPA of 2.5 or higher in order to be eligible for selection. Occupational Therapy Assistant students must earn a grade of “C” or above in all required curriculum courses.

In order to be eligible for transfer consideration, students must meet transfer criteria required by the College. Additionally, OTHA courses must have been completed within the past two years with a minimum grade of a “C” in each. Students must meet immunization and background requirements and provide a letter of good standing from a Dean/Director of a fully accredited OTA program in Texas. If space is available, the OTA Program Chair will review course syllabi and determine eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

Admission Point System

Summary of Selection Criteria and Weight

Core Curriculum GPA -	15%
Residency -	5%
TSI -	5%
Narrative -	15%
Core Points -	30%
Interview -	30%
Total	100%

Core Curriculum GPA

The applicant’s Core Curriculum grade point average (GPA) will be calculated based upon grades earned in all non-OTHA courses required as part of the OTA degree plan. These courses include the required prerequisite courses - BIOL 2401, ENGL 1301, PSYC 2301, HUMA 1301 and may also include BIOL 2402, PSYC 2314.

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 the

- student earns a C or better in college Algebra and English 1301 (Composition I)
- student has obtained an associate’s 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 based on the number of core courses completed AND the quality of the grade earned in each course.

Prerequisite Courses (Must be completed prior to application)

BIOL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology	5pts
ENGL 1301	Composition & Rhetoric I	2pts
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3pts
HUMA 1301	Introduction to Humanities	2pts

(Note: Required course prerequisite course completion exception may be made in special circumstances based on Program Chair approval).

Non-prerequisite Courses

BIOL 2402	Anatomy and Physiology II	10 pts
PSYC 2314	Lifespan 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 (Core curriculum 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 email.

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 application process score. The top 24 applicants are offered a position in the program. The Program Chair will finalize the OTA applicant selection process based on responses to the acceptance notifications.