

Panola College OTA Program Admission Requirements

Applicants must obtain full admission to Panola College, complete pre-requisite courses identified below, and have a minimum overall 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

Overall GPA =	15%
Residency =	5%
TSI =	5%
Narrative =	15%
CORE Points =	30%
<u>Interview =</u>	<u>30%</u>
	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 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

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