

- **PTA Program Admission Packet Notes**

Following your review of the PTA program Admission Packet let me know if you have any questions. I hope to see you at one of the Advising Sessions that are posted at this web site. Otherwise we can speak over the phone, communicate via email or set a time to meet.

- **The deadline for submission of all Fall 2012 application material is June 1, 2012.**
- **Applicants may begin submitting application material on April 1, 2012.**

Twenty four (24) applicants are accepted into the program and will begin the program during the Fall semester of 2012. There were sixty two (62) applicants for the twenty four (24) seats in Fall 2010 and there were eighty two (82) applicants for the twenty four (24) seats in Fall 2011.

The PTA program Admission Committee will use the following College of DuPage policy when selecting the twenty four (24) applicants that will be offered a position in the PTA program:

- 1) The PTA program must be filled first with applicants from within the district's residents who meet the stated minimum acceptance criteria for the program. This will include students whose permanent residence is outside of COD district, but who work 35 or more hours/week within District 502 and are charged in-district tuition upon presenting the proper documentation to the Registration Office.
- 2) Once all in-district applicants who meet the minimum requirements are accepted, then it is acceptable to go to the out-of-district applicants to fill the program. The out-of-district pool includes students who come to COD under a chargeback situation, or under a Joint Agreement (also known as Cooperative Agreement) with another community college.

NOTE: "In-District Resident" and "Proof of Residency Documents" as well as "Special Residency Classifications" information describing how a current, Out-of-District PTA program applicant may qualify as an In-District 502 PTA program applicant is available at:

<http://home.cod.edu/admissions/gettingStarted/districtResidency.aspx>

General Education and Prerequisite Requirements

Completion of **all** General Education classes is recommended for applicants **prior** to beginning the PTA Program. If you have an Associates &/or Bachelors &/or Masters &/or Doctorate degree, you may have met a majority of the General Education requirements. Though, you do need to successfully complete the Anatomy & Physiology (A&P 1551/1552 or 1571/1572) and Bio-Medical Terminology (Health Science 1110) prerequisite courses with a grade of "B" or higher **prior to the June 1st deadline** to be considered for acceptance into the PTA program.

The A&P courses **must** have been completed within the last five years; for a lapse greater than five years, waivers may be granted on an individual basis dependent upon health care experience. A waiver can be requested by writing a letter describing the health care experience that you have gained since completing the A&P courses. The waiver request letter should be addressed & sent to the PTA program coordinator, HSC 2202B (see the full address on the cover page of the PTA Admission Packet) prior to submission of the PTA Program application material.

An application file will not be considered complete until **all** three of the above noted prerequisite courses have been successfully completed **prior to the June 1st deadline**.

Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) Requirement

As noted in the attached PTA Admission Packet, an applicant's **cumulative** or **overall** Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) on **all** college coursework submitted to the COD Records office **must** be a

minimum of **3.00** based upon a 4.00 scale. The scale will be adjusted for those schools awarding credit on a 5.00 scale. A description and example of calculating G.P.A. as well as a G.P.A. calculator for up to seven (7) courses can be found at: <http://www.back2college.com/gpa.htm>
A G.P.A. Calculator for more than seven (7) courses can be found at:
http://www.fullerton.edu/aac/AAC_Resources/gpa_calculator.asp

Note: The average overall or cumulative G.P.A. on **all** college coursework of the twenty four (24) students that were accepted to the Fall 2011 PTA program was 3.3.

Reading Placement Test and Writing Placement Test Requirements

The applicant must complete & submit a Reading Placement Test and a Writing Placement Test at the College of DuPage Testing Center, BIC 2405, (630) 942-2580, with placement in **Category One** on both tests.

Physical Therapy Clinical Experience Requirements

Applicants need to gain a minimum of 60 hours of Physical Therapy clinical experience that must be documented with a minimum of 30 hours in an in-patient setting and a minimum of 30 hours in an out-patient setting.

- **A minimum of 30 hours** of Physical Therapy clinical experience **must be gained through employment or as a volunteer.**
- The other **30 hours** may be gained through **observation** or volunteer or employment.
- The clinical experience **must occur within the last five (5) years**
- See the attached PTA Admission Packet for a full description of this admission requirement as well as the Documentation of Physical Therapy Clinical Experience Hours forms.
- **Note:** Each of the twenty four (24) students that were accepted to the Fall 2011 PTA program each gained an average of 500-2100 hours of clinical experience. The clinical experience was gained in the following manner: 21 via work experience, 3 via volunteer experience and zero via observation experience.

Written Essay Questions & Applicant Responses Requirements

The applicant must submit the College of DuPage Physical Therapist Assistant Program Written Essay Questions & Applicant Responses as directed.

- **Recommendation:** Use some or all of the twelve (12) characteristics listed on the rating table of page 1 of the Recommendation Form to describe specific examples &/or situations that illustrate your level of performance of those characteristics.
- Your response to the question on each of the Documentation of Physical Therapy Clinical Experience Hours forms along with the two Essay Question responses will be evaluated to determine your content, grammar & spelling point total.

Recommendation Form Requirements

The applicant must submit four (4) Recommendation Forms from individuals who can attest to the applicant's clinical and/or academic ability. Forms completed by friends or relatives of the applicant are unacceptable. The forms must be used according to the instructions on the forms.

1. One (1) of the four (4) forms **must** be completed by one of the applicant's college-level instructors.
2. Two (2) of the four (4) forms **must** be completed by a Physical Therapist (PT) or a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) who can attest to the applicant's clinical ability. This can be the same PT or PTA where you have gained a minimum of thirty (30) hours of physical therapy clinical experience at an **in-patient** setting and a minimum of thirty (30) hours of physical therapy clinical experience at an **out-patient** setting.
3. The fourth (4th) form may be completed by an additional college-level instructor, an additional PT or PTA who can attest to the applicant's clinical ability or an employer/manager/supervisor of the applicant.