PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT, A.S.

Begin Campus: Fayette, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Shenango
End Campus: Fayette, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Shenango

Entrance to Major
Incoming first-year students who meet the program and campus admission requirements are admitted directly into the major. For more information about the admission process for this major, please send a request to the campus undergraduate admissions office or to the program contact (listed in the Contact tab).

Change of Major and Change of Locations requests are submitted via LionPATH Update Academics and require Dean's review. Requests will be considered for entrance into the PTA Program based on academic performance and space available in the PTA Program.

Students who wish to change their major must have a cumulative collegiate grade-point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale as the minimum University requirement for change of major consideration. In general, change of major to the Physical Therapy Assistant program requires a substantially higher cumulative grade-point average. The number of qualified applicants typically exceeds the number of available program spaces; therefore, satisfaction of the minimum requirements does not guarantee approval for entrance to major.

Additional Information
In addition to a PTA certification/licensure, many state licensing boards and clinical facilities require a criminal background check, child abuse clearance, and a drug screening. PTA students are required to complete clinical requirements that may include FBI fingerprint check, child abuse clearance, state background check and drug screening prior to the beginning of the clinical practicum. Students will be responsible for completion and purchase of the necessary checks/clearances through a University approved vendor and providing results to the clinical sites. Students with criminal records should contact the physical therapy licensing board in the state they plan to practice prior to applying for admission to the PTA Program to inquire about potential restrictions for licensure.

Retention Requirements
The PTA curriculum is designed to move the student from a fundamental understanding of basic concepts to complex critical thinking and application in clinical settings. Academic progression is designed to support educational success, licensure, and transition to practice.

This policy delineates the academic standards required of students admitted to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program.

A course attempted in one PTA program applies to all campus locations. Academic Renewal does not negate previously attempted PTA courses. In a situation where the student withdraws from the University (Policy 56-30), courses will be counted as one of the two attempts for the PTA program.

Academic Requirements
1. Successful completion of required PTA courses as defined as a "C" or better.
2. Successful completion of BIOL 161, BIOL 162, BIOL 163, and BIOL 164 as defined as "C" or better.
3. A student who fails to achieve a "C" or higher in the same required Biology or PTA course for a second time will be dismissed from the PTA major. Academic advising relative to other majors/options will be provided.
4. A student who fails to achieve a "C" or higher in two different required Biology or PTA courses will be dismissed from the PTA major. Academic advising relative to other majors/options will be provided.
5. A student failing to achieve a grade of "C" or better in any required PT or Biology course will be required to repeat the course. A PTA student may repeat only one course, one time. A late drop (LD) or withdraw (W) in any required PTA or Biology course will be considered failing to achieve a "C" grade.
6. If a failing grade ("D," "F," "LD," or "W") in a PT course was the result of a violation of the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant or Pennsylvania State University Policy and Rules, or the student has a "D" or "F" at the time they drop the course, they may be denied the opportunity to retake the course.
7. A student who earns a "D," "F," "LD" or "W" in any two required PTA or Biology courses or in the same required core course for a second time will be disenrolled from the PTA major and advised relative to other majors/options.
8. Special provisions will not be made by the University in scheduling PTA or Biology courses for the purpose of re-taking a course. Students re-taking a course may lose up to one year since certain courses are offered only once per academic year. During the interim, the student may withdraw from the University or remain actively enrolled.
9. When reinitiating PTA coursework, the student will re-enter under the current curricular requirements.
10. The student is responsible for demonstrating current competency in previously completed courses. The measure of competence will be determined by the Program Coordinator and faculty teaching the content area.
11. A student who wishes to return to the University after a leave of absence or re-enroll after withdrawing from the University will follow the Re-enrollment/Re-entry policy of the University. See University Policy. Policy 58-00.