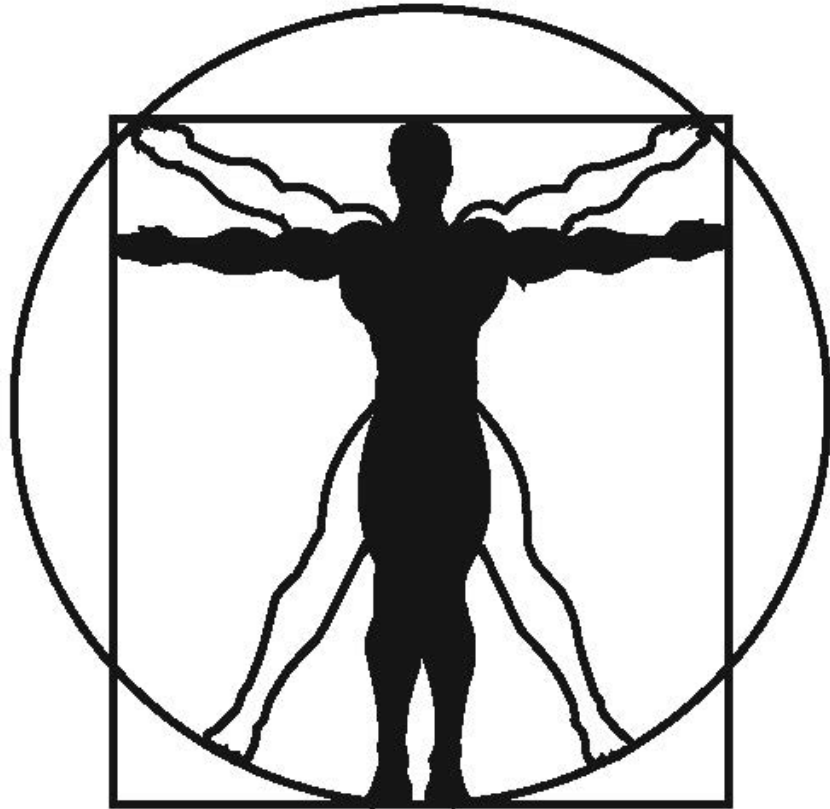


SAN JUAN COLLEGE
Physical Therapist
Assistant Program





Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the San Juan College (SJC) Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program. By choosing this rewarding career path, you will become a vital member of the health care team that assists patients to functional independence and recovery.

As one of the fastest growing occupations in the nation, the SJC PTA program offers fast, convenient, and affordable options so that you can quickly achieve the requirements to attain an entry-level Physical Therapist Assistant position with competitive pay.

The PTA program is proud to serve communities throughout the United States with two convenient and affordable options. You can complete our On-campus Physical Therapist Assistant Program and our Online/Hybrid Program in only five semesters. With this flexibility, you can pick the program that fits best in your schedule.

Our program graduates have received high praise from clinical partners which have resulted in a 100% employment rate.

Please review the enclosed application instructions and submit the PTA Online Application with required application materials noted on the application checklist by the application deadline of May 31.

Please access one of the following resources or the program webpage if you have any additional questions about the program.

San Juan College Website: <https://www.sanjuancollege.edu/>

PTA Program Webpage: <https://www.sanjuancollege.edu/health-science/physical-therapist-assistant/>

Program Support:

Sandra Sorrelhorse, PTA Program Administrative Assistant II
sorrelhorses@sanjuancollege.edu, (505) 566-3562
pta@sanjuancollege.edu

Program Director:

Kristina Lacey PTA M.A. Ed.
laceyk@sanjuancollege.edu, (505)566-3407

We look forward to receiving your application to join our program.

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APPLICATION CHECKLIST

1. Apply to San Juan College and Submit All Official Transcripts

- Contact the San Juan College Admissions Office for a **San Juan College Application for Admission** or apply online at [San Juan College Online Application](#). Declare your major as **AA Liberal Arts/Pre-Physical Therapist Assistant** on the San Juan College Application.
- Official college transcripts from each college you have attended must be sent directly to San Juan College through an e-transcript service. E-transcripts can be sent to transcripts@sanjuancollege.edu.
- For current San Juan College students, either non-degree seeking or with a previously-declared major, please complete a [Student Change of Name/Address/Phone form](#). Declare your major as **AA Liberal Arts/Pre-Physical Therapist Assistant**.
 - Log into your MYSJC and click the Change of Major Form. Choose Area of Interest: Medical & Health Sciences, Pre-Physical Therapy Assistant – AA.LBAS.PTAP.

2. PTA Program Prerequisites

- For guidance on the prerequisite course sequence (page 6), please contact the Health Sciences Advisor.
 - Alyssa Wagner, Health Sciences Advisor, wagnera@sanjuancollege.edu / (505) 566-3013.

3. Review the PTA Application Instructions

4. Complete & Submit the online [PTA Program Application](#)

- **All required application materials must be uploaded into the student's application by May 31st, 11:59 PM, MT.**
 - ATI TEAS Version 7 Individual Performance Profile form.
 - ATI TEAS overall score must be a 65.3% or higher to be eligible to apply.
 - ATI TEAS English & Science scores will be factored in.
 - Clinical Observation Form – 5 hours minimum is required. Work experience not accepted.
 - Admission Essay Prompt #1
 - Admission Essay Prompt #2

5. Confirmation – It is the student's responsibility to contact the San Juan College PTA Program at (505) 566-3562 or at pta@sanjuancollege.edu to confirm that the PTA Program has received all application materials **BEFORE** May 31st! The PTA Program business hours are from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, MT, Monday – Friday.

6. Decision Date is scheduled for June 15, 2025.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

The PTA Program accepts up to 20 students every year for each program. Applicants are ranked based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
Cumulative GPA of Prerequisite Courses (must be 2.75 or higher)	150
ATI TEAS Overall Score (must be 65.3% or higher)	100
ATI TEAS English Score	100
ATI TEAS Science Score	100
2 Admission Essays	50
Total Points	500
*An additional 25 points will be awarded for a Bachelor's Degree or higher	

PTA PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Students must complete all prerequisites before starting the PTA program. Students must earn a grade of 'C' or higher and have a cumulative prerequisite GPA of **2.75 or higher** for their application to be considered by the PTA Program.

- **FYEX-1110 - First-Year Seminar - The course is required only for students with less than 24 college credits.** This course is designed to help students achieve greater success in college and in life. Students will learn many proven strategies for creating greater academic, professional, and personal success. Topics may include career exploration, time management, study and test-taking strategies to adapt to different learning environments, interpersonal relationships, wellness management, financial literacy, and campus and community resources.

- **BIOL-1130 – Introductory Anatomy/Physiology -Non-Major AND BIOL-1130L - Introductory Anatomy/Physiology Lab – Non-Major**
(BIOL-2210 Human Anatomy & Physiology I 3/BIOL-2210L Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lab 1 and BIOL-2225 Human Anatomy & Physiology II 3/BIOL-2225L Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lab 1 may be accepted in place of BIOL-1130/BIOL-1130L only with the PTA program director's permission)
 Although BIOL-2210/L and BIOL-2225/L can substitute for the BIOL-1130/L requirement in the PTA program, they do not satisfy the [New Mexico Higher Education Department's General Education](#) Science requirement for graduation. Please consult with the Health Sciences Advisor to confirm that you have a lab science class that meets the General Education requirement.

- **COMM-1130 – Public Speaking OR COMM–2120 – Interpersonal Communication (preferred)**

- **ENGL-1110 - Composition I (preferred) OR ENGL-1210 – Technical Composition**

- **MATH-1130 – Survey for Mathematics OR MATH-1130E – Survey for Mathematics/Expanded OR MATH-1220 – College Algebra OR HIGHER (except MATH-2110–Math for Teachers III)**

- **PSYC-1110 – Introduction to Psychology**

ESTIMATED COST OF PREREQUISITE COURSES

Total Estimated Cost of Prerequisite Courses (19 Credit Hours)

On-Campus Program

Resident	\$1,597.50
Non-Resident	\$4,410.50

Online/Hybrid Program

Resident	\$1,569.00
Non-Resident	\$4,382.00

*Estimated costs are based on the Suggested Prerequisite Course Sequence in the SJC Academic Catalog

Tuition for residents is \$61 per credit hour plus the SJC flat fee for 4.1 credit hours or more per semester of \$205, and a student activity fee per credit hour of \$1.50 (not to exceed \$27.00 per student, per semester and does not apply to online classes).

Tuition for non-residents is \$195 per credit hour plus the SJC flat fee for 4.1 credit hours or more per semester of \$338.50, and a student activity fee per credit hour of \$1.50 (not to exceed \$27.00 per student, per semester and does not apply to online classes).

****Contact the Financial Aid department for more information on the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship for tuition-free college for New Mexicans.****

ESTIMATED COST OF PROGRAM COURSES

Estimated Cost of Technical Courses by Semester

The following tables provide a detailed, semester-by-semester breakdown of the estimated cost of the technical courses associated with each program.

On-Campus Program

Semester	Resident Tuition (includes SJC Flat & Student Activity Fees)	or	Non-Resident Tuition (includes SJC Flat & Student Activity Fees)	Plus	Program Fee	Plus	Textbooks & Program Supplies (Approximate)
Fall	\$705.00	or	\$1,910.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$1,175.00
Spring	\$705.00	or	\$1,910.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$340.00
Summer	\$580.00	or	\$1,517.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$190.00
Fall	\$830.00	or	\$2,303.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$230.00
Spring	\$955.00	or	\$2,696.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$0
TOTALS	\$3,775.00	or	\$10,338.50	+	\$1,000.00	+	\$1,935.00

Online/Hybrid Program

Semester	Resident Tuition (includes SJC Flat Fees)	or	Non-Resident Tuition (includes SJC Flat Fees)	Plus	Program Fee	Plus	Textbooks & Program Supplies (Approximate)
Fall	\$693.00	or	\$1,898.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$1,175.00
Spring	\$693.00	or	\$1,898.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$340.00
Summer	\$571.00	or	\$1,508.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$190.00
Fall	\$815.00	or	\$2,288.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$230.00
Spring	\$937.00	or	\$2,678.50	+	\$200.00	+	\$0
TOTALS	\$3,709.00	or	\$10,272.50	+	\$1,000.00	+	\$1,935.00

Total Estimated Cost of Technical Courses

On-Campus Program	Tuition, Program Fees, Textbooks & Supplies for 5 Semesters
Resident	\$6,710.00
Non-Resident	\$13,273.50
Online/Hybrid Program	Tuition, Program Fees, Textbooks & Supplies for 5 Semesters
Resident	\$6,644.00
Non-Resident	\$13,207.50

The Estimated Cost of the Technical Courses includes tuition, SJC flat fees, technology fees, student activity fees (if applicable), PTA Program fees & supplies, and textbooks for the PTA Program. ***This estimate does not include the costs associated with prerequisite courses.***

Tuition for residents is \$61 per credit hour plus the SJC flat fee for 4.1 credit hours or more per semester of \$205, and a student activity fee per credit hour of \$1.50 (not to exceed \$27.00 per student, per semester and does not apply to online classes).

Tuition for non-residents is \$195 per credit hour plus the SJC flat fee for 4.1 credit hours or more per semester of \$338.50, and a student activity fee per credit hour of \$1.50 (not to exceed \$27.00 per student, per semester and does not apply to online classes).

****Contact the Financial Aid department for more information on the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship for tuition-free college for New Mexicans. ****

Miscellaneous Expenses – All prices are subject to change

On-Campus and Online/Hybrid Programs	Students in both programs are also responsible for annual APTA membership fees, immunizations, PTA student supplies, PhysioU app, scrubs, PTA polo shirts, background checks, CPR, Clinical Education Onboarding fees (e.g., additional immunizations and background checks, drug screenings, N95 Fit Test, etc.), transportation and lodging on clinical rotations.
Online/Hybrid Program	Students participating in the Online/Hybrid Program are responsible for transportation and lodging associated with the on-campus portion of PTA lab courses. Students are required to be at San Juan College approximately 7-18 days per PTA lab course toward the end of each semester.

Virtual Proctoring and/or live proctoring services will be used throughout the PTA Program. Both services provide identity verification and proctoring to ensure exam integrity and academic honesty. The Online/Hybrid & On-Campus students are responsible for the fees related to this service when used. Pricing may vary depending on the virtual proctoring service obtained by the college.

Upon graduation, the student may have some of the following expenses related to licensure. The fees vary depending on student completion of the recommended exam preparation course and practice exam. Also, the state licensing fee varies depending on the state. **All fees related to licensure are the student’s responsibility.**

License Expenses

>\$500.00	PTA Licensure Exam Preparation Course (Recommended)
\$99.00	PEAT Exam (PTA Practice Exam & Assessment Tool)
\$485.00	National Physical Therapist Assistant Licensing Exam (FSBPT)
\$92.00	Prometric Testing Center Fee (Testing Centers located throughout the United States)
\$225.00	New Mexico Licensing Fee (fees vary by state)

All 50 states and the District of Columbia require licensure or certification for PTAs. The licensure process protects the public ensuring that only those candidates who have graduated from an accredited program and have demonstrated a basic entry-level competency on the national license exam are permitted to treat the public. An active license or certificate is required for each state in which the PTA practices. The license must be renewed on an ongoing basis with most states requiring continuing education for renewal. The PTA must follow scope of work and supervision requirements outlined in each state’s physical therapy practice act. Note: A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the licensing exam.

The program has determined that its curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure or certification in all states, the District of Colombia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands secondary to its accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, based on the following: CAPTE accreditation of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program satisfies state educational requirements in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Thus, students graduating from CAPTE-accredited physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education programs are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination and apply for licensure in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information regarding state qualifications and licensure requirements, refer to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy website at www.fsbpt.org.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid is available for students who qualify. Please visit the San Juan College Financial Aid webpage for information, [Financial Aid](#), or you can contact them at:

San Juan College – Financial Aid
4601 College Blvd.
Farmington, NM 87402f
(505) 566-3323
Email: financialaid@sanjuancollege.edu

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program has a responsibility to educate competent Physical Therapist Assistants to care for their patients (persons, families, and/or communities) with critical judgment, broadly based knowledge, and well-honed technical skills. San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program has academic as well as technical standards that must be met by students in order to successfully progress in and graduate from its program.

Technical Standards: San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program provides the following description/examples of technical standards to inform prospective and enrolled students of a sampling of technical standards required in completing their Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum. These technical standards reflect a sample of the performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. The standards are not requirements for admission into the programs and the examples are not all-inclusive. Individuals interested in applying for admission to the program should review these standards to develop a better understanding of the skills, abilities, and behavioral characteristics required to successfully complete the program.

San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program wishes to ensure that access to its facilities, programs, and services is available to all students, including students with disabilities (as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the ADA of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008) and all students can study and practice Physical Therapy with or without reasonable accommodation. San Juan College Physical Therapist Assistant Program provides reasonable accommodations to all students on a non-discriminatory basis consistent with legal requirements as outlined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990m and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. A reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment to an instructional activity, equipment, facility program, or service which enables a qualified student with a disability to have an equal opportunity to fulfill the requirements necessary for graduation from the PTA Program. To be eligible for accommodations, a student must have a documented disability of (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual, (b) a record of such impairment, or (c) be regarded as having such a condition.

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
Cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn in classroom and educational settings • Find sources of knowledge and acquire the knowledge • Life-long learner • Novel and adaptive thinking • Critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making needed to care for persons, families, and/or communities across the health continuum and within (or managing or improving) their environments - in one or more environments of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire, conceptualize, and use evidence-based information from demonstrations and experiences, including but not limited to information conveyed through online coursework, lectures, group seminars, small group activities, and physical demonstrations. • Develop healthcare solutions and responses beyond that which is rote or ruled-based. • Literacy to understand concepts across disciplines.

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual and conceptual thinking to accomplish the essentials of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program • Design mindset to create treatment interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and effectively implement strategies to achieve short- and long-term goals outlined in the plan of care. • Determine when an intervention should not be performed due to clinical indications, precautions, contraindications, or when the direction to perform the intervention is beyond that which is appropriate for the physical therapist assistant. • Identify complex problems and review related information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions. • Identify cause/effect relationships in the provision of health care. • Determine effects of treatment at various stages and adjust treatments to achieve maximum benefit. • Respond calmly and effectively to emergencies
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitive and effective interactions with patients (persons, families, and/or communities) • Effective interaction with the healthcare team (patients, their support, other professional and non- professional team members. • Interpret the meaning of information gathered from communication • Social Intelligence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurately elicit or interpret information: PT evaluation, medical history, and other information to efficiently determine a patient’s condition. • Accurately convey information and interpretation of information using one or more means of communication (verbal, written, assisted [such as TTY], and/or electronic) to patients and the health care team. • Effectively communicate in teams. • Determine a deeper meaning or significance in what is being expressed. • Connect with others to sense and stimulate reactions and desired interactions. • Identify the educational needs of others; develop exercise or training programs, and teach or instruct others.

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
Interpersonal/ Intrapersonal Skills and Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for others, integrity, ethical conduct, accountability, interest, and motivation • Acquire interpersonal skills for professional interactions with a diverse population of individuals, families, and communities • Acquire interpersonal skills for professional interactions with members of the healthcare team including patients, their supports, other healthcare professionals, and team members • Promote change for necessary quality healthcare • Cross-cultural competency • Virtual collaboration • Adhere to all applicable safety, ethical, and legal standards and procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain effective, mature, and sensitive relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff, and other professionals under all circumstances. • Make proper judgments regarding safe and quality care. • Function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical practice. • Operate in different cultural settings (including disability culture) • Work productively, drive engagement, and demonstrate presence as a member of an in-person or virtual team. • Accept feedback without defensiveness, use feedback to strengthen future performance, reflect on practice, and seek opportunities for professional growth. • Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with the APTA Guide for Conduct and Standards of Ethical Conduct. • Adhere to legal practice standards, including all federal, state, and institutional regulations related to patient/client care and fiscal management.
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe patient conditions and responses to health and illness • Assess and monitor health needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain and interpret information from assessment maneuvers such as assessing respiratory, cardiac function, blood pressure, neurological status, etc. • Obtain and interpret information from assessment of patient's environment and responses to health across the continuum. • Determine minute areas of detail, very small variations in color, and adequate depth perception (size, shape and texture), including differentiation of details such as viable vs nonviable tissue. This includes characterizing and interpreting the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of body structures and fluids, observing variations in skin and mucous membrane color, integrity, pulsations, tissue swelling, etc.

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain sterility of wounds, wound tools, and instruments used in wound care. Determine presence of skin reaction to various modalities (e.g., thermotherapy, cryotherapy, electrotherapy, etc.). • Observe and assess both from a distance and close by in order to recognize physical status and non-verbal responses including behaviors. • Interpret information from instruments and patient medical records. • Navigate and select appropriate settings on various equipment (e.g., modalities with subtle changes in density (black to gray) of a color in low light). • Observe and correct functional deficiencies in patient's movement, posture, gait, body mechanics, etc. • Observe and respond to changes in patient status (e.g., change in pallor, monitoring medical lines to avoid dislodging/constricting during movement).
Auditory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and monitor health needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detect any distress sounds that a patient produces in the treatment session. • Monitor vital signs. • Detect and respond to monitoring alarms.
Tactile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain and interpret changes in physical assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain and interpret information from assessment of patient's environment and responses to health across the continuum. • Utilize bimanual dexterity for palpation, auscultation, manual therapy, wound care, collecting objective measurements, applying modalities, and manipulating therapeutic equipment and devices. • Monitor changes in muscle tension and body temperature
Olfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish smells that contribute to assessing and/or maintaining the patient's health status or environmental safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detect malodorous or unusual odors from bodily fluids, wounds, etc.

Technical Standards	Description	Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alert appropriate staff to manage patient's hygiene, urinary, or excretory needs. Distinguish smells that adversely affect the environment (e.g., fire, noxious fumes, etc.).
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate strength and mobility sufficient to meet the needs of patients throughout the lifespan. Demonstrate energy sufficient to interact with individuals throughout the lifespan and to help them accomplish their tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute safe and effective transfers of adults and children in excess of 100 pounds frequently. Assist patients with bed mobility, wheelchair mobility, transfers, and gait training with or without assistive devices using appropriate guarding and level of assistance on level surfaces, uneven terrain, curbs, ramps, and stairs. Demonstrate and guard patients performing developmental sequencing positions and transitional movements for functional improvement (e.g., rolling, reaching, crawling, kneeling, walking) balance tasks in various positions. Organize the environment (e.g., rearrange pieces of furniture and lift boxes of materials).
Physical Endurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate sufficient physical endurance to complete assigned periods, the required shift, and assigned tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work at least 8 hrs/day, 40 hrs/wk for up to 14 consecutive weeks. Manually resuscitate patients in emergency situations.
Environmental Tolerance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Function safely in a typical and atypical classroom environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tolerate prolonged periods of time amidst artificial lighting, air conditioning, dust and odors, residue from cleaning products, and bodily fluids. Maneuver in smaller spaces such as hospital rooms, workspaces, and congested treatment areas. Demonstrate good judgment and make appropriate professional and procedural decisions in distracting environments (e.g., high noise levels, complex visual stimuli, etc.). Maintain a healthy and clean environment (e.g., universal precautions, sanitizing, etc.). Tolerate a health care environment that may contain latex and other allergens.



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 PH (505) 566-3562 OR (505) 566-3425 | FAX (505) 566-3767

ATI TEAS EXAM

The ATI TEAS exam stands for the Test of Essential Academics Skills. The score from this aptitude examination is used in the competitive admissions process to determine acceptance into the PTA Program. **The ATI TEAS Overall Score must be a 65.3% or higher in order to be eligible to apply. ATI TEAS English and Science scores will also be factored in.** Scores must be current within 5 years. The applicant’s highest scores will be used in their application.

Instructions on how to schedule your ATI TEAS exam locally on-site can be found on the [San Juan College Testing Center](http://San Juan College Testing Center webpage) webpage. Please contact the SJC Testing Center at testingcenter@sanjuancollege.edu to schedule your appointment. The cost is \$99.00.

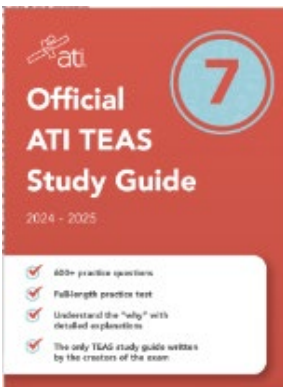
The **local, on-site** scheduled testing window dates are listed below.

For local, on-site testing only (Students can take the exam once per testing window)	
1 st window:	9/10/24 – 9/28/24
2 nd window:	10/22/24 – 11/16/24
3 rd window:	2/18/25 – 3/8/25
4 th window:	3/25/25 – 4/5/25
5 th window:	4/15/25 – 4/26/25

Remote ATI TEAS Exam Registration

Students may register for a remote ATI TEAS exam via ATI. Steps on how to register can be found at the ATI website. On average, the cost is \$120.00.

ATI TEAS STUDY GUIDE & OTHER RESOURCES



- Purchasing the ATI Study Guide is **strongly recommended**. Students can purchase the study guide for \$29.99 at the below-suggested webpage, ATI Testing Store Products. Study Guides are also available to purchase at the SJC Bookstore.
- The SJC Library has 4 copies of the Study Guide in the reserve section. Students must present their student ID’s at the time of checkout. Driver’s licenses are not accepted.
- Free ATI TEAS study resources can be found on the ATI Website.
- The SJC Tutoring Center now is offering tutoring sessions for the ATI TEAS exam. Click the Tutoring Center webpage to see the face to face schedule as well as the remote drop in tutoring lab schedule. For more information, contact the SJC Tutoring Center at (505) 566-3981 or email tutoringcenter@sanjuancollege.edu.



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CLINICAL OBSERVATION HOURS

The purpose of the required 5 hours of Clinical Observation Requirement is to give the applicant insight into the physical therapy profession and to help ensure that this career meets the expectations and interests of the applicant. **Work experience in a PT setting will not be accepted as clinical observation hours.**

- **Call clinical sites in your area.** Explain that you are applying to a PTA Program and that you would like to observe either a PT or a PTA at their facility.
- **Dress appropriately.** Follow the professional dress code of the facility. No shorts, jeans, t-shirts, hats sandals, excessive perfume, or body piercings. Slacks, polo shirt, and tennis shoes are acceptable.
- **Be punctual.** Make sure that you know who, when, and where you will be meeting. Please call to cancel if you are unable to make the appointment.
- **Maintain confidentiality.** Never mention a patient's name, medical diagnosis, or treatment plan outside of the facility. This is a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) violation. Do not ask personal questions about the patient during physical therapy treatment. The PT or PTA may choose to share relevant information with you before or after the treatment session.
- **Thank the clinician.** Thank the clinician for allowing you to observe their facility. Remember that this is **observation only** and that you are not allowed to assist with any treatment due to liability issues.



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CLINICAL OBSERVATION FORM

Applicant's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

All applicants to the PTA Program at San Juan College must complete a minimum of 5 hours of clinical observation or "job shadowing" under the supervision of a physical therapist (PT) or physical therapist assistant (PTA). The purpose of this experience is to give the applicant insight into the physical therapy profession and to help ensure that this career meets the expectations and interests of the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact the clinical facilities, schedule the experience, and have the PT/PTA complete this form. The completed clinical observation form must be submitted with the application by the deadline. **Work experience in a PT setting will not be accepted as clinical observation hours.**

Facility Type	Facility Name	Date	Time In	Time Out	Total Hours	PT/PTA Signature & License Number

Example:

Out-patient	Physiotherapy Clinic	11/14/24	10:00 am	3:00 pm	5.0	John Doe, PTA, License#000000
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ADMISSION ESSAYS

Instructions

Please answer both of the writing prompts below.

- Both essays must be 400-500 words each to fully address the prompts.
- Word Doc or PDF format.
- Sources are not required. However, if using sources, please cite in APA Style.
- Double-spaced, accessible font (e.g., Times New Roman 12 pt., Arial 11 pt., Georgia 11 pt.), include headings, indent first line of every paragraph, 1 inch margins, page numbers
- Place your San Juan College ID number and the Writing Prompt number only at the top right of each essay page as identifiers. (Example: 1234567, Prompt #1).
- Each essay will be evaluated anonymously by faculty from the San Juan College Humanities Dept.
- Essays are evaluated based on the rubric outlined below.
- Review the FAQ's for helpful tips.

Writing Prompts

- **Prompt 1:** Since there are a variety of health professions that “help” others, identify **three** character traits that are important for a Physical Therapist Assistant to have? Provide examples of how you have demonstrated these **three** traits or how are you working toward acquiring them.
- **Prompt 2:** The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount **one time** when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you and what did you learn from the experience? Please share how this experience will help you to become a Physical Therapist Assistant?

Rubric

	3 (High Proficiency)	2 (Proficiency)	1 (Some Proficiency)	0 (None)
Demonstrates Interest in Physical Therapy	Responses consistently and effectively show genuine interest in the field of physical therapy.	Responses show a general interest in the field of physical therapy.	Responses show interest in the healthcare field, but it is not specific to physical therapy.	Responses do not show any interest in the healthcare field.
Support/ Reasoning Ideas Details	The author’s purpose of writing is very clear. Substantial, logical, & concrete development of ideas. Assumptions are made explicit. Details are original, and convincingly interpreted.	The author’s purpose of writing is somewhat clear. Offers solid but less original reasoning. Assumptions are not always recognized or made explicit. Contains some appropriate details or examples.	The author’s purpose of writing is vague. Offers somewhat obvious support that may be too broad. Details are too general, not interpreted, irrelevant to the purpose, or inappropriately repetitive.	The author’s purpose of writing is unclear. Offers simplistic, undeveloped, or cryptic support for ideas. Inappropriate or off-topic generalizations or faulty assumptions.
Organization	Fully & imaginatively supports the purpose. Sequence of ideas is effective. Transitions are effective.	Organization supports the purpose. Transitions are mostly appropriate. Sequence of ideas could be improved.	Some signs of logical organization. May have abrupt or illogical shifts & ineffective flow of ideas.	Unclear organization OR organizational plan is inappropriate to purpose. No transitions.
Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	All sentences are well-constructed. The author makes very few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	Most sentences are well constructed. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling but these mistakes do not interfere with understanding.	The author’s purpose of writing is somewhat clear. Some sentences are well constructed. The author makes several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.	Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.

Adapted from: Northeastern Illinois University (adapted from: Barbara Walvoord, Winthrop Univ., Virginia Community College System, Univ. of Washington) and the International Reading Association.

Following Instructions:

- Meets minimum word count /1
- Document submitted in correct format /1
- Student ID and writing prompt identified /1

Essay #1: /15
 Essay #2: /15
 Total: /30

FAQ's

1. What are qualities that you typically look for in an essay?

- Ensure that the question is answered
- Essay should be personable without being overly casual
- Maturity and learning within the content
- Clear and concise
- Unique
- Genuine
- Demonstrating resilience – failures along with recovery is a plus
- Tell us your own thoughts and beliefs but use caution to avoid sounding opinionated
- Recognize that PTA's must graduate generalists (clinicians who are capable of treating all genres of conditions). Focus on all aspects of Physical Therapy rather than just one potential area of interest.
 - o If you want to work with pediatric patients, you should go beyond explaining that you really like working with kids (caring for children and managing their care for any given condition are two VERY different things)
 - o If you want to specialize in sports PT, do your homework and acknowledge other areas of focus in PT

2. What advice do you have to improve how well an essay is written?

- Use the [SJC Writing Center](#) for assistance
- Proofread for spelling, punctuation, grammar, logical thought processes, concepts flow together, nice organization
- Clear and concise
- Start and finish strong
- Grab the reader's attention with a strong start
- Try to tie everything together for a strong finish
- Transition sentences to flow from one paragraph to the next

3. Do you have a preferred essay format, such as the typical 5 paragraph essay?

- Word document or pdf, double spaced, 12-point accessible font (e.g., Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman), generally 400-500 words for each essay to fully address the prompts.
- Generally, an intro paragraph, the body of the essay, and a conclusion
- If citing sources, use APA Style.

4. What advice do you have for re-applicants?

- Re-applicant essays should not submit the same essay. Many programs keep the prior application for reference and to see what has been done to improve their application. The essay may have been one of the areas that needed improving.