

# San Jacinto College South

## Physical Therapist Assistant Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Is the PTA Program very difficult to get into?**

Yes. It is challenging. There are only 24 positions in the program and the applicant pool exceeds that.

**2. Is the job market good?**

Yes! The job market is excellent at this time. ~100% of our graduates in the last 5 years were employed within 6 months of graduation with the majority gaining employment within 3 months or less.

**3. What is the starting salary?**

Salary information can be found at the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes312021.htm>

**4. What are the program's graduation rates?**

2013 cohort: 23/24 (96%)

2014 cohort: 23/24 (96%)

2015 cohort: 19/24 (79%)

2016 cohort: 21/24 (88%)

**5. I heard there is a national licensing exam that I must pass in order to practice as a PTA in Texas? What is the pass rate of this exam for your program?**

For the past five years, the college has a 100% pass rate with most students passing the exam on the first trial.

**6. Do you offer this program at North or Central Campus?**

No, the PTA program is located only on South. However, you may take any of the non-physical therapist assistant courses (any course without the PTHA prefix) at any of the three campuses.

**7. Do you offer this program at night?**

Yes and no. The PTHA courses listed in the Curriculum are offered only as day classes; however you can take all the other courses at night, on weekends, on Internet, etc.

**8. When is your application deadline?**

March 1<sup>st</sup>

**9. When does your program start?**

The incoming class of students begins each Fall semester.

**10. Do I have to take the SAT or ACT?**

No.

**11. Where do I go for observation?**

All PT's and PTA's are required to do observation hours. Any facility is appropriate as long as you observe a licensed PT or PTA and you experience two different settings for a minimum of 20 hours each for a total of 40 hours. At least 1 setting must be an in-patient facility. Example settings are outpatient, in-patient rehabilitation, acute care hospital, pediatrics and home health.

**12. Is there a form for the Observation hours?**

Yes. You may use the Hours of Observation form on our website at [www.sjcd.edu/PTA](http://www.sjcd.edu/PTA). You may also use the form from the facility you observe at if they have one. Make sure to have the PT or PTA sign the paper verifying the information is correct.

**13. Is there a form for references to complete?**

Yes. Use the Recommendation Form on our website at [www.sjcd.edu/PTA](http://www.sjcd.edu/PTA). Three of these must be completed (numbers must be circled) and at least one must be from a licensed PT or PTA.

**14. Do you have many non-traditional students in the program?**

Yes, the PTA program has both male and female students of varying ages, cultural backgrounds, family dynamics and worksituations.

**15. Do any of the required non-PTHA classes have to be taken within a certain time period?**

No, there is no time limit to when any of the non-PTHA classes need to have been taken as long as they are equivalent and reflected accordingly on your transcript.

**16. If I have all the non-PTHA classes completed prior to the start of the program, can I finish the PTHA courses in one year versus two?**

No, the PTHA courses must be taken in order; therefore your program would be 2 years part time versus 2 years full time.

**17. I have to work throughout the program. Can I take the program part-time?**

Yes. Instead of taking the program as outlined under Curriculum in the brochure, you can spend the first year taking all the non PTHA courses and the subsequent two years taking only the PTHA courses. Please note that you will have to complete three clinical rotation that are full time for 5 or 7 weeks as outlined in the Curriculum portion of the brochure.

**18. What if I want to reapply for the program?**

Many students reapply and we encourage you to do so. You will need to complete a new application with **all new documents** and note on your application that you are reapplying.