

**SOMERSET COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

**ADMISSIONS PREFERENCE GROUPS**

The PTA Admissions Committee has determined that the groups below may receive preference from highest preference group to lowest preference group. Within the preference groups, the point system will be used.

As indicated on the Admissions Point System, there are three categories of applicants:

- I. Applicants in Category I have completed 12 or more college credits that may be applied toward the PTA degree (consisting of the ten general education courses). The GPA will be derived only from courses in the PTA General Education Sequence.
- II. Applicants in Category II are applicants that have graduated from high school, but have not completed twelve or more college credits that may be applied toward the PTA degree (consisting of the ten general education courses) prior to applying to the program.
- III. Applicants in Category III are applicants that have received their GED, but have not completed twelve or more college credits that may be applied toward the PTA degree (consisting of the nine general education courses) prior to applying to the program.

Preference Groups (from highest (1) to lowest (3)).

<b>PREFERENCE GROUP 1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For Applicants in Category I: ACT <math>\geq 19</math> <u>and</u> college GPA, derived only from courses in the PTA General Education Sequence <math>\geq 3.00</math>.</li><li>• For Applicants in Category II: ACT <math>\geq 19</math> <u>and</u> high school rank of 90% or higher.</li><li>• For Applicants in Category III: ACT <math>\geq 19</math> <u>and</u> 20 points from Admissions Points System based upon points awarded for performance on GED.</li><li>• Applicants who have completed a prior 4-year degree in any field from an accredited institution (that is, an institution from which SCC will accept credit) OR has graduated with a 2-year degree from any Somerset Community College Health Program are also included in Preference Group I.</li><li>• Applicants who have 3+ years of work experience and excellent letters of recommendation from their employer(s), regardless of ACT.</li></ul>
<b>PREFERENCE GROUP 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For applicants in Category I: ACT <math>\geq 19</math> <u>or</u> college GPA, derived only from courses in the PTA General Education Sequence <math>\geq 3.00</math>.</li><li>• For Applicants in Category II: ACT <math>\geq 19</math> and high school rank of 75% - 89%.</li><li>• For Applicants in Category III: ACT <math>\geq 19</math>, but less than 20 points from the Admissions Points System based upon points awarded for performance on GED.</li></ul>
<b>PREFERENCE GROUP 3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For Applicants in Category I: ACT <math>&lt; 19</math> and GPA derived only from courses in the PTA General Education Sequence <math>&lt; 3.00</math>.</li><li>• For Applicants in Category II: ACT <math>&lt; 19</math> and high school rank <math>&lt; 75\%</math>.</li><li>• For Applicants in Category III: ACT <math>&lt; 19</math> and less than 20 points from the Admissions Points System based upon points awarded for performance on GED.</li></ul>

*In addition, preference may be given to: Kentucky residents and applicants from the college service area; applicants who present verifiable documentation of employment as a physical therapy aide or technician, related healthcare experience, or related healthcare education; applicants providing a letter of recommendation from a PT or PTA; applicants residing in areas underserved by the profession or in regions where no PTA Program exists.*

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**ADMISSIONS POINT SYSTEM**

**FOR ALL STUDENTS**

<u>ACT Composite*</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Observation Hours</u>	<u>Work Experience**</u>	<u>Points</u>
≤ 19	0	Historically, the PTA Program has required that students perform observation hours as a requirement for admission to the PTA Program and afforded points for hours performed above the minimum. The program will no longer require observation or award points for observation from 2015 forward.	< 1 Year	1
20, 21	7		1+ Years	3
22, 23	10		2+ Years	6
24, 25	13		3+ Years	9
26, 27	16			
28, 29	19			
30+	22			

*\*Only the highest ACT composite score will be used in determining points. Multiple scores are not averaged.*

*\*\* Points for work experience must be as a physical therapy technician / aide with supervision by a physical therapist. Internships performed as a clinical requirement in a related field may be considered, at the discretion of the Admissions Committee, if performed in a physical therapy setting. Completion of a PT Aide/Technician Certification Course will count as one year's experience.*

**Additional points awarded:**

Prior application to program: 1 point

Prior placement on alternate list: 1 point

**CATEGORY I: FOR APPLICANTS WITH PREVIOUS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE**

*Minimum of 12 hours of required general education courses completed prior to applying to program.*

*(35 points possible + 33 points from top chart = 68 points maximum.)*

COURSE	POINTS AWARDED			COURSE	POINTS AWARDED		
	A	B	C		A	B	C
BIO 137 OR EQUIVALENT	6	3	1	HERITAGE/HUMANITY	3	2	1
BIO 139 OR EQUIVALENT	6	3	1	COMPUTER/DIGITAL LIT	1	1	1
ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	4	2	1	ENG 101 OR EQUIVALENT	3	2	1
PSY 110 OR EQUIVALENT	3	2	1	MAT 150 OR HIGHER*	5	2	1
PSY 223 OR EQUIVALENT	3	2	1				

*\*One additional point may be awarded for completion of CPR 100 or equivalent, but only if the course was completed for college credit and only if the course is on the applicant's transcript.*

**FOR OTHER APPLICANTS**

**CATEGORY II: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*35 points possible + 33 from top chart = 68 maximum*

<u>High School Rank</u>	<u>Points</u>	Plus 1 point for each A/B grade in a math or science course  (maximum 4 points)
75-79 percent	10	
80-84 percent	15	
85-89 percent	20	
90-94 percent	25	
95+ percent	31	

**CATEGORY III: STUDENTS WITH GED**

*35 points possible + 33 from top chart = 68 maximum.*

<u>GED Percentile</u>	<u>Points</u>	Prior to 2014, there were five sections on the GED. Points are awarded as shown to the left. In 2014, the Reading and Writing Sections were combined into one section. For students testing after 2014, those sections are awarded: 14 points for 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile; 10, 8, 6 and 4 for the remaining percentiles.
75 <sup>th</sup> percentile	2	
80 <sup>th</sup> percentile	3	
85 <sup>th</sup> percentile	4	
90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	5	
95 <sup>th</sup> percentile	7	

*-Points awarded for courses taken MUST be completed and on the applicant's transcript prior to the April 1 application deadline.*

*-If applicant is transferring college credit from another institution, credit is awarded only for courses that transfer in as the appropriate corresponding course as determined by the SCC Admissions Office and/or Registrar. Points for courses completed will not be awarded for courses that do not transfer in as the appropriate corresponding course.*

*-For applicants who were home-schooled with fewer than twelve college credits of the program's general education curriculum, a consortium rank is acceptable to determine class rank. In addition, the ACT must be completed in order to be considered for a position in the program.*

*-Preference may be given to students residing in areas underserved by the physical therapy profession or regions where no PTA Program exists or to those providing letters of recommendation from physical therapists or physical therapist assistants.*

*-Applicants graduating from high school in the previous academic year may elect to be viewed as either high school students or college students.*

*-All applicants, including those with prior degrees, are required to complete and submit documentation of ACT outcomes.*

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***INTERVIEW PROCESS***

All PTA Program finalists are required to participate in a formal interview process. The interview is a panel interview with the program's Admissions Committee. The purpose of the interview is to evaluate the applicant's affective skills (communication abilities, professional demeanor, etc.) and their knowledge of the profession. The intent is to improve student retention by admitting students who exhibit a good knowledge base of the profession and key characteristics vital to success in the field of physical therapy. All students will receive the same questions and will be scored based upon the content of their responses. Questions will focus on:

- The applicant's general knowledge of the profession of physical therapy, work settings, challenges of the profession, and role of the APTA;
- The applicant's understanding of the roles of the physical therapist and physical therapist assistant and their professional relationships;
- The applicant's rationale for the selection of physical therapy as their profession of choice;
- The applicant's knowledge of the PTA Program's curriculum and requirements associated with clinical and didactic experiences; and
- Other areas related to the profession and to the applicant's personal successes and challenges.

It is recommended that students who are selected for interviews review information available on the SCC website related to the PTA Program and visit the American Physical Therapy Association's website at [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org) to learn more about the profession prior to the interview.

Other websites of interest include, but are not limited to:

- <http://kypt.org/>;
- <http://www.fsbpt.org/>;
- <http://foundation4pt.org/>;
- <http://pt.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>; and
- [http://www.somerset.kctcs.edu/en/Academics/Programs\\_of\\_Study/Health -  
Physical Therapist Assistant.aspx](http://www.somerset.kctcs.edu/en/Academics/Programs_of_Study/Health_-_Physical_Therapist_Assistant.aspx).

A writing sample may be included to assess the applicant's written communication abilities.