



Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

**What is a competitive GPA?**

While the minimum GPA requirement for applying to the PTA program is 2.5, a higher GPA improves your chance of acceptance. The following table provides the average GPA for the last three cohorts admitted to the PTA program.

Class	Average GPA
2025	3.64
2024	3.30
2023	3.36
2022	3.43
2021	3.23
2020	3.46
2019	3.43
2018	3.54
2017	3.44
2016	3.59

**How are bonus points awarded as part of the selection process?**

Applicants who complete PTHA 1301 The Profession of Physical Therapy will have additional bonus points added to their ranking score. Additional points will be added as follows only when the letter grade is obtained upon the student completing the course on the first attempt:

- A= 1.5 points
- B=.75 points
- C= 0 points

The bonus points have been added to the selection process because a strong correlation has been shown between academic performance in PTHA 1301 and success in the PTA Program.

**What is the minimum score required on the pre-entrance exam?**

A minimum score on the pre-entrance exam (HESI A2) is not required. Since the applicant's average exam score is compared to the rest of the applicant pool, a higher score is favorable. Students with a minimum of 50 points (based on GPA and pre-entrance exam average score) will progress to the panel interview. The student is responsible for the examination fee (costs may vary).



# Laredo College

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### **Where can I find more information regarding the pre-entrance exam?**

The HESI A2 is a computer-based exam that will take approximately 4 hours. Content will include Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and General Knowledge, Grammar, Anatomy and Physiology, and Critical Thinking. Applicants wanting to review content prior to testing can find the HESI Admission Assessment Exam Review, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, online on [Elsevier](#) or [Amazon](#).

### **What is the class schedule in the PTA Program like?**

Freshmen students:

- Fall semester: Morning and afternoon classes
- Spring semester: Morning and afternoon classes
- Summer Session I: Full-time clinical rotation Monday through Friday (160 hours)

Sophomore students:

- Fall semester: Morning and afternoon classes
- Spring semester: Capstone course and two full-time clinical rotations (Clinical II Monday through Thursday- 224 hours; Clinical III Monday through Friday- 240 hours)

### **Where will I be expected to complete clinical education experiences?**

Three full-time clinical experiences must be completed as part of the requirement for graduation from the PTA Program. All clinical experiences can be completed in Laredo, but a student can opt to complete a clinical out of town. The clinical experiences may include assignments at facilities in Carrizo Springs, Cotulla, Zapata, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Uvalde, Harlingen, Mission, Weslaco, San Benito, San Juan, and Brownsville. The estimated cost for room and travel for an out of town clinical experience is approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500. These additional costs are the responsibility of the student. In addition, the applicant should be aware that they may be required to work with clients who may speak

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only Spanish; thus, the ability to speak Spanish is a definite asset to the student.

**What are the graduation requirements?**

Students who successfully complete all PTA program coursework with a minimum grade of "C" or better will earn an Associate of Applied Science

Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant and be eligible to sit for the national licensure examination, administered by the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Graduates must pass the national exam to practice as a PTA in the state of Texas. Additional information regarding rules governing licensure may be found on the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners website at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/executive-council> .

**Do PTA courses transfer to other universities?**

Courses that are specific to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTHA) program will not be counted as credit toward a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree (DPT). However, the pre-requisites and other requirements for the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant, including ENGL 1301, PSYC 2314, BIOL 2301, BIOL 2101, BIOL 2302, BIOL 2102, and PHIL 2306 (elective) may be counted as credit towards the pre-requisite for some DPT programs at other Texas universities.