



Application Process

Application to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program is a separate process from application to St. Philip's College. Applications for the PTA Program are accepted during the spring semester only (**January 1 – March 31**). Applications received outside this window (i.e., postmarked before January 1 or after March 31) will not be scored or considered.

Applications are reviewed and processed at the end of the spring semester. Completion of the application criteria does not guarantee program selection or admission. Notification of selection/non-selection should occur by the end of June. The program admits one cohort of 26 students per academic year, and those students selected in the spring application period begin classes in the fall.

If any of the below instructions for program application are unclear, please attend an information session or contact the Selection Committee Chair, Kris Aguilar, via e-mail (preferred) at kaguilar19@alamo.edu or phone at (210) 486-2010 for clarification.

*** * * Information Sessions * * ***

If you need further assistance with or more information about the application process, please attend one of the program's information sessions. These sessions are typically held on the first or second Tuesday of each month between September and March (except December) from 5:00 to 6:30 PM in room 310 of the Center for Health Professions (building 8 on this [campus map](#)). The sessions contain the same information, so you do not need to attend more than one, nor do you need to make a reservation to hold a seat.

For exact dates for information sessions, please see the St. Philip's College [calendar](#), or e-mail Kris Aguilar at kaguilar19@alamo.edu.

*** * * Recent Changes to Program Policies or Procedures, or to This Website * * ***

Per a recent change in college policy, applicants must first apply to and be accepted into St. Philip's College before applying to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. – posted 11/27/18

Beginning with the 2019 application cycle, you **MUST** you must have your ATI TEAS test [transcript](#) sent to us IF you do not test at St. Philip's College. **If you do not do so, your package will not be scored or considered.** – posted 11/27/18

The essay format has changed. Please see instructions below. – posted 11/27/18

Volunteer/employment hours must be completed within the five years preceding the application cycle (January 1, 2014 or later). – posted 11/27/18

Status updates for the upcoming January 1 – March 31, 2019 application cycle will be posted in this section as they become available (i.e., when application package scoring is complete and selection/non-selection notifications have been made). – posted 11/27/18



Before applying to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, applicants must first apply to and be accepted into St. Philip's College. Begin with the ApplyTexas application, accessed via applytexas.org. Further information on applying to St. Philip's College for future, former, and transfer students is available at <https://www.alamo.edu/spc/admissions/how-to-apply/>

After applying to and being accepted into St. Philip's College, the PTA Program application form and all other supporting documents, as detailed below, **MUST BE MAILED IN A SINGLE MAILING ENVELOPE via the U.S. Postal Service (return receipt recommended) to:**

St. Philip's College Health Sciences Department
Application for PTA Program – Attn: Kris Aguilar
1801 Martin Luther King Drive
San Antonio, TX 78203-2098

Documents mailed separately from the application package will NOT be considered.

To comprise a full and complete application, the student must submit the following six (or seven, if the SAT/ACT test result is required) items in one mailing envelope:

- Documentation of at least 40 hours of contemporary (within the past five years) physical therapy volunteer or work experience. Each student selects his/her own site for volunteer or work experience, but it must be in a physical therapy clinic/department and overseen by a physical therapist (PT) or physical therapist assistant (PTA). It must be documented on the [Applicant Observation or Employment Verification Form](#).
- Test results from the Assessment Technologies Institute's Test of Essential Academic Skills ([ATI TEAS](#)) examination, Allied Health version. This standardized examination is a multiple-choice test that helps identify students with the best chance of success in the health sciences field. It measures three basic, but important, education skill sets needed for a health science occupation—reading/English and language usage, math, and science. The objectives assessed on the ATI TEAS are those which health science educators deem most appropriate and relevant to measure entry-level skills and abilities of health science students.

As the ATI TEAS is a new version of the test (replacing the old TEAS V), to fairly compare student scores all applicants must take this new version. (Note: This test has alternately been referred to as "TEAS Version 6," "ATI TEAS," and simply "TEAS." If you follow the registration directions (click the "How to register" link on the college's [TEAS website](#)) you will take the correct test. Again, please select the "Allied Health" version and not the "Nursing Students" or any other version.)

- The PTA Program requires a **minimum score of 75** for the adjusted individual total score.
- Please include printouts of your "Transcript" (shows date and time the test was taken and your total score) and "My Results" tab (gives an individual score for each portion of the test) pages in your application.
- If you do not take the TEAS test at St. Philip's College, you **MUST** have your official test [transcript](#) sent to us. If you do not have the transcript sent to us by ATI, your package will not be scored or considered.



- A completed [Physical Therapist Assistant Program Application Form](#). Please type and print this document if possible. If you have more colleges attended or employers than there are spaces, please continue in the same format on a separate piece of paper. (This is what is meant by, "Include attachments as necessary.") The program does not need your social security number, but please include your Banner ID if you have one.
- **ALL** official college transcripts. An official transcript is one printed on official paper from the registrar's office and is in a sealed envelope. Students should request the transcript(s) be sent to their home address for inclusion in the application package with all other documents. **DO NOT OPEN** the transcript. Alamo Colleges transcripts (if applicable) will need to be obtained and included in the application package by the student – program faculty and staff are unable to access them for you.
- A self-prepared essay describing your reason(s) for choosing this profession and this program. The new required format is as follows:
 - double-spaced 11-point Calibri font,
 - at least one, but not more than two pages in length,
 - one-inch margins,
 - printed on one side of the paper only, with the applicant's name written on the back of each sheet – there must be no personal identifying information on the front page or within the text of the essay (e.g., your name, stating you are a physical therapy tech/aide at a specific clinic—nothing that will reveal to the evaluator who you are), as all essays are scored in the blind to preserve objectivity and impartiality.
 - It is strongly suggested that all applicants read the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) to help avoid common errors for which points are deducted.
- A completed [Criminal History Statement](#) form acknowledging that:
 - you understand your right to request a criminal history evaluation;
 - applicants to the program with criminal convictions may not be eligible for licensure and are not eligible for full admission into the program until a declaratory order process is completed with the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE) as described in the Criminal History Statement form; and
 - if you have past criminal activity and do not complete a criminal history evaluation prior to application and the criminal background check completed during the course exposes criminal convictions which will render you ineligible for licensure, you will be dismissed from the program immediately and forfeit all monies paid to St. Philip's College.
- A college entrance examination score (SAT, ACT, etc.) **if you have not successfully completed 12 or more college hours.**



TEAS Test Information

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program provides the following information about the Assessment Technologies Institute's Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) examination for informational purposes only. This information, including cost, deadlines, and so forth, is subject to change without notice. For the most current information about the ATI TEAS, please consult the [ATI Testing website](#).

***** The program has done away with the requirement that applicants only attempt the ATI TEAS once every six months. You may now test as often as you wish. *****

- This test is required for ALL applicants regardless of educational status (e.g., new to college, graduate of a master's program, etc.)
- There are only 40 seats available for each session at St. Philip's College and nearly all Allied Health programs require this test for application. Test dates fill quickly! During the 2018 application cycle, all available St. Philip's College ATI TEAS test dates prior to the March 31 application deadline were filled by the first week in February. Please schedule your test as early as possible, or you may have to take it at a less convenient location, if you are able to secure a date at all. The PTA Program will not extend the March 31 program application deadline.
- You also may test at any time of the year—you do not have to test during the January-March program application window. For example, you may test in July of 2018 to apply in the spring of 2019. This will improve your chances of getting a test date, and it will also allow ample time for retesting, should you desire to do so.
- Please be aware that sites other than St. Philip's College may administer the ATI TEAS in pencil and paper format. In these cases, the results will not be immediately available and may take up to two weeks to obtain. Again, the PTA Program will not extend the March 31 program application deadline.
- The cost of the examination is currently \$95.00 if taken at St. Philip's College. Costs at other sites may vary.
- Review materials are available from the [TEAS Products Store](#) if you wish to purchase them. They may also be available from your local public library or from online retailers. There are also some materials in the St. Philip's College library. [Tutoring](#) is also available on campus.
- The dates for the examination are provided during the registration process. It may be taken at St. Philip's College (in room 301 and/or 303 of the Center for Health Professions) or at a site more convenient to your location. Please remember that if you take the test at a site other than St. Philip's College, you must have your [transcript](#) sent to us as described above.
- The location for your test is one you select during the registration process and will be on the confirmation information e-mailed to you at the e-mail address associated with your account. Ensure you know to which testing center you must report.
- If you have trouble with the registration or payment process, do not receive a receipt for payment, or encounter any other issues, please contact Assessment Technologies Institute directly through the information provided via the "[Contact](#)" link at the top of their webpage.