

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT, A.S.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Fayette, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Shenango

End Campus: Fayette, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Shenango

Retention Requirements

The PTA curriculum is designed to move the student from a fundamental understanding of basic concepts to complex critical thinking and application in clinical settings. Academic progression is designed to support educational success, licensure, and transition to practice.

This policy delineates the academic standards required of students admitted to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program.

A course attempted in one PTA program applies to all campus locations. Academic Renewal does not negate previously attempted PTA courses. In a situation where the student withdraws from the University (Policy 56-30), courses will be counted as one of the two attempts for the PTA program.

Academic Requirements

1. Successful completion of required PTA courses, including clinical education courses as defined as a "C" or better.
2. Successful completion of BIOL 161, BIOL 162, BIOL 163, and BIOL 164 as defined as "C" or better.
3. A student who fails to achieve a "C" or higher in the same required Biology or PTA course, including clinical education courses for a second time will be dismissed from the PTA major. Academic advising relative to other majors/options will be provided.
4. A student who fails to achieve a "C" or higher in two different required Biology or PTA courses, including clinical education courses will be dismissed from the PTA major. Academic advising relative to other majors/options will be provided.
5. A student failing to achieve a grade of "C" or better in any required PT course, including clinical education courses or Biology courses will be required to repeat the course. A PTA student may repeat only one course, one time. A late drop (LD) or withdraw (W) in any required PTA or Biology course will be considered failing to achieve a "C" grade.
6. If a failing grade ("D," "F," "LD," or "W") in a PT course, including clinical education courses was the result of a violation of the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant or Pennsylvania State University Policy and Rules, or the student has a "D" or "F" at the time they drop the course, they may be denied the opportunity to retake the course.
7. A student who earns a "D," "F," "LD," or "W" in any two required PTA courses, including clinical courses or Biology courses or in the same required core course for a second time will be disenrolled from the PTA major and advised relative to other majors/options.
8. Special provisions will not be made by the University in scheduling PTA courses, including clinical or Biology courses for the purpose of re-taking a course. Students re-taking a course may lose up to one year since certain courses are offered only once per academic year.

During the interim, the student may withdraw from the University or remain actively enrolled.

9. When reinitiating PTA coursework, including clinical education courses the student will re-enter under the current curricular requirements.
10. The student is responsible for demonstrating current competency in previously completed courses, including clinical education courses. The measure of competence will be determined by the Program Coordinator and faculty teaching the content area.
11. A student who wishes to return to the University after a leave of absence or re-enroll after withdrawing from the University will follow the Re-enrollment/Re-entry policy of the University. See University Policy: Policy 58-00.