Please contact the following numbers for counselor’s office hours:
(915) 831-4636, (915) 831-4036, (915) 831-4155

2018-2019 CATALOG
SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS PROGRAM INFORMATION GUIDE
FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS-PTHA)

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Coordinator: Dr. Debra Tomacelli-Brock  
Office Location: RG Campus, Health Science Bldg. RM H-149
Phone #: 915-831-4172  
E-Mail: dtomacel@epcc.edu

Program Clinical Coordinator: Michelle Biernacki  
Office Location: RG Campus, Health Science Bldg. RM H-148
Phone #: 915-831-4090  
Email: mhollywo@epcc.edu

Dean: Dr. Paula Mitchell, Health Career & Technical Education, Math and Science  
Office Location: RG Campus, RM A-240
Phone #: 915-831-4030  
Email: pmitch8@epcc.edu

Program Counselor: Argelia S. Juarez  
Office Location: RG Counseling Dept., 103 Montana Ave., 3rd. floor
Phone #: 915-831-4040  
Email: aduarte8@epcc.edu

GUIDED PATHWAYS PROGRAM
Guided Pathways provides additional information regarding salary projections, employment opportunities, licensure requirements and Educational milestones. WEB LINK: http://www.epcc.edu/Catalog/Lists/Degree_Plans/Attachments/86/AAS-PTHA_Program_Map_Full_Time_18_19.pdf

To qualify for Specialized Admissions, applicants/students must satisfy all of the following: General Requirements, minimum set TSI scores, Mandatory courses, and Pre-Program Specifics. Once all requirements are completed, ranking points are derived from the most recent TSI scores and most recent G.P.A of ranking courses. Applicants who complete all ranking courses may be more competitive for admission into their program of choice.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
Applicants for Specialized Admissions must satisfy minimum criteria in order to be eligible for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

➢ Submit all previous college/university official transcripts (transliteration of all foreign coursework required) prior to ranking.
➢ Must have a High School Diploma or GED. Submit official transcripts to:  
El Paso Community College Admissions Office  
P.O. Box 20500, El Paso, Texas 79998
➢ Must be fully accepted by EPCC as an academic credit student.
➢ Must have successfully completed the TSI Assessment Test.
➢ Attend a Health Careers Orientation Session or complete it online at: http://www.epcc.edu/HCO/Pages/default.aspx  
➢ Submit Specialized Admissions Application form and pay $ 10.00 fee.
➢ All academic and specialized courses listed on the degree plan must be completed with a “C” or better.
➢ EPCC Cumulative GPA of 2.7 is required.
➢ Effective Fall 2011, and based on new federal regulations, students are not allowed to repeat previously passed courses more than once." Students should meet with a counselor to determine how a repeat course (s) may impact his/her academic, prerequisite, specialized admissions or transferability of courses. It is the student's responsibility to check with the Office of Student Financial Services to inquire how a repeat course (s) may impact their financial aid or veteran's assistance.
The Texas State Legislature mandates that institutions assess all entering undergraduate students for readiness to enroll into college-level coursework in the academic areas of Essay, Reading, Math, and Writing Assessment, and to provide individualized developmental education programs to those students not demonstrating this readiness. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) requires the reporting of developmental progression and outcome of all students engaged in developmental education. Refer to EPCC Catalog or see your counselor for more information.

### TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) COURSE PLACEMENT

Minimum required TSI Assessment scores for Physical Therapist Assistant Program

- Math (PTSM), 355
- Reading (PTSR), 356
- Writing (PTSW), 363
- Essay (PTSE), 6

- Official TSI Assessment scores are valid for five (5) years and only the most recent test score will be the one used for qualifying and ranking.
- Official TSI Assessment scores must contain all four (4)-subject areas (Essay, Reading, Math, and Writing).
- Posting of TSI Assessment scores will take between 24 to 48 hours. TSI Assessment Test must be completed at least 48 hours prior to ranking date.

**NOTE:** Minimum required testing scores for TSI Assessment and/or Program Specific Criteria may be adjusted if a secondary ranking is necessary to fulfill enrollment requirements.

### MANDATORY COURSES: (3) COURSES

Mandatory courses are those courses that a student must have successfully completed prior to ranking. Applicants who do not satisfactorily complete mandatory course work will not qualify for eligibility to be ranked for a program.

**NOTE:** BIOL 1306 and BIOL 1106 are pre-requisites for BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402; prerequisites can be met through course completion or Biology placement exam.

- BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I Minimum Grade B
- BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II Minimum Grade B
- PTHA 1309 Introduction to Physical Therapy Minimum Grade B

**For qualification:** BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402 and PTHA 1309 must have been successfully completed.

**NOTE:** Students wishing to enroll in PTHA 1309 are reminded to successfully complete the Pre-requisite HPRS 1206 Essentials of Medical Terminology prior to enrolling in PTHA 1309.

**NOTE:** BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402 and PTHA 1309 must have been successfully completed within 5 years of placement into the program. Mandatory courses cannot be substituted. Mandatory courses must be successfully completed with a minimum grade of “B” or better.

### RANKING COURSES: (3) COURSES

Ranking courses are courses within the degree plan in which performance most reliably predicts future ability to perform successfully in the program. It is highly recommended that all ranking courses be completed prior to ranking to be competitive. Ranking Courses cannot be substituted.

**NOTE:** BIOL 1306 and BIOL 1106 are pre-requisites for BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402; prerequisites can be met through course completion or Biology placement exam.

- BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II
- PTHA 1309 Introduction to Physical Therapy

**Ranking Courses** should be completed no later than Spring Semester to be eligible for June 7, 2018 ranking.
It is highly recommended that the applicant complete the Pre-Program Specific Requirements at least three (3) weeks prior to the ranking date. The applicant must complete “Specialized Admissions” requirements for qualifying and ranking. There is a scheduled ranking date for this program. Normal processing may take a few days or a few weeks depending on document type and individual circumstances. If documents have been received, but not processed, then the student will be coded as ineligible for that ranking, because not enough time was given for validating and processing the information.

**PRE-PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants for Specialized Programs must also meet Pre-Program Specific Criteria prior to qualifying for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

- **Background Check** must be completed by each student prior to enrollment in clinical courses. The student will not be able to go to the clinical areas/health care facilities until cleared. For further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the Program Coordinator. Website: [http://www.elpasoex.com](http://www.elpasoex.com). You will receive a letter from the Dean, Health Career & Technical Education, Math and Science division after the background check is reviewed. **NOTE:** A background check must be repeated at student's expense if the student is not enrolled in a health-related program for one or more semesters. **

  Background checks are done prior to acceptance into most health programs or courses. Students are responsible for the costs. Currently, the approved vendor for El Paso Community College is American Databank. Only background checks from American Databank are accepted. (www.elpasoex.com). There are two Levels of background checks: **Level I** applies to all students and includes: (1) Social Security Number Verification, (2) Criminal Search 7 years minimum or up to 5 criminal searches), (3) Violent Sexual Offender and Predator Registry Search, (4) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) List of Excluded Individuals/Entities, (5) GSA List of Parties Excluded from Federal Programs (6) U.S. Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), List of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN), and (7) State Exclusion List. **Level II** is for students already licensed or certified in any area. Level II requires all of the Level 1 elements plus (1) License Verification, (2) Certification Verification, and (3) Employment Verification, including reason for separation and eligibility for re-hire.

  A positive criminal history will require proof of the official case disposition for clearance. Generally, disqualifying criminal offenses include but are not limited to (1) any felony conviction within the last 10 years or two or more misdemeanors in crimes against persons or families such as homicide, kidnapping, rape, sexual assault, assault, battery, aggravated robbery, theft, any misdemeanor or felony conviction involving abuse, neglect, or exploitation against a child, vulnerable adult, or disabled individual, and felonies or 2 misdemeanors involving manufacture, importation, delivery, or possession of controlled substances, including felony conviction of DWI or two misdemeanor DWI convictions. Deferred adjudication for any felony is also a disqualifying event for entering this Health Program.

  Please note that many professional licensure or certification agencies may have additional requirements. You should reference the requirements for each agency.

- **Current CPR Certification** at a Professional Level. Must be American Heart Association (AHA) CPR/BLS (only Healthcare Provider training accepted) cards from AHA. Military Training Network (AHA recognized) cards will be accepted. Hybrid AHA courses with live skills demonstration will be accepted. This must remain current throughout the course of the program (Certification may not be older than one year to end of semester).

- **HIPAA Training** on-line at: [http://www.epcc.edu/hipaa/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.epcc.edu/hipaa/Pages/default.aspx) (Renewable every year).

- **Physical Therapy Observation:** “Students are directed to the PTAP program website for mandatory observation requirements at: [http://www.epcc.edu/InstructionalPrograms/Pages/PTA.aspx](http://www.epcc.edu/InstructionalPrograms/Pages/PTA.aspx)

- **Immunizations and Titer** – The following must be completed.

  - **POSITIVE TITER required for Hepatitis B vaccination series of 3 and Titer** (can take 4-6 months to complete). If a student has started the Hepatitis B series by ranking deadline (June 7), he/she may be cleared for ranking or registration with the understanding that the series must be completed in a timely manner prior to starting clinical courses. Documentation of starting the series must be on file.

  - **Tuberculosis (TB) Screening** required annually. **NOTE:** It is highly recommended to complete any and all TB skin testing prior to receiving the MMR and/or Varicella vaccines. MMR or Varicella vaccines could cause a false negative TB skin test result.

    1. **Individuals who previously tested negative, have never tested, or aren’t sure if previously tested.**
      a. Initial 2 Step TB Skin Test-Effective January 1, 2018 for all students/faculty new to health programs.
        i. Initial TB skin test (TST) administered and read 48-72 hours later.
        ii. If initial TST negative, 2nd TST must be administered no sooner than 7 days and no later than 21 days after administration of the initial TST.
III. If initial TST is positive, DO NOT ADMINISTER 2nd TST. Individual needs Chest X-ray and annual TB Assessment/Clearance (or equivalent document) from Health Care Provider.

2. TB Skin Test Positive (previously). Requires completed Annual TB Assessment/Clearance form.
   - **POSITIVE TITER** required for each 2 doses - Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccinations (MMR) (completed) and Titer.
   - **POSITIVE TITER** required for each 2 doses- Varicella Vaccination and Titer (completed).
   - Tetanus/Diphtheria and Pertussis (TDAP) (completed) (expires after 10 years).
   - Influenza is **required** (or completed declination form) (**NOTE**: If declined, will have to wear a mask in clinical) (done annually).
   - Meningitis or Booster - (Effective January 1, 2012, a Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination is required for all entering students under the age of 22. The term “entering students” includes new students to EPCC, transfer students, and returning students. Students must provide proof of an initial meningitis immunization or booster to Admissions and Registration Department at any campus. The meningitis immunization must be administered at least 10 days before the start of the semester and must have been administered within the last five years). Visit Admissions and Registration EPCC web page for additional information. ([http://www.epcc.edu/Registration/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.epcc.edu/Registration/Pages/default.aspx)).

   **NOTE**: After vaccination is administered, you must wait 4-6 weeks for immunity to show up on the TITER.

   - **Physical Exam** (current) completed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant licensed in the United States (No older than two years). ([http://www.epcc.edu/InstructionalPrograms/Documents/Report%20of%20Health%20Evaluation.pdf](http://www.epcc.edu/InstructionalPrograms/Documents/Report%20of%20Health%20Evaluation.pdf)).
   - **Physical Technical Standards form** (completed). ([http://www.epcc.edu/InstructionalPrograms/Documents/Physical%20Form.pdf](http://www.epcc.edu/InstructionalPrograms/Documents/Physical%20Form.pdf)).

PROGRAM SPECIFIC MATERIAL SHOULD BE TURNED IN AS SOON AS COMPLETED TO: Dr. Debra Tomacelli-Brock/PTAP Program Coordinator, RG Campus, room H-148 - Telephone # (915) 831-4172. OR Frances Maldonado RG Campus, room A-226A -Telephone # (915) 831-4225.

---

**The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at El Paso Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1488, Telephone: (703) 706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: www.capteonline.org. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 915-831-4172 or email dtomacel@epcc.edu**

---

**Check 2018-2019 El Paso Community College Catalog for Prerequisites**

**PTHA DEGREE PROGRAM COURSES**

**Prerequisite Semester**

- BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II
- ENGL 1301 Expository English Composition
- HPRS 1206 Essentials of Medical Terminology

**SECOND YEAR**

**Summer Session**

- PHIL 2306 Ethics
- PTHA 2366 Practicum (or Field Experience)
- PSYC 2314 Human Growth and Development

**FIRST YEAR**

**First Semester**

- PTHA 1225 Communication in Health Care
- PTHA 1321 Pathophysiology for the PTA
- PTHA 1309 Introduction to Physical Therapy
- PTHA 1413 Functional Anatomy

**Second Semester**

- PTHA 1431 Physical Agents
- PTHA 2301 Essentials of Data Collection
- PTHA 2509 Therapeutic Exercise

---

**SECOND YEAR**

**First Semester**

- PTHA 1491 Special Topics in Clinical Practice for the Physical Therapist Assistant
- PTHA 2305 Neurology
- PTHA 2431 Management of Neurological Disorders
- PTHA 2435 Rehabilitation Techniques

**Second Semester**

- PTHA 2267 Practicum (or Field Experience)- Physical Therapist Assistant II
- PTHA 2339 Professional Issues
• Official Ranking Date: June 7, 2018

- Program Begins - Fall Semester
- Students Admitted: 12 Students
- Community Wide Orientation online at http://www.epcc.edu/cwo/
- HIPAA online at http://www.epcc.edu/hipaa/Pages/default.aspx
- Health Careers Orientation online at http://www.epcc.edu/HCO/pages/default.aspx
- Online additional program-specific and career information http://www.epcc.edu/healthprogram
- Students who completed articulated or dual credit courses in health in high school should bring this to the attention of the counselor. College credit may still be available.
- PTA website: http://www.epcc.edu/InstructionalPrograms/Pages/PTA.aspx

---

**POST-SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS**

Students are responsible for the following requirements AFTER accepting a seat in the program.

- Must file a degree plan with designated Health Counselor.
- **Community Wide Orientation** on-line at: http://www.epcc.edu/cwo/ (Renewable every year).
- **Program Orientation.** "Admitted students will receive notification of Program Orientation following verified acceptance into the program."
- **Professional Practice Insurance (Liability Insurance)** is required for all clinical and selected laboratory courses. This is paid upon enrollment. Proof of payment (your registration receipt) must be provided to the instructor.
- **Specialized Equipment and/or Lab Supplies** must be purchased at student's expense in accordance with course syllabi. Detailed information will be provided by the Program Coordinator.

- **Substance Abuse Screening** will be required for each student enrolling in health career programs with clinical components. For further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the Program Coordinator. 
  ***NOTE: Substance abuse screening may not be completed for more than three (3) months prior to the first clinical education course.***
- **Uniforms** must be purchased at student's expense in accordance with course syllabi. Detailed information will be provided by the Program Coordinator.
- Transportation: Students are responsible for their own transportation to off-campus clinical/learning sites.
- Textbooks and other course materials must be purchased at student's expense in accordance with course syllabi.

**PROGRAM SPECIFIC MATERIAL SHOULD BE TURNED IN AS SOON AS COMPLETED TO:** Dr. Debra Tomacelli-Brock/PTAP Program Coordinator, RG Campus, room H-148 - Telephone # (915) 831-4172. OR Frances Maldonado RG Campus, room A-226A - Telephone # (915) 831-4225.

---

**OTHER INFORMATION**

- CPR and First Aid Courses are available through the EPCC Continuing Education Division. Please see the current Continuing Education Course Schedule or call 915-831-4116 for more information.
- Immunizations, physical examinations, and other health care services are available through the El Paso Community College Rio Grande Border Health Clinic located at the Rio Grande Campus.
- Call 915-831-4016 for appointments for the nursing clinic (immunizations and physical examinations).
- Call 915-831-4017 for appointments for the dental, medical sonography, or physical therapy clinics.

---

This document is for informational purposes only and is not to be construed as a binding offer or contract between the College and the student. This document was revised September 2017, and is subject to change without prior notice. This document is intended to be used with the College Catalog, which provides complete information on courses as well as College regulations and procedures.

*The El Paso County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.*