

Physical Therapist Assistant Program 2025-2026 Academic Preparedness Requirements

Program start: **Fall**

Seats Available: **15**

NOTE: This program is in high demand and will utilize a waiting list for entry into limited capacity core program courses.

Waiting List Status:

- **Pre-Core:** Student is not academically prepared for the program – Must complete all pre-core requirements before they are eligible to receive a seat in core program courses.
- **Core Ready:** Student is academically prepared for the program and waiting for a seat in the core program courses.
- **Core Active:** Student is enrolled in core program courses.

Pre-Core

	Required Action	Complete
1	Provide Proof of Residency to Registration & Records Department	
2	Complete All Required Pre-Core Courses and Meet Minimum Grade Requirements	
3	Complete Observation Hours	
4	Complete Kinesiology Modules	
5	Complete Testing and Meet Score Requirements	

All Pre-Core requirements must be met before a student is eligible for a seat in core program courses.

1. Proof of Residency

Students are added to the waiting list based on their program admission date and residency. Residency is broken into three categories: in-district, out-of-district State, and non-State. **Once you provide documentation of your residency, you cannot change your residency for waiting list purposes.**

Provide proof of residency via one of these methods:

- Showing address verification documents in person with the Registration & Records Department
- Emailing address verification documents via Blackhawk email to registration@blackhawk.edu

Address Verification will be allowed using one of the following documents:

- State issued photo ID (Driver's License, Operators License, or Identity Card)

Updated: 10/22/2025



- Tax Return Document (Most Recent Filing)
- Vehicle Registration Document
- Bank Account Statement with Address
- Voter Registration Documents

PRE-CORE Requirements Continued

2. Courses Required Prior to Moving into Core Ready Status

Course	Credits	Minimum Grade	Complete
English Composition 1 (801-136)	3	C	
General Anatomy and Physiology (806-177)	4	B	
Mathematical Reasoning (804-134)	3	B	
- OR -			
Intermediate Algebra with Applications (804-118)	4	B	
Speech (801-198)	3	C	
Advanced Anatomy and Physiology (806-179)	4	B	
*Prerequisite: General A&P and a chemistry course			

All required courses will be subject to the College's Course Age Limit policy (viewable in the Handbook). Course age is locked at the time a student becomes Core Ready and is not re-evaluated as long as they remain on the waiting list. *Students admitted to the program who completed courses prior to the 2025-2026 school year may be allowed to grandfather in previous grades. Ask your advisor for more information.*

3. Observation Hours – Instructions and forms available once accepted to Blackhawk in the Blackboard organization titled Physical Therapist Assistant Pre-Core.

Student must complete at least 32 observation hours in the field of physical therapy.

- At least 4 observation hours must be completed in an inpatient setting.
- The Observation Verification Form (last page of this packet) must be signed by a licensed PT or PTA.
- Observation in at least 2 different practice settings required.
- Observation may be no older than 3 years at the time a student enters Core Ready status.

4. Kinesiology Modules

FOMA Prep for Kinesiology Modules are accessed through Blackboard. All 13 assessments must be completed and passed at 90% prior to applicant being deemed Core Ready.

- Complete these modules during or after General Anatomy & Physiology
- The modules are accessed in the Blackboard organization titled Physical Therapist Assistant Pre-Core

Note: Students are strongly encouraged to attend a PTA Info Session with the Program Director to learn more about the program and expectations. Dates and times of Info Sessions will be shared on the Events Calendar on the Blackhawk website here: <https://www.blackhawk.edu/Events/>

PRE-CORE Requirements Continued

5. Testing Required Prior to Moving into Core Ready Status

All testing needs to be completed by the status evaluation dates. **It is recommended to complete all Pre-Core coursework prior to taking the test**, as the course content will prepare you to be more successful. All testing must have been completed within the past 3 years for a student to move from Pre-Core to Core Ready.

HESI - Health Education Systems Inc. Admission Assessment

Composite	A&P	Grammar	Math	Reading Comprehension	Vocabulary General Knowledge	Critical Thinking
75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	800

HESI Information can be found on the Blackhawk website here:

<https://www.blackhawk.edu/Admissions/Placement-Testing>

Note: If you took the TEAS exam prior to February 7, 2025, provide your scores to Blackhawk for review to see if the HESI requirement can be waived.

Core Ready

Core Ready means you have completed all of the Pre-Core requirements and are waiting for a seat to become available in the program's core courses.

General Education Courses Required for Graduation

Students may take these courses during Pre-Core or Core Ready status. If not completed prior to Core Active, students should meet with their advisor to determine the best time during the core program course structure to take the remaining general education courses. Courses are listed in their order of priority.

Course	Credits	Minimum Letter Grade	Complete
Introduction to Diversity Studies (809-172)	3	C	
Introduction to Psychology (809-198)	3	C	

All required courses will be subject to the College's Course Age Limit policy (viewable in the Handbook). Course age is locked at the time a student becomes Core Ready and is not re-evaluated as long as they remain on the waiting list. *Students admitted to the program who completed courses prior to the 2025-2026 school year may be allowed to grandfather in previous grades. Ask your advisor for more information.*

NOTE: Students will need to complete additional tasks (e.g., background checks, immunizations, drug screening, etc.) after they are notified of an available seat in program's core courses. Additional information will be provided by the program faculty once a seat is offered.



Waiting List Process

Students are ordered on the waiting list based first on **RESIDENCY** and then by **ACCEPTED APPLICATION** date.

Residency Priority:

1. In District students who had an accepted application for the program by the priority date for the semester in which their core courses begin.

PRIORITY ACCEPTANCE DATES

Fall start – January 1

2. In District students who did not meet the priority date and Out of District State students (students with legal residency in Wisconsin)
3. Non-State students (students with legal residency outside of Wisconsin) – These students cannot be placed on a waiting list and will only be offered a seat in core program courses after all State students have been offered a seat, if seats remain. (International students are considered non-state students.)

Accepted Application Date:

This is the date the student's application is complete and they are fully accepted to Blackhawk. If a student is accepted to Blackhawk under one program and then changes their program at a later date to a program with a waiting list, the student's Accepted Application date will be the date they officially add the program to their record. Students should work with their Academic Advisor to make any program changes so they fully understand the impact on the waiting list process.

When are students selected for entry to core program courses?

- **Fall Start:** Students must be CORE READY prior to the **first Monday in February** to be considered for a seat in core active courses that begin in fall.

NOTE: All communications about the waiting list will be sent to the student's Blackhawk email (provided at the time of College acceptance). There are actions to complete within specific timeframes, which will be communicated through email. Students can also proactively communicate with their Academic Advisor if they want to change their program or academic path.

Questions can be directed to Advising@blackhawk.edu or 608-757-7668.



Core Active

Core Active means you have been offered a seat in the program's core courses.

Core Active Full-Time

**All program core courses require a "BC" which is a 75%.*

Semester 1
PTA Patient Interventions 524-139
PTA Applied Kinesiology 1 524-156
PTA Applied Kinesiology 2 524-157
Semester 2
PTA Professional Issues 1 524-140
PTA Therapeutic Exercise 524-142
PTA Biophysical Agents 524-143
PTA Principles of Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation 524-145
Semester 3 (Summer)
Pathophysiology 806-175
Semester 4
PTA Principles of Neuromuscular Rehabilitation 524-144
PTA Principles of Cardiopulmonary & Integumentary Conditions 524-146
PTA Clinical Practice 1 524-147
<i>Introduction to Psychology (809-198)</i>
Semester 5
PTA Clinical Practice 2 524-148
PTA Rehab Across the Lifespan 524-149
PTA Professional Issues 2 524-150
PTA Clinical Practice 3 524-151
<i>Introduction to Diversity Studies (809-172)</i>



**Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Observation Verification Form**

Applicant's Name: _____

Date(s) of Observation: _____ Total Number of Hours Observed: _____

Instructions:

This form is to be completed by a supervising Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant and will be reviewed as part of the admissions process for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Your participation in the verification process is important and we appreciate your willingness to promote higher learning, the practice of physical therapy, and the applicant's entry into the profession.

Please contact Enid Halewyn, PTA Program Director at ehalewyn@blackhawk.edu or (608) 757-7698 with any questions or concerns.

Facility Information: (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Type of setting:

- ☐ Inpatient
☐ Outpatient
☐ Other: _____

Supervising PT/PTA Name (Please print): _____

Signature: _____

Comments: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR APPLICANT AND THE PTA PROGRAM AT BTC!

Submit completed Observation Verification Forms to Blackboard Organization:
Physical Therapist Assistant Pre-Core

☐ Updated by Administrative Assistant in Banner Initials _____ Date _____



Health Education Systems Inc. Admission Assessment (HESI A2) Information

The Health Education Systems Inc. Admission Assessment (HESI A2) for Allied Health exam will be used as part of the admission process for the following programs in the Health Sciences department: Dental Hygienist, Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Vascular Technician, Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiography, and Surgical Technology.

Students should take the HESI A2 after all pre-core courses are complete. The HESI A2 requirement does not need to be done until just before the goal of being deemed Core Ready. This will allow more knowledge to be available and applied to the admission assessment. All students should study and prepare for the HESI A2 before taking it.

What does HESI A2 evaluate?

- **Anatomy and Physiology:** Provides coverage of general terminology and anatomical structures and systems
- **Biology:** Covers biology basics, water, biological molecules, metabolism, cells, cellular respiration, and photosynthesis
- **Grammar:** Contains basic grammar, including parts of speech, important terms, and their uses in grammar, and commonly occurring grammatical errors
- **Math:** Focuses on math skills needed for health care fields, including basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions, decimals, ratio and proportion, household measures, and general math facts that are useful, for example, when calculating drug dosages and solutions
- **Reading Comprehension:** Reading scenarios that are not health related. Provides reading scenarios to measure reading comprehension, including identifying the main idea, finding meaning of words in context, passage comprehension, making logical inferences, etc.
- **Vocabulary and General Knowledge:** Contains basic vocabulary that is often used in health care fields
- **Critical Thinking:** All answers are correct; Each choice reflects a different degree of critical thinking skills regarding general health situations – Problem Solving, Biases and Ethical Dilemmas, Argument Analysis, Analysis of Data

The cost of HESI A2 is \$61, plus eCommerce fee. Exam results are valid for three years.

Students must complete the sections of the HESI specified by their program. If students are pursuing multiple programs, they will need to take all the sections required for each program.

When the HESI A2 is completed, applicants are provided personalized, electronic remediation content at no cost. Remediation content is available for all exam sections. Remediation materials can also be added to a printable study packet for the student to review.

Additional information, links to study guides and practice tests, and registration instructions are found at: <https://www.blackhawk.edu/Admissions/Placement-Testing>