

## FAQ's

### PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM TECHNICAL PORTION MERIT INTERVIEW 2021

**Q1. What is Merit Interview?**

- A1. Merit Interview is a process by which students who are qualified may apply for special consideration for priority placement on the interview list for the technical portion of the PTA Program. Points are awarded on pre-set, published criteria. Students are ranked based on their total number of points (must be a minimum score of 8). The top students by point total may then be placed higher on the interview list based on the number of available slots.

**Q2. Is Merit Interview replacing the regular Physical Therapist Assistant admissions interview process?**

- A2. No, in fact, in order to be eligible for Merit Interview, the applicant must meet the minimum required application criteria and have completed the general education coursework at a date prior to those applying by date-based method. This division in methods of application will no longer be available after the 2021 application cycle concludes, all students will apply under the same method.

**Q3. Who can apply for Merit Interview?**

- A3. Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be considered for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Technical Portion Merit Interview:
- 1) Successful completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program general education coursework;
  - 2) Completion of the required 20 hours of observation with submittal of the MTC PTA Program specific evaluation forms and impression paper;
  - 3) The applicant must also have a minimum of eight points on the Merit PTA Program Interview Application checklist.

**Q4. Am I automatically considered for Merit Interview?**

- A4. No. To be considered for Merit Interview, you should submit the following to Dr. Damian Rankin's office (HS 203 A/B) on or before **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**:
- Completed Merit Admissions Checklist, Completed observation forms, impression paper (include a fresh copy if you have already submitted one), most recent Transfer Transcript Summary (available on MyMTC), most recent unofficial MTC transcript (available on MyMTC), and the PTA Program Application.
  - If you are requesting points based on prior health care work experience, please have your immediate supervisor provide a letter of reference listing your supervisor's contact information, your job title, your hire date and number of hours worked per week (must equal 37.5 hours or more per week without exception). Your reference will be verified by the Merit Admissions Coordinator.

**Q5. I have not yet applied to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. How do I apply for Merit Interview?**

A5. You must first apply for admission to MTC, attend an advising appointment, attend a mandatory PTA Program information session, complete all pre-req coursework successfully on the first attempt, and fulfill all other requirements as listed on the MTC PTA website and/or from your advising appointment.

**Q6. I'm waiting for my start date and don't think I'll qualify for Merit Interview. Does this mean I can lose my place or get bumped down the interview list?**

A6. No, you will not lose your place on the interview list for the traditional interview process, but highly qualified applicants will be placed at the top of the interview list.

**Q7. When/How will I know if I've been qualified for Merit Interview?**

A7. Offers of interview will be sent out in the weeks following the close of the application cycle.

**Q8. If I am qualified for Merit placement on the interview list, when would I expect to be interviewed?**

A8. Sometime during the Spring semester prior to the end of May.

**Q9. If admission to the technical portion of the PTA Program was denied based on a past interview, can I be interviewed again by merit placement or by date?**

A9. No, if you were not accepted for the PTA Program due to an unsuccessful interview then you are unable to reapply.

**Q10. What if I still have questions?**

A10. After reviewing all available information on Physical Therapist Assistant Merit Interview opportunity, you may contact the PTA Program with additional questions:

Dr. Damian Rankin, DPT [rankind@midlandstech.edu](mailto:rankind@midlandstech.edu)

Physical Therapy Program Director

Midlands Technical College