

Application Planning Guide for Physical Therapist Assistant Program (0027)

Physical Therapist Assistant Planning Guide for Admission Fall 2024:

The intent of this guide is to help applicants develop a plan of readiness for this application period. Please remember that **all communication regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant application will be sent to your student.swic.edu email account**, including notification of acceptance. Once alerted of acceptance, students have 10 business days in which to accept the seat. If no response is given, an alternate is contacted. **Students should be aware that watching their SWIC student email account is crucial during the months of March-April for acceptance notification and during May-July for program related information and requirements.**

Application and required documentation for the PTA program must be submitted during the period of Sept. 1, 2023 to Feb. 1, 2024. The PTA program begins each Fall (August start). Applicants will be notified of acceptance into the program by late March/early April.

The PTA program is competitive. Each year, 20 seats are available. For suggestions on how to improve your chance of being accepted, review the application, seek an appointment with a SWIC academic advisor and/or review the PTA program web pages at swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/.

Selection of qualified applicants will be based on a numerical ranking procedure. Applicant pool varies yearly with 40-90 individuals applying.

Apply online through your Student Center on e-STORM

Getting Ready to Apply:

- ✓ **Review college website and PTA program pages at swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/ to confirm your interest**
- ✓ **Complete the “Self-Assessment of Readiness”; found on the PTA program website**
 - Discuss areas of concern with a SWIC academic advisor (5455)
- ✓ **Meet with an Academic Advisor to determine placement. Determining Course Placement is encouraged prior to enrolling in general education courses such as ENG 101 and BIOL 105.**
 - Meet with an advisor to develop a plan for completing developmental coursework; as needed. Academic Advising assistance is available via email at advising@swic.edu or call, Belleville Campus 618-235-2700, ext. 5455, Red Bud Campus 618-282-6682, ext. 8114, or Sam Wolf Granite City campus 618-931-0600, ext. 7333.
 - Sample materials for math are available at swic.edu/students/services/support-services/success-center/.

The following chart is provided to assist potential PTA applicants in determining if he/she has met requisites necessary for General Education coursework. If the course listed to the left has already been completed, skip it and move to the next course.

General Education Course	For Requisite Requirements; see college catalog <i>Requisites are defined as requirements that must be met and/or courses that must be taken <u>prior to enrolling in a specific course</u></i>	Requisites met for GE courses Circle Answer:
BIOL 105	<i>Eligible for MATH 97, MATH 107, MATH 111 or higher or concurrent enrollment with MATH 94 or MATH 95; Eligible for ENG 97 or higher.</i>	YES / NO
ENG 101	<i>Eligible for ENG 101 or concurrent with ENG 97.</i>	YES / NO
HRO 100	<i>None.</i>	YES / NO
PSYC 151	<i>Eligible for ENG 101 or concurrent with ENG 97.</i>	YES / NO
PSYC 210	<i>PSYC 151</i>	YES / NO
SOC 153	<i>Eligible for ENG 101 or concurrent with ENG 97.</i>	YES / NO
COMM 151	<i>Eligible for ENG 97 or higher.</i>	YES / NO

- ✓ **Take ACT/SAT; if you are 1) in high school, 2) a recent high school graduate, or 3) are a college student with less than 8 credit hours (units) in the following courses: BIOL 105 (4 units), ENG 101 (3 units), PSYC 151 (3 units), HRO 100 (1 unit), COMM 151 (3 units), PSYC 210 (3 units), SOC 153 (3 units)**
 - To schedule an ACT test, go to www.act.org. To schedule a New SAT test, go to www.collegereadiness.collegeboard.org.
 - Make sure to request that scores are sent to SWIC.
 - If you score low on the ACT/New SAT (see section 1-A of Application Planning Guide for greater detail about points awarded for ACT/New SAT scores), retake the exam, prior to the application deadline.
 - The ACT/New SAT can be taken on multiple occasions.
 - FYI: ACT scores of less than 18 or New SAT scores of less than 940 are not accepted due to research showing that a score of 18/940 or below was linked to failure on the National Physical Therapy Examination for PTA’s.
- ✓ **Take GE courses to increase chances of acceptance &/or off-set a heavy load while in the program.**
 - For those students enrolled in high school, check to see if your high school offers dual credit for any of the General Education courses and/or consider dual enrollment by taking a college level course while still in high school. *Dual enrollment requires permission of the high school counselor, parent, and college academic advisor to enroll; contact the SWIC Academic Advising/Counseling Center or your High School guidance counselor for the proper paperwork.
 - **Note: Courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester/winter intercession to qualify for points on the application.**
 - **See additional tips offered later in planning guide.**

TWO TRACKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATION TO THE PTA PROGRAM

To determine which track you qualify for, tally the number of credit hours/units achieved using the chart provided below:

Course	Credits (Units)	Check if completed
BIOL 105*	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENG 101	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
PSYC 151	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
HRO 100	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMM 151	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
PSYC 210	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOC 153	3	<input type="checkbox"/>

If Credit Hours/Units achieved = **0-7**, apply under Track 1
 If Credit Hours/Units achieved = **8 or more**, apply under Track 2
 Note: Track 1 CANNOT be used, for students with greater than or equal to 8 Credit Hrs/Units

*BIOL 157 & 158 can replace BIOL 105. Course grades are averaged together.

Track 1 is for: Students with less than 8 Credit Hours (Units) in the above noted courses

The following must accompany the application, for those students applying under Track 1:

- ACT/New SAT score.** The minimum ACT score of 18 or minimum New SAT score of 940 is required for application to the program.
- Official High School Transcript** or GED verification
- Official transcript(s) from all colleges/universities attended or awarding dual credit**
- Transcript Credit Eval, *found in your eSTORM Student Center in the* other academic... *drop down.*
- Proof of Residency via a *real estate tax bill, utility receipt, driver's license or pay stub* - Out-of-District students must contact their local college for Inter-district Cooperative/Career Agreement paperwork and submit to SWIC prior to application deadline.
- Student Self-Assessment, found on PTA program web pages at swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/**

Track 2 is for: Students with greater than or equal to 8 Credit Hours (Units) in the above noted courses

The following must accompany the application, for those students applying under Track 2:

- Official transcript(s) from all colleges/universities attended or awarding dual credit**
- Transcript Credit Eval, *found in your eSTORM Student Center in the* other academic... *drop down.*
- Proof of Residency via a *real estate tax bill, utility receipt, driver's license or pay stub* - Out-of-District students must contact their local college for Inter-district Cooperative/Career Agreement paperwork and submit to SWIC prior to application deadline.
- Student Self-Assessment, found on PTA program web pages at swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/**

Note: Students who have completed greater than or equal to 8 Credit Hours (Units) in designated GE courses are **REQUIRED TO USE TRACK 2.** A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for application to the program.

Track 1 *To be completed by High School students*
or students with fewer than **8 Credit Hours (Units)** in the following courses:

NOTE: Most current grades should be used for each subject.

Courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester/winter intercession to qualify for points on the application

Limited online sections of PSYC 151 and HRO 100 may be available during Winter Intercession Nov.- Jan.

<p>1 – A Source of Points to be awarded by:</p> <p>ACT Score within 10 years (Minimum of 18 required)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>New SAT* Score within 10 years (Minimum of 940 required)</p> <p><i>Students who have completed greater than 7 semester credits/units in designated GE courses are REQUIRED to apply under Track 2.</i></p> <p><i>* New SAT are scores from exams taken on/after March 1, 2016. See advisor for points assigned for older scores. The higher point value from the ACT or new SAT will be used.</i></p>	Points possible	ACT Score of:	Select One:	New SAT Score of:*	Select One:
	8	27 or higher	<input type="checkbox"/>	1280 or higher	<input type="checkbox"/>
	7	26	<input type="checkbox"/>	1240-1270	<input type="checkbox"/>
	6	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	1200-1230	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	23-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	1130-1190	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4	21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>	1060-1120	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3	18-20	<input type="checkbox"/>	940-1050	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Points awarded (office use only):		Points awarded (office use only):

<p>1 – B Source of Points to be awarded by:</p> <p># of High School Semesters earning a B or better in *Biology and/or Anatomy & Physiology courses</p> <p><i>Course(s) must be within past 10 years, for points to be awarded. Transcripts will be evaluated for credit award.</i></p>	Points possible	# of semesters in which student has earned a B or better in Biology and/or Anatomy & Physiology	Select One:
	4	5 or more semesters	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3	4 semesters	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2	3 semesters	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1	2 semesters	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Points awarded (office use only):

*Biology courses may present on transcripts with names such as: Biology, Advanced Biology, or AP Biology and will be determined by enrollment services when transcripts are evaluated. Courses such as Wildlife Biology or Environmental Biology are examples of Biology courses that do not deal with the human body and therefore will not receive credit for application to the PTA program.

1 – C Source of Points to be awarded by:

General Education Credits/Units achieved with a “B” or better in the following courses:

(Complete the following chart, to determine number of credits/units achieved, then utilize chart to the right, to determine points awarded for application)

Course	Semester completed (circle one)	Year	Check if Grade of B or better	Credits (Units)
BIOL 105	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	4
ENG 101	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3
PSYC 151	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3
HRO 100	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	1
COMM 151	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3
PSYC 210	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3
SOC 153	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Points possible	Add # of Credits/ Units completed with a “B” or better using the chart to the left:	Select One:
3	≥ 6.0 credits/units with a B or better <i>(see Track 2, if ≥ 8 Credits have been completed)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	≥ 3.0 credits/units with a B or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	1 credit/unit with a B or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Points awarded (office use only):

<p><u>Total Points possible for Track 1 Applicants = 15</u></p>	<p>Total Points awarded; tallied from sections 1 A – 1 C (office use only): (NOT AN APPLICATION)</p>
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Helpful Hints (for either Track):

- For courses taken at institutions; other than SWIC, request official transcripts sent to SWIC Enrollment Services and submit a Transfer Credit Eval, found in your eSTORM Student Center in the other academic... drop down for review of your transcript.
- Grades of “C” in any of the GE courses have been linked to students having difficulty passing PTA coursework.
 - BIO and PSYC courses have the strongest predictive value for success or failure in the PTA program. However, poor communication skills (ENG and COMM) also create a struggle for many students in the PTA program, as patient education is so critical for patient safety.
 - Courses with a “D” do not meet program, graduation requirements; therefore need to be repeated. **Although repeating a course could enhance the points earned in a section of the application, course repeatability can adversely affect your financial aid eligibility and you should contact the financial aid office at (618) 235-2700 ext. 5288 to see how repeating this course affects your financial aid eligibility.**
- For students completing 1-2 GE courses per semester over a multi-year period: NOTE: students have difficulty adjusting to the volume of information delivered & the speed at which content is delivered.
 - Students should be aware that the academic rigor of the PTA program is above average.
 - Students need to assess their workloads, home life, and other outside commitments prior to applying to the program, as it requires extreme dedication/motivation/and stamina.
 - For those up to the challenge, it is an extremely rewarding career choice!!!

- For students still needing to complete GE courses – complete courses in sequence shown in chart 1-C or 2-B; as BIO, ENG and PSYC must be completed prior to or during the first (fall) semester of the program, HRO and COMM must be completed prior to or during the second (spring) semester of the program and PSYC 210 and SOC must be completed prior to or during the third (Summer) semester of the program.
 - Note: PSYC 210 (Life Span Development) **cannot** be substituted with any other 200 level PSYC course, as this course is utilized by the program to satisfy program accreditation requirements.
- Note: HRO 100 (Medical Terminology) can be taken on-line and is typically offered in all semesters and during winter intercession. Adding this one course prior to the Spring application deadline increases the chance of acceptance. Several of the other GE courses are offered on-line and may be available as intercession. Check course schedule or inquire with an advisor.
- For students planning to work greater than 20 hours/week, the faculty suggests completing all General Education courses, prior to beginning program.
- Persons who have completed a degree or military training in physical therapy show a level of dedication and commitment necessary for a selective admission program and therefore are rewarded with extra points, based on achievement of an Associate or Bachelor’s degree or METC completion.
 - Approximately ¼ of students accepted, have completed either an Associate or Bachelor’s degree
 - Degrees in Exercise Science and Athletic Training are extremely beneficial

Track 2 *To be completed by students with greater than or equal to 8 Credit Hours (Units) in the following courses:* BIO 105 (4 units), ENG 101 (3 units), PSYC 151 (3 units), HRO 100 (1 unit), COMM 151 (3 units), PSYC 210 (3 units), SOC 153 (3 units)

NOTE: Most current grades should be used for each subject.

Courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester/winter intercession to qualify for points on the application
Limited online sections of PSYC 151 and HRO 100 may be available during Winter Intercession Nov-Jan.

<p>2 – A Source of Points to be awarded by:</p> <p><i>GPA (Minimum of 3.0 required – calculated from General Education courses, listed below)</i></p> <p>See below for a chart, to assist you in calculating your GPA.</p>	Points possible	for GPA of:	Select One:
	8	3.84 - 4.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
	7	3.67 - 3.83	<input type="checkbox"/>
	6	3.50 - 3.66	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	3.33 - 3.49	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4	3.16 - 3.32	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3	3.00 - 3.15	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Points awarded (office use only):

Helpful Hints:

- GPA is based on courses seen in the chart provided below only. *Cumulative college GPA's are not used.*
- **To calculate your GPA**, utilize the chart provided below:

Course	Letter Grade	Points awarded to calculate GPA – 4 points for each A 3 points for each B 2 points for each C 1 point for each D	Credit Hrs (Units)	GPA Calculation Multiply points earned x Cr Hrs (Units) for each course
BIOL 105*			x 4	
ENG 101			x 3	
PSYC 151			x 3	
HRO 100			x 1	
COMM 151			x 3	
PSYC 210			x 3	
SOC 153			x 3	
Total Number of Points				
Number of Cr Hrs Attempted (add credit hours for courses completed)				
Divide Number of Points by Number of Cr Hrs Attempted for GPA				
Points Awarded on Application (see chart above)				

*BIOL 157 & 158 can replace BIOL 105. Course grades are averaged together. See further notes below in 2B.

The following are 3 examples to illustrate how course grades impact GPA.

Example 1: A student with 4 GE courses completed; all with A's and B's

Example 2: A student with the same 4 GE courses completed; with 1 C, 1 B and 2 A's

Example 3: A student with the same 4 GE courses all B's except for 1 C. "C" in course with greatest number of credit hours (BIOL 105). With no A's to counteract the C, this student does not meet the 3.0 GPA required for program application

Course	Letter Grade	Points awarded to calculate GPA	Credit Hrs (Units)	For GPA Calculation Multiply points earned x Cr Hrs (Units) for each course	Course	Letter Grade	Points awarded to calculate GPA	Credit Hrs (Units)	For GPA Calculation Multiply points earned x Cr Hrs (Units) for each course	Course	Letter Grade	Points awarded to calculate GPA	Credit Hrs (Units)	For GPA Calculation Multiply points earned x Cr Hrs (Units) for each course
BIOL105	A	4	x 4	16	BIOL 105	C	2	x 4	8	BIOL 105	C	2	x 4	8
ENG 101	B	3	x 3	9	ENG 101	A	4	x 3	12	ENG 101	B	3	x 3	9
PSYC 151	A	4	x 3	12	PSYC 151	B	3	x 3	9	PSYC 151	B	3	x 3	9
HRO 100			x 1		HRO 100			x 1		HRO 100			x 1	
COMM 151	B	3	x 3	9	COMM 151	A	4	x 3	12	COMM 151	B	3	x 3	9
PSYC 210			x 3		PSYC 210			x 3		PSYC 210			x 3	
SOC 153			x 3		SOC 153			x 3		SOC 153			x 3	
Total Number of Points				46	Total Number of Points				41	Total Number of Points				35
Number of Credit Hours attempted				13	Number of Credit Hours attempted				13	Number of Credit Hours attempted				13
GPA				3.54	GPA				3.15	GPA				2.69
Points awarded on Application				6	Points awarded on Application				3	Points awarded on Application				Doesn't meet minimum required GPA of 3.0

2 – B Source of Points to be awarded by:

General Education Credits/Units achieved with a "B" or better in the following courses:

(Complete the following chart, to determine number of credits/units achieved, then utilize chart to the right, to determine points awarded for application)

Course	Semester completed (circle one)	Year	Check if Grade of B or better	Credits (Units)
BIOL 105*	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	4
ENG 101	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3
PSYC 151	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3
HRO 100	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	1
COMM 151	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3
PSYC 210	Fall/ SP/ SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3
SOC 153	Fall/ SP SU		<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Points possible	Add # of Credits/ Units completed with a "B" or better using the chart to the left:	Select One:
4	≥ 19.0 credits/units with a B or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	≥ 15.0 credits/units with a B or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	≥ 11.0 credits/units with a B or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	≥ 7.0 credits/units with a B or better	<input type="checkbox"/>

* BIOL 157 & 158 can replace BIOL 105. Human Anatomy of 4 credits or Anatomy and Physiology I and II courses from other institutions may replace BIOL 105 for application credit but require a transcript evaluation. Students may be required to submit course description before credit is determined. If student uses A & P I and II in place of BIOL 105, course grades will be averaged to determine points. Note: Program substitutions would meet application & graduation requirements for the PTA program but may not meet requirements of the college for other programs of study or degree completion.

Utilize this chart to see the various combinations of courses that could assist you in earning points in 2B:

Points possible =	For a combination of the following with B or better:			
4	ALL GE Courses except HRO 100 met at time of application for a total of 19 Credits	ALL GE Courses met at time of application for a total of 20 Credits	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3	All five of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B for a total of 15 Credits	BIOL 105 (4) + any four of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B (12) for a total of 16 Credits	All GE courses except BIOL 105 for a total of 16 Credits	All GE courses except one 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B for a total of 17 Credits
2	BIOL 105 (4) + HRO 100 (1) + any two of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B (6) for a total of 11 Credits	Any four of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Sect 2 B (9) for a total of 12 Credits	HRO 100 (1) + any four of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B (12) for a total of 13 Credits	BIOL 105 (4) + HRO 100 (1) + any three of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B (9) for a total of 14 credits
1	BIO 105 (4) + one of 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B (3) OR HRO 100 (1) + any two 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2 B (6)	BIOL 105 (4) + HRO 100 (1) + any one of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B (3)	Any three of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B	BIOL 105 (4) +any two of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B (6) OR HRO 100 (1) + any three of the 3 Credit/Unit courses listed in Section 2B (9)

for a total of 7 Credits	for a total of 8 Credits	for a total of 9 Credits	for a total of 10 Credits
2 – C Source of Points to be awarded for attainment of:		Points possible	Select One:
Previous Degree or *Military Training in Physical Therapy *Requires completion of Phase I & II (Clinical Hours) METC Training		3	Master's degree <input type="checkbox"/>
		2	Bachelor's degree or *METC – Air Force <input type="checkbox"/>
		1	Associate's degree or *METC-Army/Navy <input type="checkbox"/>
			Points awarded (office use only):

Total Points possible for Track 2 Applicants = 15	Total Points awarded; tallied from sections 2 A – 2 C (office use only): (NOT AN APPLICATION)
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APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

To confirm your interest in a career in Physical Therapy:

- ✓ Watch the video “You Can Be Me” on the American Physical Therapy Association website at www.apta.org.
- ✓ If interested in becoming a Physical Therapist vs. Physical Therapist Assistant, view information on both PT and PTA Education provided on the APTA website.

Note: **PT programs** typically accept the General Education courses required in the PTA program but **rarely accept PTA coursework**, since PTA's are not taught diagnostic skills. *PTA programs are not a transitional step to applying to PT school.*

- ❖ **The primary difference between a PT and PTA** is that the PT; graduating with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree is taught to: diagnose, prognose, and evaluate.
 - A “Centralized Application Service” is available for a large number of Physical Therapist Education programs throughout the country. For application deadlines, fees, and info - log into: <http://www.ptcas.org/>
 - The PT is the person that sets up the initial Plan of Care and establishes Long Term Goals for a patient.
 - The PTA performs selected interventions (treatments) prescribed by the PT in the Plan of Care.
 - The PTA must have a high level of problem solving skills and be competent and safe in providing any intervention within the PT's Plan of Care. The PTA establishes Short Term Goals, in order to reach the PT's Long Term Goals for the patient.
 - Both the PT and PTA communicate with and educate patients, care-givers, family members, and other health care professionals. Both perform data collection to report patient status and document a patient's care.
 - Where applicable by law, both the PT and PTA supervise physical therapy aides/technicians, who are on-the-job trained personnel.

- ✓ **Perform the Self-Assessment of Readiness** – (see program website: swic.edu/academics/career-degrees/health-sciences/physical-therapist-assistant/ to print) This piece is completed to assess your desire and readiness in becoming a PTA.

If you have questions, please meet with an academic advisor (5455). Make sure to bring your transcripts with you, to verify completed coursework.

Before submitting the Application:

- ✓ Don't forget to submit your application online by the required deadline
- ✓ Don't forget to submit all necessary documentation
 - Official Transcripts
 - Transcript Credit Evaluation form
 - Student Self-Assessment
 - ACT/New SAT Score (official results sent to SWIC) – for Track 1 students only
 - Proof of Residency
 - Out-of-District Students must provide Inter-district Cooperative/Career Agreement paperwork for “in-district” status in this application process

After submitting the Application:

- ✓ Call the Enrollment Services office, if you do not receive an **email acknowledgment** that your application has been received within 10 working days.

NOTE: If you make a mistake in calculation of your points, know that **the enrollment specialists are reviewing your transcripts and verifying all points.**

- ✓ **Notification of acceptance** into the program will not occur before the **end of March or early April.**
- ✓ Once alerted of acceptance, **students have 10 business days in which to accept the seat.** If no response is given, an alternate is contacted. Students should be aware that watching their swic student email account is crucial during the months of March-April for acceptance notification and during May-July for program related information and requirements.
- ✓ **If accepted, a congratulatory email from the Enrollment Services office will be sent to you; followed by an email from the PTA program coordinator with instructions on how to register for fall courses and information regarding mandatory orientation session(s), held in late July.** View the email notification timeline, at swic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/New-Accepts-Timeline.pdf