

# Physical Therapist Assistant

Physical therapist assistants aid registered physical therapists with patient rehabilitation.

They perform a variety of tasks, including exercises, massages, electrical stimulation, paraffin baths, hot and cold packs, traction and ultrasound. These professionals record the patient's responses to treatment and report the outcome to the physical therapist. Additional duties may include clerical tasks, such as ordering depleted supplies, answering the phone and filling out insurance forms and other paperwork.

Physical therapist assistants are patient, resourceful, empathetic and tactful in order to help patients and their families understand their treatments and adjust to rehabilitation. They also need a moderate degree of strength because of the physical exertion required in assisting patients with treatment.



Trusted. Respected. Preferred.

# Physical Therapist Assistant Course Outline

## Semester I (15 Weeks)

| Course #                | Course                                    | Theory     | Lab       | Extern | Credits     |
|-------------------------|---|------------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| CMT 100                 | Medical Terminology                       | 15         |           |        | 1.0         |
| CSK 100                 | Study Skills                              | 15         |           |        | 1.0         |
| BIO 100                 | Anatomy & Physiology I                    | 45         | 30        |        | 4.0         |
| PTA 110                 | Introduction to Physical Therapy          | 30         | 15        |        | 2.5         |
| MTH 100                 | Math & Physics Applications               | 45         |           |        | 3.0         |
| CCM 120                 | Communications for the Health Professions | 30         |           |        | 2.0         |
| CLE 120                 | Law & Ethics                              | 15         |           |        | 1.0         |
| <b>Semester I Total</b> |   | <b>195</b> | <b>45</b> |        | <b>14.5</b> |

## Semester II (15 Weeks)

| Course #                 | Course                      | Theory     | Lab       | Extern | Credits     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| PTA 103                  | PTA Techniques              | 30         | 45        |        | 3.5         |
| BIO 109                  | Anatomy & Physiology II     | 45         | 15        |        | 3.5         |
| PTA 104                  | Fundamentals of Disease     | 45         |           |        | 3.0         |
| PTA 105                  | Growth & Development        | 45         |           |        | 3.0         |
| PTA 120                  | Introduction to Kinesiology | 15         |           |        | 1.0         |
| <b>Semester II Total</b> |                             | <b>180</b> | <b>60</b> |        | <b>14.0</b> |

## Semester III (15 Weeks)

| Course #                  | Course                 | Theory     | Lab        | Extern    | Credits     |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| PTA 200                   | Kinesiology            | 30         | 45         |           | 3.5         |
| PTA 201                   | Rehabilitation I       | 30         | 30         |           | 3.0         |
| PTA 205                   | Therapeutic Exercise I | 45         | 30         |           | 4.0         |
| PTA 210                   | Clinical Practicum I   |            |            | 80        | 1.5         |
| <b>Semester III Total</b> |                        | <b>105</b> | <b>105</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>12.0</b> |

## Semester IV (15 Weeks)

| Course #                 | Course                  | Theory    | Lab       | Extern     | Credits     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| PTA 207                  | Therapeutic Exercise II | 30        | 30        |            | 3.0         |
| PTA 202                  | Rehabilitation II       | 38        | 30        |            | 3.5         |
| PTA 211                  | Clinical Practicum II   |           |           | 280        | 6.0         |
| <b>Semester IV Total</b> |                         | <b>68</b> | <b>60</b> | <b>280</b> | <b>12.5</b> |

## Semester V (15 Weeks)

| Course #                | Course                    | Theory     | Lab        | Extern     | Credits     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| PTA 204                 | Administrative Procedures | 30         |            |            | 2.0         |
| PTA 208                 | Special Topics            | 45         | 21         |            | 3.5         |
| PTA 209                 | PTA Seminar               | 32         |            |            | 2.0         |
| PTA 212                 | Clinical Practicum III    |            |            | 280        | 6.0         |
| <b>Semester V Total</b> |                           | <b>107</b> | <b>21</b>  | <b>280</b> | <b>13.5</b> |
| <b>PROGRAM TOTALS*</b>  |                           | <b>655</b> | <b>291</b> | <b>640</b> | <b>66.5</b> |

\*The total number of program hours is 1,586 at all campuses except Las Vegas. The Las Vegas campus program hours total 1,631. The Las Vegas program includes one additional 3 credit class (HST 205 Nevada History and US Constitution).

# What You Will Learn

As a student in the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Pima Medical Institute, you'll learn techniques that will help improve mobility, relieve pain and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients suffering from injuries or disease as a physical therapy professional.

## Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is expected to grow 46 percent nationally, much faster than the average, through the year 2020, reflecting the growing number of individuals with disabilities or limited function.\*\*

## Employment

Physical therapist assistants work with physical therapists in a variety of settings. Most jobs are in hospitals or physical therapist offices. Others work in nursing and personal care facilities, outpatient rehabilitation centers, physicians' offices and clinics, sports facilities and home health agencies.

## Certification

Most states require a license or certificate to practice as a physical therapist assistant. In order to become licensed or certified, applicants must graduate from an accredited institution and successfully complete the National Physical Therapy Examination. Each state has established independent requirements and fees necessary for the physical therapy assistant to practice.

\*\*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition, Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm>



- Hands-on training
- Financial aid if qualified
- Career planning services

PMI offers FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE to those who qualify. CAREER PLANNING SERVICES and INTERNSHIPS are also provided for eligible students. Check availability on DAY and EVENING classes. Not all programs are offered at all campuses. For consumer information visit [pmi.edu/consumerinfo](http://pmi.edu/consumerinfo)