

# Physical Therapist Assistant

Physical therapist assistants work under the supervision of licensed physical therapists with patient rehabilitation.

They perform a variety of tasks, including exercises, 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
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 135	Communications for the Health Professions	45			3.0
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>

# 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.

## Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 29 percent from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy is expected to increase in response to the healthcare needs of an aging population and individuals with chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity.\*

## Employment

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

## Licensure and Certification

All 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 therapist assistant to practice.

\*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm> (visited September 01, 2020).

Effective October 29, 2019, the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Pima Medical Institute - San Marcos campus has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085; phone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org)). If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 760-299-4500 or email [pimaptasanmarcos@pmi.edu](mailto:pimaptasanmarcos@pmi.edu). Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates that the program is progressing toward accreditation and may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Candidate for Accreditation is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation.



**San Marcos Campus**  
111 Campus Way  
San Marcos, CA 92078

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