

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
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
Semester I Total		195	45		14.5

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
Semester II Total		180	60		14.0

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
Semester III Total		105	105	80	12.0

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
Semester IV Total		68	60	280	12.5

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
Semester V Total		107	21	280	13.5
PROGRAM TOTALS		655	291	640	66.5

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 40 percent nationally, much faster than the average, through the year 2024, 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, 2016-17 Edition, Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm>

Program length is 75 weeks. 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 presented online or on-ground (HST 205 Nevada History and US Constitution). Graduates of the Houston program will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree, while all other graduates will receive an Associate of Occupational Science degree.



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