

Physical Therapist Assistant

Physical therapist assistants work under the direction and supervision of licensed physical therapists to provide physical therapy services.

They work with people of all ages and abilities and in various settings. They help people rehabilitate from devastating injuries, manage chronic conditions and promote movement and function. They may work with athletes recovering from sports injuries, an infant struggling to reach developmental milestones or help a patient learn to walk again after an injury or surgery.

Physical therapist assistants are patient, resourceful, empathetic and tactful in helping 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
HST 205	Nevada History and US Constitution*	45			3.0*
PTA 115	PTA Techniques	30	30		3.0
BIO 109	Anatomy & Physiology II	45	15		3.5
PTA 106	Fundamentals of Disease	60			4.0
PTA 107	Growth & Development	30			2.0
PTA 125	Introduction to Kinesiology	15	15		1.5
Semester II Total		225	60		17.0

*Represents the Las Vegas Campus.

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
LAS VEGAS PROGRAM TOTAL		700	291	640	69.5

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.

Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 19 percent from 2023 to 2033, 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 October 22, 2024).

**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. Graduates are eligible to apply to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination (for physical therapist assistants).



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