

Physical Therapist Assistant (Degree)

Associate of Applied Science Degree 2,642.5 Contact Hours 98.50 Semester Credits 80 Instructional Weeks – Full Time	Program offered at: Memphis, Tennessee
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Physical Therapist Assistant (Degree) Mission Statement

The program provides students with diverse training in the classroom and laboratory as well as real-world experiences. Students will acquire the theoretical knowledge, technical skills, critical reasoning, and professional behaviors necessary to obtain entry-level positions as physical therapist assistants. The program prepares students to successfully complete the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination (NPTAE).

Learning Objectives / Instructional Outcomes

The program includes current practice and include real-world clinical experiences, preparing the graduate to perform selected interventions and data collection, as well as assess the patient's/client's safety and response to interventions. Program graduates will recognize, respect, and act with consideration for individual differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs. Additionally, PTA graduates will effectively communicate with other members of the healthcare delivery team, interact with members of the patient's/client's family and caregivers, and work cooperatively with other healthcare providers. In collaboration with the Physical Therapist, PTA graduates will participate in the education of other healthcare providers, patients/clients and their families or primary caregivers, as well as the community.

Career Overview

Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist. The PTA implements the Physical Therapist's plan of care, assessing patient status and modifying selected interventions to progress and protect the safety and comfort of the patient. The PTA helps people of all ages who have impairments that limit movement, function, work and recreational activities. The PTA works in a variety of settings, including hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health, skilled nursing facilities, schools, sports facilities, and more. The PTA provides a variety of physical therapy techniques as they carry out the Physical Therapist's plan of care for the patient, including therapeutic exercise, functional training, soft tissue mobilization, and physical modalities, such as electrotherapy and ultrasound. The PTA may also assist the Physical Therapist in injury prevention, fitness, and wellness-oriented programs for a healthier and a more active lifestyle. To work as a PTA, an individual must graduate from a PTA program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), must apply and be accepted as a licensed/certified PTA applicant, and must pass the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination (NPTAE) and, if required by the state, the state jurisprudence examination. Other requirements vary from state to state, according to physical therapy practice acts or state regulations governing physical therapy.

In order to graduate from the Physical Therapist Assistant (Degree) program, students must successfully complete the following curriculum:

Course #	Course Title	Theory Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Semester Credit Hours
BIOL1310	Anatomy & Physiology I	45			3.00
BIOL1320	Anatomy & Physiology II	45			3.00
ENGL1310	English Composition I	45			3.00
COMM1310	Elements of Human Communication	45			3.00
PSYC1310	General Psychology	45			3.00
PSYC1320	Human Growth & Development	45			3.00
MATH1320	College Algebra	45			3.00
PTAP1201	Functional & Applied Anatomy Lab		60		2.00
PTAP1210	Patient Care Skills	30			2.00
PTAP1211	Patient Care Skills Lab		60		2.00
PTAP1221	Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation Lab		60		2.00
PTAP1240	Modalities	30			2.00
PTAP1241	Modalities Lab		45		1.00
PTAP1300	Introduction to Physical Therapy	45			3.00
PTAP1320	Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation	45			3.00
PTAP1350	Pathology for the Physical Therapist Assistant	45			3.00
PTAP1400	Functional & Applied Anatomy	60			4.00
PTAP2121	Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Lab		30		1.00
PTAP2131	Rehabilitation for Specialized Disorders Lab		30		1.00

Course #	Course Title	Theory Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Semester Credit Hours
PTAP2201	Neuromuscular Rehabilitation Lab		75		2.50
PTAP2210	Rehabilitation Through the Lifespan	30			2.00
PTAP2220	Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation	30			2.00
PTAP2230	Rehabilitation for Specialized Disorders	30			2.00
PTAP2340	Special Topics for the Physical Therapist Assistant	45			3.00
PTAP2400	Neuromuscular Rehabilitation	60			4.00
PTAP2525	Clinical Experience I			240	5.00
PTAP2535	Clinical Experience II			240	5.00
PTAP2545	Clinical Experience III			240	5.00
	Subtotals	765	360	720	78.00