

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT, A.A.S.

Entry Time

Fall

Award

Associate of Applied Science degree
2 years (5 terms including summer)

PTA graduates qualify to take the licensure exam given by the Federation of State Boards in Physical Therapy. Licensure is granted by the Iowa Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners. Most states, including Iowa, require a license to practice as a PTA. Annual continuing education hours are required to maintain a license.

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) work closely with physical therapists (PTs) to provide services to people with physical disabilities. Patient treatments may include exercise, functional activities, gait training, massage, electrical stimulation, hot/cold packs, traction and ultrasound and other therapeutic interventions. The PT performs an initial patient examination and identifies patient problems and goals, then outlines a plan of care. The PTA assists the PT by carrying out all or part of the plan of care, monitoring the patient's progress and documenting the care.

This Allied Health program has a mandatory background check for clinical purposes.

Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Kirkwood Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
3030 Potomac Ave, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA, 22305-3085
(703) 706-3245
website: www.capteonline.org (<http://www.capteonline.org>)
Email: accreditation@apta.org

To contact the program/institution directly, call (319) 398-5566.

Career Opportunities

- outpatient clinics - orthopedics, sports medicine, pediatrics, etc.
- hospitals
- home health
- skilled nursing facilities
- nursing homes
- rehabilitation centers
- school systems

The primary location for Physical Therapist Assistant students will be the Linn County Regional Center in Hiawatha.

Degree Requirements

Prerequisites		Credit Hours
PTA-101	Introduction to PTA ³	2
BIO-168	Human Anatomy Physiology I ³	4
Select one of the following:		2.5
HSC-117	Basic Medical Terminology ³	
HSC-115	Medical Terminology ³	
Select one of the following:		3
COM-222	Communication for Health Care Professionals ³	
SPC-101	Fundamentals of Oral Comm ³	
SPC-112	Public Speaking ³	
Term Totals:		11.5
Term 1		
Fall		
PTA-103	PTA Patient Assessment ³	2
PTA-120	Kinesiology ³	3
PTA-140	Functional Motor Development ³	3
BIO-173	Human Anatomy Physiology II ^{1, 3}	4
HSC-107	Professionals in Health ¹	2
Term Totals:		14
Term 2		
Spring		
PTA-110	Fundamentals for PTA ^{2, 3}	3
PTA-150	Pathophysiology ³	3
PTA-196	PTA Modalities ³	4
PTA-203	PTA Therapeutic Exercise ³	2
PSY-111	Intro to Psychology ¹	3
Humanities or History/Culture Course (https://creditcatalog.kirkwood.edu/aas-degree-humanities-requirement/) ¹		3
Term Totals:		18
Term 3		
Summer		
ENG-105	Composition I ¹	3
PTA-160	PTA Procedures I ³	3
PTA-161	PTA Procedures II ³	3
PTA-301	PTA Clinic I ^{2, 3}	2
Term Totals:		11
Term 4		
Fall		
PTA-215	Orthopedic Issues ³	4

PTA-232	Rehab for Medical Conditions ³	4
PTA-241	Neurology for PTA ³	4
PTA-302	PTA Clinic II ^{2,3}	2
	Term Totals:	14
Term 5		
Spring		
PTA-250	PTA Career Essentials ³	2
PTA-432	PTA Clinic III ^{2,3}	6
PTA-433	PTA Clinic IV ^{2,3}	6
	Term Totals:	14
	Program Totals:	82.5

¹ Courses may be taken before beginning the technical portion of the program.

² Indicates a course which involves off-campus clinical experience.

³ Minimum C grade required for graduation

Optional Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
HSC-103	Studies in Health Sciences	1-3
PTA-924	Honors Project	1