

What Can I Do with a Major in **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT?**

Physical therapist assistants, sometimes called PTAs, work under the direction and supervision of physical therapists. They help patients who are recovering from injuries and illnesses regain movement and manage pain. The physical therapist may choose to utilize a PTA in the provision of components of the physical therapy treatment. The physical therapist, PTA, and the patient/client then work side-by-side to make sure that the goals of the plan or care are met. PTAs provide 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, deep soft tissue massage, and physical modalities such as electrotherapy and ultrasound. PTAs may also assist the physical therapist by working with individuals to prevent loss of mobility by implementing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.

Typical Coursework

Applied Prosthetics and Orthotics
Clinical Kinesiology
Clinical Pathology
Communication and Documentation
Geriatrics
Electromodalities
Musculo-Skeletal Disorders
Neurophysiology Muscle Re-education
Pediatrics

Orthopedic Physical Therapy Techniques
Pathophysiological Conditions
Patient Mobility Techniques
Personal and Professional Ethics
Physical Therapy Procedures
Theory and Treatment Techniques
Therapeutic Exercise
Wound Care

*The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) is the only accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education.

Related Major Skills

- Listen to others, understand, and ask questions.
- Express ideas clearly when speaking or writing.
- Read and understand written information.
- Notice when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong.
- Use reasoning to discover answers to problems.
- Analyze ideas and use logic to determine their strengths and weaknesses.
- Combine several pieces of information and draw conclusions.
- Follow guidelines to arrange objects or actions in a certain order.
- Concentrate and not be distracted while performing a task.
- Judge the costs and benefits of a possible action.
- Identify problems and review information. Develop, review, and apply solutions.
- Think of new ideas about a topic.
- Understand new information or materials by studying and working with them.
- Check how well one is learning or doing something.
- Manage the time of self and others.
- Look for ways to help people.
- Be aware of others' reactions and change behavior in relation to them.
- Teach others how to do something using several methods.
- Persuade others to approach things differently.
- Identify a pattern (a figure, object, word, or sound) that is hidden in distracting material.

Who Hires for this Occupation?

Hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, school/pre-school, wellness/sports/fitness facilities, home health care, workplace/occupational programs, local/state/federal government, and research centers,

Employers require applicants to be licensed, so students must pass the **National PTA Licensing Exam** before they are able to work as a Physical Therapist Assistant. Employers look for applicants who have good interpersonal skills and a desire to help people in need.

Minnesota Colleges and Universities with a major in Physical Therapy Assistant:

Anoka-Ramsey Community College - Coon Rapids - AAS Associate of Applied Science

Lake Superior College - AAS Associate of Applied Science

Northland Community & Technical College (East Grand Forks) - AAS Associate of Applied Science

St. Catherine University - AAS Associate of Applied Science

Professional Association Links

Minnesota State Board of Physical Therapy, <http://www.physicaltherapy.state.mn.us/>

American Physical Therapy Association, www.apta.org

For More Information

Contact ARCC Career Counseling: (763) 433-1240 (CR campus), (763) 433-1840 (Cambridge campus) or stop by the campus Information Desk

Information adapted from: Minnesota Career Information System <https://mncis.intocareers.org>,
Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>