

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

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## ACCREDITATION

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) are licensed health care providers who work with patients and administer physical therapy interventions under the direction and supervision of licensed physical therapists. The duties of PTAs include assisting physical therapists in implementing the plan of care and performing interventions using heat, cold, electricity, ultrasound, water, massage, therapeutic exercise, gait training, balance and coordination, and functional activities.

Physical therapist assistants maintain constant communication with physical therapists regarding patient progress and response to treatment and record this information in the patients' medical records. PTAs help patients learn or improve their ability to perform functional activities. They may also instruct patients on how to use prosthetics, braces, crutches, walkers, or wheelchairs.

This program prepares students to become part of the health care profession as entry-level physical therapist assistants. The program combines general education, health core curriculum, and specific technical courses and clinical experience over seven quarters of continuous study. Graduates receive the associate of applied science degree.

Currently, Georgia and 47 other states require PTAs to gain licensure prior to obtaining employment. Upon completion of degree requirements, graduates of this program are eligible to sit for a state-administered national examination.

Individuals may send an email to [pta@athenstech.edu](mailto:pta@athenstech.edu) for further information regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Athens Technical College.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Physical therapist assistants work in a variety of health care settings, including acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation centers, pediatric centers, outpatient clinics, community health centers, school systems, and home health agencies.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Physical Therapist Assistant program utilizes a competitive admission process to select students. Program faculty designed the process to ensure maximum opportunity for student success. The Physical Therapist Assistant program admits students once per year at the beginning of Fall Quarter. Prospective students may gain admission to the college initially as Health Science program stu-

dents/applicants to Physical Therapist Assistant in order to complete any learning support classes and required general core and health core courses.

Applicants must submit all required documentation to the Admissions Office by May 1 to receive consideration in the selection process. Applicants who are on academic probation or are academically dismissed from the college as of the application deadline will not be considered for admission. Applicants not selected for the program may reapply during subsequent admission intake periods. There is no waiting list between intake periods; applicants must complete the application process for each attempt for entry into the program. Applicants must complete the following steps by the May 1 application deadline:

- a. Attend a mandatory PTA information session in order to be considered for the competitive selection process (dates for the information sessions are available from the Admissions Office or in the college calendar on the Athens Technical College home page ([www.athenstech.edu](http://www.athenstech.edu)));
- b. Submit completed and signed application for admission and a \$20 nonrefundable application fee;
- c. Submit official transcripts showing that they earned a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale in high school and on all college work attempted (applicants transferring from other colleges will not be required to submit high school transcripts if they completed a minimum of 30 semester or 45 quarter credit hours of study at one or more colleges);
- d. Submit completed and signed Intent form (blank forms are available in the Admissions Office and online at [www.athenstech.edu](http://www.athenstech.edu)—Select *Prospective Students* and then *Competitive Health Pgms*);
- e. Gain an awareness of the job requirements of a physical therapist assistant by completion of a minimum of 24 hours of observation in a physical therapy setting or through employment as a physical therapy aide. A second observation experience of a minimum of 24 hours is recommended in a different area of physical therapy practice. Volunteer observation forms to document completion of each experience are available in the Admissions Office and online at [www.athenstech.edu/StudentDevelopmentServices/Admissions/PTA\\_Volunteer\\_Observation\\_Form.pdf](http://www.athenstech.edu/StudentDevelopmentServices/Admissions/PTA_Volunteer_Observation_Form.pdf).
- f. Submit scores from a standardized health program entrance test which will be used as part of the competitive selection process; and
- g. Submit a signed document acknowledging that commission of a felony before or during their enrollment in this program may prevent graduates from taking the licensure exam to become physical therapist assistants and that they may be required to complete drug testing and/or background checks at their own expense prior to participating in internships, practicum, or clinical activities at certain host sites for these

activities (see *Drug Testing/Background Checks*) (blank documents are available from the Admissions Office and online at [www.athenstech.edu](http://www.athenstech.edu)—Select *Prospective Students* and then *Competitive Health Pgms*).

The selection process will be weighted towards students who have completed college algebra (MAT 1101 or MAT 1111), anatomy and physiology I and II (BIO 2113 and BIO 2114), college English (ENG 1101), introductory psychology (PSY 1101) or equivalent courses, and other core classes with grades of C or better by May 1 of the academic year for which they are seeking admission to the program. Transcripts will be accepted from students taking coursework in the spring semester at colleges on the semester system as long as the other requirements

are submitted before the May 1 deadline. Coursework from colleges on the quarter system must be completed by the end of Winter Quarter to be considered in the selection process. Applicants transferring to Athens Technical College from other colleges must confirm the transferability of credit for coursework with the college's director of registration and records by the May 1 application deadline.

The Admissions Selection Committee will invite a group of the highest-ranking applicants (based on the admissions criteria) to participate in a formal interview process to determine aptitude, intent, and suitability for employment as a physical therapist assistant. The points from the interview process will be added to the applicant file score to determine final selection to the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT CURRICULUM OUTLINE**  
*Associate of Applied Science Degree Program (Major Code: PTO3)*  
*Credit Required for Graduation: 127 quarter credit hours*

			<b>Credits</b>
<b>General Education</b>			<b>25</b>
* ENG	1101	Composition and Rhetoric	5
* ENG	1102	Literature and Composition	
		OR	5
* HUM	1101	Introduction to Humanities	
* MAT	1101	Mathematical Modeling	
		OR	5
* MAT	1111	College Algebra	
* PSY	1101	Introduction to Psychology	5
* SPC	1101	Public Speaking	
		OR	5
* ENG	1105	Technical Communications	
<b>Health Core</b>			<b>29</b>
* AHS	104	Introduction to Health Care	3
* AHS	109	Medical Terminology for Allied Health Science	3
* BIO	2113	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	5
* BIO	2114	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	5
* PHY	1110	Introductory Physics	5
* PSY	2103	Human Development	5
* SCT	100	Introduction to Microcomputers	3
<b>Physical Therapist Assistant Major</b>			<b>73</b>
* PTA	101	Introduction to Physical Therapy	3
* PTA	102	Orientation to Physical Therapy and Patient Care Techniques	3
* PTA	103	Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology I	5
* PTA	104	Physical Therapist Assistant Procedures I	4
* PTA	201	Pathology I	5
* PTA	202	Therapeutic Exercise I	4
* PTA	203	Physical Therapist Assistant Procedures II	4
* PTA	204	Clinical Practicum I	5
* PTA	205	Pathology II	5
* PTA	206	Therapeutic Exercise II	4
* PTA	207	Physical Therapist Assistant Procedures III	4
* PTA	209	Kinesiology II	5
* PTA	210	Therapeutic Exercise III	4
* PTA	211	Clinical Practicum II	6
* PTA	212	Clinical Practicum III	10
* PTA	213	Seminar for Physical Therapist Assistants	2

\*Students must pass courses with grades of C or better.