

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

208 Taylor Health Science Center
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http://dixie.edu/health/physical_therapist_assistant

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Program Description

A physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a health care provider who works under the supervision of a physical therapist (PT). They do hands-on care for people who need to recover from injuries to the bones and joints, brain and nerves, problems with pain, developmental complications, and other movement problems. Their main purpose is to assist people with reaching their maximum level of health and function. They help people to recover their ability to walk, to heal from wounds, and to learn to work and live with the effects of injuries and other health problems.

Physical therapists (PTs) are responsible for evaluating and treating people who need physical therapy care. They identify problems that physical therapy can address, create goals, and decide what treatment the person will receive. PTs supervise all care given by the PTA. PTAs usually work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, schools, home health – actually, anywhere that physical therapists work. They only work with physical therapists – this is exclusive and required by professional ethics, codes of conduct, and by law.

Licensure

PTA licensure is required for all practicing assistants in Utah. In order

to receive a license to practice, an individual must graduate from an accredited PTA program and pass the State license examination.

Accreditation

The Dixie State College of Utah Physical Therapist Assistant Program has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), a division of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Candidacy is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation. Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the CAPTE that indicates the DSC program is progressing toward accreditation. The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education may be contacted at:

CAPTE
1111 North Fairfax St.
Alexandria VA 22314
(703) 706-3245
<http://www.capteonline.org>

Admission

To be considered for admission to the PTA program, an applicant must first be accepted as a Dixie State College student. Then, the applicant must complete a separate application to the PTA program

Application information, including deadlines, is available at http://www.dixie.edu/health/physical_therapist_assistant/admissions.php. Each cohort is limited to 16 students; therefore, admission is competitive. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Students are accepted into a “cohort” – a group of students who start the program at the same time, enroll and complete the same program courses, perform clinical education at the same time, and graduate together as a group. The program cannot be taken part-time; it is a full time commitment. Admission requirements include:

- Be admitted to Dixie State College
- Minimum GPA of 2.7 in prerequisite courses (no grade below “C”):

PTA 1010 Intro to Physical Therapy (2)
BIOL 2320/25 Human Anatomy / Lab (3/2)
BIOL 2420/25 Human Physiology / Lab (3/1)

- Minimum “C” grade in each required General Education course
- Observation or work experience (40 hours minimum)
- Official college transcripts
- PSB Health Occupations Aptitude Exam
- Criminal background check

Course Prefixes

- PTA

Degrees & Certificates

- Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

77 credits

The Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant degree has three basic components:

1. General Education Requirements
2. Program Prerequisites
3. Discipline Core Requirements

General Education Requirements

Complete the following:

ENGL 1010	Intro to Writing	3
ENGL 2010	Intermediate Writing	3

Complete **one** of the following:

MATH 1030	Quantitative Reasoning	3
MATH 1040	Introduction to Statistics	3
MATH 1050	College Algebra/Pre-Calculus	4

Complete **one** of the following:

FCS 1500	Human Development/Lifespan	3
PSY 1100	Human Development/Lifespan	3

Complete **one** of the following:

COMM 1020	Public Speaking	3
COMM 2110	Interpersonal Communication	3

recommended

Program Prerequisites

Complete the following:

BIOL 2320/2325	Human Anatomy / Lab	3/2
BIOL 2420/2425	Human Physiology / Lab	3/1
PTA 1010	Intro to Physical Therapy	2

Beginning Fall 2012, the following course is a required prerequisite:

HLOC 1000	Medical Terminology	2
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NOTE: Students who have completed BIOL 2320, BIOL 2325, BIOL 2420, and BIOL 2425 can fulfill GE Life Science and GE Laboratory Science by taking BIOL 1300 Evolution & Ecology (1)

Discipline Core Requirements

Semester I

Complete the following:

PTA 1020	Practice Issues	2
PTA 2010	Kinesiology	2
PTA 2011	Kinesiology Lab	2
PTA 2110	Fundamentals of Physical Therapy	2

PTA 2111	Fundamentals of Phys Therapy Lab	2
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Semester II

Complete the following:

PTA 2200	Physical Agents	2
PTA 2201	Physical Agents Lab	2
PTS 2210	Observation & Measurement	2
PTA 2211	Observation & Measurement Lab	2
PTA 2300	Orthopedic Rehabilitation	2
PTA 2301	Orthopedic Rehabilitation Lab	2
PTA 2400	Clinical Pathology	2

Semester III

Complete the following:

PTA 2605	Clinical Practicum	4
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Semester IV

Complete the following:

PTA 2410	Special Clientele	2
PTA 2411	Special Clientele Lab	1
PTA 2520	Neuromuscular Rehabilitation	2
PTA 2521	Neuromuscular Rehabilitation Lab	2
PTA 2530	Seminar	4

Semester V

Complete the following:

PTA 2705	Clinical Affiliation I	6
PTA 2805	Clinical Affiliation II	6

Graduation Requirements

1. Complete a minimum of 77 college-level credits (1000 and above).
2. Complete at least 20 lower-division credits at DSC for institutional residency.
3. Cumulative GPA 2.0 or higher.
4. Minimum 2.7 GPA in Program Prerequisite courses.
5. Minimum cumulative GPA 2.75 in Discipline Core Requirement courses.