

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT - DEGREE

Limited Entry, Associate of Applied Science Degree Program

Prerequisite Advising

Academic Advising & Transfer Center: 503-491-7315 | Room AC2253
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Faculty Advisers

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Program Overview

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) work with people who are recovering from injury or illness, to help them regain movement and/or manage pain. PTAs help people with their plan of care, as prescribed by a physical therapist (PT), and may:

- Help patients with movement or exercise.
- Assist patients by using massage and/or stretching.
- Help people learn to safely use movement aids, such as walkers.
- Report patient status to the physical therapist.
- Tell patients and their family members what to do or expect after treatment.

Students who complete MHCC's PTA program may sit for the National Physical Therapy Exam and can be licensed to practice in any state.

Please note: This program is *not* a steppingstone to a PT program. Students wishing to pursue a PT program should consult with four-year schools to explore this option.

Program Outcomes

At the completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, body systems, and cellular/tissue health throughout the lifespan while providing physical therapy services under the direction and general supervision of a physical therapist.
- Behave in a manner consistent with the professional ethics, values, responsibilities, service, and leadership expectations for the physical therapist assistant.
- Apply principles of evidence-informed practice and clinical reasoning during the provision of physical therapy services.
- Educate in a manner that meets the needs of patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.
- Adjust personal behavior to optimize inclusive and equitable patient care.
- Collaborate with and under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist in the provision of physical therapy services.

Oregon Health Profession Student Clinical Training Standards

The Oregon legislature passed Senate Bill 879 in 2011, which required the Oregon Health Authority to "convene a work group to develop standards for administrative requirements for student placement in clinical training settings in Oregon." The intention of SB 879 was: to

mitigate inconsistencies that currently exist across clinical placements; to promote efficient solutions to reduce costs for students, health profession programs and clinical placement sites; and to ensure patient, clinical staff and student safety.

These rules establish standards for administrative requirements (immunizations, screenings, trainings, and insurance coverage requirements) for health professional student placements in clinical training settings within the state of Oregon. Students studying in a variety of health profession programs, such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy, professional counseling, and medical assisting, will need to meet these requirements prior to clinical training. For most students, satisfying these requirements once will be sufficient for all subsequent clinical training experiences. Clinical facilities that must abide by these rules include hospitals, health systems, and long-term care residential facilities, as well as others listed in the rules. There are also some exceptions to the rules, including procedures for temporary variations and exemptions for some health profession programs that do not conduct off-site clinical training.

Prerequisite Courses

For the most updated information and a list of prerequisite courses, please see the Physical Therapist Assistant - How to Get Started (<https://mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/physical-therapist-assistant/get-started/>) page. It is the student's responsibility to verify completion of appropriate prerequisite courses.

Students must complete the following courses before applying to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program.

The following courses are needed to meet the Associate of Applied Science degree requirements. These bring the total program credits to 96-98.

- WR121Z Composition I ★ with a "C" or higher (4 credits)
- MTH065 Beginning Algebra II ★ or higher, or MTH058 Quantitative Reasoning I Quantitative Reasoning I, with a "C" or higher (4-6 credits)
- Health/Physical Education coursework (<https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health> Health and Physical Education) with a "C" or higher (2 credits)

Additional prerequisite courses include:

- BI231 Human Anatomy and Physiology I ★ with a "B" or higher (4 credits)
- BI232 Human Anatomy and Physiology II ★ with a "B" or higher (4 credits)
- BI233 Human Anatomy and Physiology III ★ with a "B" or higher (4 credits)
- MO111 Medical Terminology ★ with a "C" or higher (4 credits)
- PSY201Z Introduction to Psychology I ★ with a "C" or higher (4 credits)

Additional Requirements

The following additional requirement(s) must be fulfilled to be awarded the AAS in Physical Therapist Assistant.

- All core courses (PTA) must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" or higher.
- All core courses (PTA) must be completed within 3 years of starting the program.

Prerequisites

WR121Z	Composition I ★	4
MTH065 or MTH058	Beginning Algebra II ★ (or higher) or Quantitative Reasoning I	4-6
Health / Physical Education (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health)		2

Credits	10-12
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First Quarter

Fall		Credits
PTA101 & 101L	Physical Therapy Interventions 1 and Physical Therapy Interventions 1 Lab	7
PTA105	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2
PTA121	Clinical Kinesiology	4
Credits		13

Second Quarter

Winter		
PTA102 & 102L	Physical Therapy Interventions 2 and Physical Therapy Interventions 2 Lab	7
PTA106	Cross-Cultural Communication in Physical Therapy	3
PTA122	Manual Therapy Techniques	3
HE262	Basic Life Support ★	1
Credits		14

Third Quarter

Spring		
PTA103 & 103L	Physical Therapy Interventions 3 and Physical Therapy Interventions 3 Lab	7
PTA107	Introduction to Clinical Practice	2
PTA123	Balance and Gait	3
Credits		12

Fourth Quarter

Summer		
PTA251	Clinical Applications I	1
PTA261	Clinical Affiliation I	8
Credits		9

Fifth Quarter

Fall		
PTA201 & 201L	Physical Therapy Interventions 4 and Physical Therapy Interventions 4 Lab	5
PTA262	Clinical Affiliation II	8
Credits		13

Sixth Quarter

Winter		
PTA202 & 202L	Physical Therapy Interventions 5 and Physical Therapy Interventions 5 Lab	7
PTA257	Evidence Informed Physical Therapy Practice	1
PSY237 or PSY239	Human Development ★ or Introduction to Abnormal Psychology ★	4
Credits		12

Seventh Quarter

Spring		
PTA203 & 203L	Physical Therapy Interventions 6 and Physical Therapy Interventions 6 Lab	4
PTA258	Licensure and Lifelong Learning	1
PTA263	Clinical Affiliation III	8
Credits		13
Total Credits		96-98

How to Apply

The physical therapist assistant (PTA) program is a limited-entry program. This means you must meet certain criteria before you can apply (<https://mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/physical-therapist-assistant/get-started/>). Applicants who meet our criteria are eligible for the program. If there are more applicants than spots, admission is done by a lottery system. The program admits 24 students every fall term. Students of all races, ethnicities, ages, genders, religions, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, nationalities, physical abilities, and cognitive differences are welcome!

Prerequisite Advising

For assistance planning out prerequisite courses, contact:

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