

# Physical Therapist Assistant Program

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# What is Physical Therapy?

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- Physical therapy is treatment provided by a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant
- This treatment is designed to help people improve their movement and physical function, manage pain and other chronic conditions or help recover from or prevent injury and chronic disease
- Physical therapist assistants work with physical therapists to provide care to patients.
- PTAs use exercises, modalities –such as heat, ice, electrical stimulation, manual therapy to treat movement dysfunction
- You will find PTAs in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, outpatient clinics, school systems, home health and in industrial settings
- People of all ages need physical therapy
- PTAs will treat multiple body systems





# Characteristics of a Good PTA

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- PTAs must be able to take direction and work well in a team situation
  - PTAs work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist
- PTAs must be able to think on their feet
- PTAs should be well organized, detail oriented and compassionate
- PTAs should have strong interpersonal skills and a desire to help people in need
- PTAs need to have moderate degree of strength due to the physical exertion and essential functions required to treat patients



# Benefits of being a PTA

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Top ranked health care profession



Growing profession



Fosters relationships with patients



Opportunity to witness the impact your work will have on patients



Financially rewarding



# Employment Opportunities

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Hospitals

Outpatient clinics

Rehabilitation facilities

Skilled nursing facilities

Patients' homes

Schools

Hospice centers

Fitness Centers

Sports training facilities

Assisted living facilities

Military

Quick Facts: Physical Therapist Assistants	
2022 Median Pay	\$57,240 per year \$27.52 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	Associate degree
Number of Jobs, 2022	145,100
Job Outlook, 2022-32	19% (Much faster than average)
Employment Change, 2022-32	27,600

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm>



# Trident Technical College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Completion of six pre-requisite courses listed

- Completion of BIO 210 and BIO 211 within the past 5 years
- Average GPA >2.75 (ENG 101, MAT 120/110, BIO 210 and BIO 211)
- No more than 2 attempts at a course\*

Completion of Online Information Session with a score 100% on quiz

Submission of 40 hours of observation

Statement of Completion

			Lecture	Lab	Credit
<b>*Prerequisites</b>					
BIO 210		Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	4
BIO 211		Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	4
ENG 101		English Composition I	3	0	3
**MAT 120		Probability and Statistics	3	0	3
PSY 201		General Psychology	3	0	3
Humanities Elective		See College Catalog for approved humanities	3	0	3
					<b>20</b>
<b>First Semester – Summer</b>					
PTH 101		Physical Therapy Professional Preparation	2	0	2
PTH 205		Physical Therapy Functional Anatomy	3	3	4
PTH 210		Patient Care Techniques	3	3	4
PTH 221		Pathology I	2	0	2
PTH 235		Interpersonal Dynamics	2	0	2
					<b>14</b>
<b>Second Semester – Fall</b>					
PTH 118	F1	Physical Agents and Modalities	3	3	4
PTH 252	F1	Clinical Practice	1.5	1.5	2
PTH 240	F1	Therapeutic Exercise/Applications	4	3	5
PTH 266	F2	Physical Therapy Practicum I	0	18	6
					<b>17</b>
<b>Third Semester – Spring</b>					
PTH 222	S1	Pathology II	2	0	2
PTH 242	S1	Orthopedic Management	3	3	4
PTH 244	S1	Rehabilitation	3	3	4
PTH 250	S1	Special Topics in Physical Therapy	.5	1.5	1
PTH 275	S2	Advanced Professional Preparation	1	0	1
PTH 276	S2	Physical Therapy Practicum II	0	18	6
					<b>18</b>
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS</b>					<b>69</b>

\*It may take students several terms to complete the above prerequisites.  
 \*\*MAT 110 College Algebra may be substituted.





# Trident Technical College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program

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- Admission is based on a FIRST-QUALIFIED FIRST-ADMITTED bases, so students MUST ensure they meet General College Admission Requirements and the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admission Requirements.
- The program admits 25 students each summer semester.
- The program will be three semesters in length (summer, fall and spring ).
- The PTA program is full time.
- All lecture and lab classes are face-to-face classes. Typical days are 8:00 am -5:00 pm Monday through Friday depending on the term.
- Classes and labs meet on the Thornley Campus.
- Students must successfully complete all three semesters of the PTA program, professional coursework in order to be eligible for graduation and licensure.





# Trident Technical College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program

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- Fall 2 and Spring 2 terms are clinical rotations which are specific for each student and may include out of town locations.
- Students are responsible for securing housing for any out-of-town clinical placements at their expense. There is no guarantee that all students will have only in town placements due to the number of clinical placements required for the program.
- Reliable transportation is required to and from clinical rotation sites, community experiences and campus classes.
- Parking at clinical sites may not be provided free of charge; students are responsible for any parking fees that they may incur.





# Trident Technical College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program

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Here are the steps you will need to take to apply and be accepted into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at TTC:

1. Apply to the college as an Associate in Science- Health Science Prep major and meet all admission requirements for the college.
2. Request all official college and military transcripts be sent to TTC Admissions.
3. Complete the **Health Sciences Application** through the TTC Portal. Application link can be found on the TTC Health Sciences webpage.  
*Note: When the number of applicants qualifying at the same time exceeds space available in the program, admission will be prioritized according to the date and time that the Health Science application was received in the Admissions office.*
4. Provide proof that all general education courses (prerequisite courses) required in the Physical Therapist Assistant program have been completed.
  - a. These courses must be completed with a minimum grade of C.
  - b. Achieve a minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA in the required science (BIO 210 and BIO 211), math (either MAT 120 or MAT 110), and English (ENG 101) courses.
  - c. Laboratory science courses must have been taken within five years of acceptance into the program.
  - d. The PTA program has a Repeat Rule regarding admissions: No more than four of the six prerequisite courses may be attempted more than two times.
5. Complete this Information Session and achieve a score of 100% on the online quiz following the session to verify the information was reviewed and understood.
6. Submit Observation Forms to [HealthSciencesAdmissions@tridenttech.edu](mailto:HealthSciencesAdmissions@tridenttech.edu) documenting a minimum of 40 hours spent in physical therapy facilities. While all 40 hours may be completed in a hospital, it is preferred that the observation hours be divided between hospital and non- hospital facilities, with a minimum of 20 hours in an in-patient acute-care or acute rehab hospital. The applicant is responsible for the observation experience. Forms may be found on the TTC PTA webpage and PTA Portal page.
7. Submit a Statement of Completion form online found in Etrieve.
8. You will then receive an email from the Health Sciences Admission Coordinator informing you of your "acceptance" and your start date.



# Observation Hours

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- Part of the requirements for being accepted into the PTA program is the submission of observation hours.
- Each student is required to observe either a PT or PTA providing physical therapy to patients.
- The purpose of this experience is to enhance the student's understanding of the nature of the profession.
- A total of 40 hours of observation is required. Twenty of these hours **MUST** be performed in an acute care, inpatient hospital setting or in an acute rehab facility. Hours must be divided by two different facility types.
- Each student is required to locate and contact observation sites on their own.



# Non-Academic Requirements

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The following up to date vaccinations are currently required to attend clinic (note these are not TTC requirements)- more information will be provided once accepted into the program

- Tetanus within the past 10 years
- Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella
- Hepatitis B series
- COVID series
- Meningitis (waiver may be an option)
- Annual flu vaccine
- ❖ These are subject to change based on the requirements of each clinical site.



# Non-Academic Requirements

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- Laptop
  - Negative background check
  - Negative drug screen
  - CPR certification
- DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED AT ORIENTATION ONCE ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM



# Costs Associated with being a PTA student

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These are approximate and subject to change

Major medical insurance (varies)\*

Health Physical and titers ~\$950\*

TB Test \$75\*

BLS (CPR) \$70\*

Background Check/Drug Screening \$160\*

Online Care learning modules for clinic \$15\*

Professional Liability Insurance \$40\*

Books and supplies ~\$1000

APTA Student membership \$85

Review Course for Licensure Exam \$200

Licensure Exam \$600

Clinical (housing/travel/meals) varies ~800



# What to expect as a student in the PTA Program?

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The PTA program is an intensive, academic experience

Students can expect to study between 15-30 hours per week outside of class.

Students will be expected to engage in learning experiences that require group projects with fellow classmates, public speaking and collaboration with other disciplines.

Students must maintain a “C” average to remain in the program.

Students are required to successfully demonstrate skill competencies during lab practical exams each semester and competency check-offs during the Fall and Spring semesters in order to remain in the program.

Students are assessed for professional development during each term.



# Important Contact Information

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