PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT, A.S.

Begin Campus: Fayette, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Shenango
End Campus: Fayette, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Shenango

Program Description
This major helps prepare individuals to provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist in an ethical, safe, and effective manner. Students develop knowledge and skills in data collection and the appropriate use of equipment and exercise associated with various physical therapy treatment modalities. To accomplish these tasks, the major utilizes a combination of basic science and non-science course work coupled with courses specifically designed for the physical therapist assistant student. Students must progress through the program as prescribed by the suggested academic plan for their campus of admission. The program culminates with a full semester of clinical experience.

The size of each entering class is limited so that optimal clinical experiences and practical application situations can be maintained. Clinical affiliations are maintained over a wide geographical area, and students may be required to make special housing and transportation arrangements for the clinical phase. Prior to the beginning of the clinical experiences, PTA students are required to complete clinical requirements that may include, but are not limited to: health examination, immunizations, FBI fingerprint check, child abuse clearance, state background check and drug screening. Students will be responsible for completion and purchase of the necessary checks/clearances through a University approved vendor and providing results to the clinical sites.

In addition to a PTA certification/licensure, many state licensing boards and clinical facilities require a criminal background check, child abuse clearance, and a drug screening. Students with criminal records should contact the physical therapy licensing board in the state they plan to practice prior to applying for admission to the PTA Program to inquire about potential restrictions for licensure.

What is a Physical Therapist Assistant?
Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) work as part of a team providing physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. PTAs implement interventions outlined in the physical therapist's plan of care, collect data related to interventions, and modify selected interventions to progress patients towards their individual goals. These goals are designed to reduce pain, restore function, improve mobility and prevent disability. An Associate in Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant requires 5-semesters of study, including three full-time clinical practicums. The PTA Program prepares graduates to take the national examination for certification/licensure as a PTA.

You Might Like This Program If...
You are interested in working with people of all ages who have health-related conditions that cause pain or limit their ability to move or perform functional activities in their daily lives. PTAs work under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist to provide meaningful interventions, such as exercise, training for walking and other activities, manual therapy and interventions, and the use of physical agents and electrotherapy.

Entrance to Major
Incoming first-year students who meet the program and campus admission requirements are admitted directly into the major. For more information about the admission process for this major, please send a request to the campus undergraduate admissions office or to the program contact (listed in the Contact tab).

Change of Major and Change of Locations requests are submitted via LionPATH Update Academics and require Dean’s review. Requests will be considered for entrance into the PTA Program based on academic performance and space available in the PTA Program.

Students who wish to change their major must have a cumulative collegiate grade-point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale as the minimum University requirement for change of major consideration. In general, change of major to the Physical Therapy Assistant program requires a substantially higher cumulative grade-point average. The number of qualified applicants typically exceeds the number of available program spaces; therefore, satisfaction of the minimum requirements does not guarantee approval for entrance to major.

Additional Information
In addition to a PTA certification/licensure, many state licensing boards and clinical facilities require a criminal background check, child abuse clearance, and a drug screening. PTA students are required to complete clinical requirements that may include FBI fingerprint check, child abuse clearance, state background check and drug screening prior to the beginning of the clinical practicum. Students will be responsible for completion and purchase of the necessary checks/clearances through a University approved vendor and providing results to the clinical sites. Students with criminal records should contact the physical therapy licensing board in the state they plan to practice prior to applying for admission to the PTA Program to inquire about potential restrictions for licensure.

Retention Requirements
The PTA curriculum is designed to move the student from a fundamental understanding of basic concepts to complex critical thinking and application in clinical settings. Academic progression is designed to support educational success, licensure, and transition to practice.

This policy delineates the academic standards required of students admitted to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program.

A course attempted in one PTA program applies to all campus locations. Academic Renewal does not negate previously attempted PTA courses.

Change of Major and Change of Locations requests are submitted via LionPATH Update Academics and require Dean’s review. Requests will be considered for entrance into the PTA Program based on academic performance and space available in the PTA Program.

Academic Requirements
1. Successful completion of required PTA courses, including clinical education courses as defined as a "C" or better.
2. Successful completion of BIOL 161, BIOL 162, BIOL 163, and BIOL 164 as defined as "C" or better.
3. A student who fails to achieve a "C" or higher in the same required Biology or PTA course, including clinical education courses for
a second time will be dismissed from the PTA major. Academic advising relative to other majors/options will be provided.

4. A student who fails to achieve a "C" or higher in two different required Biology or PTA courses, including clinical education courses will be dismissed from the PTA major. Academic advising relative to other majors/options will be provided.

5. A student failing to achieve a grade of "C" or better in any required PT course, including clinical education courses or Biology courses will be required to repeat the course. A PTA student may repeat only one course, one time. A late drop (LD) or withdraw (W) in any required PTA or Biology course will be considered failing to achieve a "C" grade.

6. If a failing grade ("D," "F," "LD," or "W") in a PT course, including clinical education courses was the result of a violation of the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant or Pennsylvania State University Policy and Rules, or the student has a "D" or "F" at the time they drop the course, they may be denied the opportunity to retake the course.

7. A student who earns a "D," "F," "LD," or "W" in any two required PTA courses, including clinical courses or Biology courses or in the same required core course for a second time will be disenrolled from the PTA major and advised relative to other majors/options.

8. Special provisions will not be made by the University in scheduling PTA courses, including clinical or Biology courses for the purpose of re-taking a course. Students re-taking a course may lose up to one year since certain courses are offered only once per academic year. During the interim, the student may withdraw from the University or remain actively enrolled.

9. When reinitiating PTA coursework, including clinical education courses the student will re-enter under the current curricular requirements.

10. The student is responsible for demonstrating current competency in previously completed courses, including clinical education courses. The measure of competence will be determined by the Program Coordinator and faculty teaching the content area.

11. A student who wishes to return to the University after a leave of absence or re-enroll after withdrawing from the University will follow the Re-enrollment/Re-entry policy of the University. See University Policy: Policy 58-00.

**Degree Requirements**

For the Associate in Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant, a minimum of 70 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>61-62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 of the 21 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 0-3 credits of GH courses; 3 credits of GN courses; 3-6 credits of GS courses; 3-6 credits of GWS courses.

### Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 ([https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/](https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/)).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescribed Courses:</strong> Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 161</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 162</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 163</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology II - Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 164</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology II - Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100</td>
<td>Introductory Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 120</td>
<td>Human Musculature and Functional Anatomy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 150</td>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistant Procedures I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 160</td>
<td>Therapeutic Exercise I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 250</td>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistant Procedures II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 260</td>
<td>Therapeutic Exercise--II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 285</td>
<td>Clinical Reasoning for the PTA</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 384</td>
<td>Applied Kinesiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 395E</td>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistant--Practicum I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 395G</td>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistant--Practicum III</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Courses:** Require a grade of C or better

Select 5 credits from the following:

- PT 270 Pathophysiology
- PT 270W Pathophysiology
- PT 271 Pathophysiology I & PT 272 and Pathophysiology II
- PT 271W Pathophysiology I & PT 272 and Pathophysiology II

Select 5 credits from the following:

- PT 280 Rehabilitation
- PT 280W Rehabilitation
- PT 281 Rehabilitation-1 & PT 282 and Rehabilitation-2
- PT 281 Rehabilitation-1 & PT 282 and Rehabilitation-2W

Select 4 credits from the following:

- PT 395F Physical Therapist Assistant--Practicum II
- PT 395H Physical Therapist Assistant--Practicum II Part 1
- PT 395I Physical Therapist Assistant--Practicum II Part 2

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas**

Select 3 credits of any GH, GS, or GWS course

1 Courses that include clinical education experiences may require the student to travel long distances or obtain housing near the assigned clinic. Housing and transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the student.

**General Education**

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills.
necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all associate degree students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/associate-degree-general-education-program/). Section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

**Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)**
- Quantification (GQ): 3 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 3 credits

**Knowledge Domains**
- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 3 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

**Note:** Up to six credits of Inter-Domain courses may be used for any Knowledge Domain requirement, but when a course may be used to satisfy more than one requirement, the credits from the course can be counted only once.

**Exploration**
- Any General Education course (including GHW and Inter-Domain): 3 credits

**University Degree Requirements**

**Cultures Requirement**
3 credits of United States (US) or International (IL) cultures coursework are required and may satisfy other requirements

**Writing Across the Curriculum**
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

**Total Minimum Credits**
A minimum of 60 degree credits must be earned for a associates degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 60 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

**Quality of Work**
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

**Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**
Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints. See Senate Policy 83-80 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

---

**Program Learning Objectives**
- Students will be able to utilize evidence-based clinical problem-solving to provide entry level physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist.
- Students will be able to communicate verbally, nonverbally, and in written form in an effective, respectful, and timely manner in ways that are congruent with situational needs.
- Students will be able to identify, respect, and act with consideration for patients/clients differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs in all work related activities.
- Students will be able to competently demonstrate effective data collection techniques under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist.
- Students will observe ethical and legal standards of practice while performing physical therapy interventions.
- Students will participate in ongoing self-assessment to improve knowledge, skill, and behaviors that facilitate career development.
- Students will participate in activities that afford opportunities for growth in social responsibility.
- Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to collaborate with members of the health care team and provide inter-professional and intra-professional care.
- Students will be able to administer safe evidence-based treatment interventions under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist.

**Academic Advising**
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

**Fayette**
Stacy Sekely
Associate Teaching Professor
2201 University Drive
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
724-430-4105
sas85@psu.edu

**Hazleton**
Gina Tarud
Teaching Professor of Physical Therapist Assistant
7 Physical Education Building
Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-4043
Physical Therapist Assistant, A.S.

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2024-25 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

Physical Therapist Assistant, A.S. at Fayette Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 161 (GN)*</td>
<td>3 BIOL 163 (GN)*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 162 (GN)*</td>
<td>1 BIOL 164 (GN)*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100 (GS)†</td>
<td>3 PT 384†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 100†</td>
<td>3 Quantification (GQ) (MATH 35 or MATH 37 suggested)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 120†</td>
<td>2 General Education Course (GH or GA)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 (GWS)‡</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (GH or GA); US/IL Recommended</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSU 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16 16

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits Summer</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 150†</td>
<td>2 PT 201</td>
<td>1 PT 395E*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 160†</td>
<td>3 PT 260†</td>
<td>3 PT 395G*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 250†</td>
<td>3 PT 272†</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 271†</td>
<td>3 PT 282†</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 281†</td>
<td>2 PT 285†</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 290W†</td>
<td>3 PT 395E*</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16 17 8

Total Credits 73

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Academic Advising Notes:

A student’s career/graduate school plans should be considered in developing an individual academic plan. Be sure to consult an adviser in this department when scheduling courses.
Physical Therapist Assistant, A.S. at Hazleton Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 161†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOL 163*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 162††</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>BIOL 164*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30H‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 13</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 120*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 100*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GA or GA IL/US)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GH or GH IL/US)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Year Engagement (FYE)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 150*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>PT 250*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 395F*3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 160*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 260*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 395G*3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 271*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 272*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 290W*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 280*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 384*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 285*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 395E*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| | | | | |
| | 17 | 18 | 8 |

Total Credits 73.5

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
†† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement
‡ Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Program Notes:

Students are required to take a total of 3 credits in ARTS and 3 credits in HUM during the first 2 semesters.

KINES 13 is optional, student must be certified in Professional Rescuer, CPR, and First Aid.

Students are allowed to attend graduation ceremonies, but officially do not receive diploma until August, upon successful completion of their summer practicums.

A student’s career/graduate school plans should be considered in developing an individual academic plan. Be sure to consult an adviser in this department when scheduling courses.

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

1 This course satisfies the University United States/International Cultures requirement.
2 This course satisfies the University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement. The clinical practicum component of this course is a three week full-time experience in a physical therapy practice setting.
3 This is a six week clinical practicum that is a full-time experience in a physical therapy practice setting.
Physical Therapist Assistant, A.S. at Mont Alto Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 100*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 120*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 161 (GN)*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 384*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 162 (GN)*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOL 163 (GN)*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30H (GWS)†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOL 164 (GN)*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100 (GS)†</td>
<td></td>
<td>General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSU 8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>General Education Course (GH or GA); US/IL recommended</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Education Course (GH or GA); US/IL recommended 3

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 150*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>PT 250*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 160*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 260*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 271*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 272*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 281*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>PT 282*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 290W*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PT 285*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 395E*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GH, GS, GWS)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 72

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

1 PT 271W - This course satisfies the University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.
2 PT 395E - This is a three-week clinical practicum in that is a full-time experience in a physical therapy practice setting.
3 ENGL 202C, PSYCH 212, HDFS 129, HDFS 229, PSYCH 270 - Students will select ONE of the following: ENGL 202C - Technical Writing (requires 4th semester standing), Psychology 212 Introduction to Developmental Psychology, HDFS 129 Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies, HDFS 229 - Infant and Child Development, or PSYCH 270 - Introduction to Abnormal Psychology. Not all of these courses are offered each semester at the Mont Alto campus.
4 PT 395F - This is a six-week clinical practicum that is a full-time experience in a physical therapy practice setting.
5 PT 395G - This is a six-week clinical practicum that is a full-time experience in a physical therapy practice setting.
6 Either GA or GH must satisfy US/IL requirements.

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Advising Notes:

All students are required to be currently certified in CPR for participation in PT 395E, PT 395F, and PT 395G. Students may attain the certification through KINES 13, which can be taken any semester.
Physical Therapist Assistant, A.S. at Shenango Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GA)</td>
<td>3 BIOL 163*</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 161*</td>
<td>3 BIOL 164*</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 162*</td>
<td>1 General Education Course (GH)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 (GWS)†‡</td>
<td>3 PT 120*</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100 (GS)*</td>
<td>3 PT 384*</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 100†</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (GQ)†‡</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 150*</td>
<td>2 PT 260*</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 160*</td>
<td>3 PT 272*</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 250*</td>
<td>3 PT 280*</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 271W*</td>
<td>3 PT 285*</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 290*</td>
<td>2 PT 395E*</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GH, GS, GWS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 201</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 395F*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 395G*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 71

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Program Notes:

Students must complete a 3-credit course in "United States Cultures (US)" or a 3-credit course in "International Cultures (IL)."

Healthcare Providers CPR is required for clinical rotations.

Career Paths

The Physical Therapist Assistant program prepares its graduates for positions in many traditional and non-traditional career settings and for opportunities to further their educations in a variety of fields.

Careers

Physical Therapist Assistants provide services to patients of all ages and health conditions many settings, including outpatient clinics, hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, extended care or sub-acute facilities, home, education or research centers, schools, occupational environments, fitness centers and sports training facilities. All states in the US require PTAs to have graduated from a CAPTE-accredited program and have obtained state licensure. Students seeking licensure as a PTA must apply to the licensing authority of the jurisdiction (state) in which the graduate is seeking licensure and then register for the National Physical Therapy Examination for PTAs administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PT/PTA CAREERS (https://www.apta.org/your-career/careers-in-physical-therapy/becoming-a-pta/)

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK IN HEALTHCARE (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Many students choose to continue their education at Penn State after completing their AS degree in PTA by completing and complete bachelor’s degrees in a variety of disciplines, including: Rehabilitation and Human Services; Multidisciplinary Studies; Human Development and Family Studies; Health Policy Administration; Psychology; Biobehavioral Health; or other related field of study. Advisers assist interested students in completing bachelor’s degrees and meeting prerequisite qualifications to apply for doctoral degrees in physical therapy (DPT) or other field of graduate study.

Professional Resources

- American Physical Therapy Association (https://www.apta.org)
- American Physical Therapy Association – Pennsylvania (APTA-PA) (https://www.aptau.org)
- Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (https://www.fsbpt.org)
- Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (https://www.capteonline.org)

Accreditation

The Associate of Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant at Penn State is accredited by the:

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
American Physical Therapy Association
3030 Potomac Ave.,
Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22305-3085
Graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by CAPTE is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

**Accreditation by Campus**

**Penn State Fayette**
The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085, 703-706-3245, accreditation@apta.org.

**Penn State Hazleton**
The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Penn State Hazleton is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085, 703-706-3245, accreditation@apta.org.

**Penn State Mont Alto**
The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at the Penn State Mont Alto is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085, 703-706-3245, accreditation@apta.org.

**Penn State Shenango**
The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Penn State Shenango is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085, 703-706-3245, accreditation@apta.org.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION IN PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION (https://www.capteonline.org/)

**Professional Licensure/Certification**

Many U.S. states and territories require professional licensure/certification to be employed. If you plan to pursue employment in a licensed profession after completing this program, please visit the Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures by State (https://opair.psu.edu/plc/dashboard/) interactive map.

**Contact**

**Fayette**
PTA
2201 University Drive
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
724-430-4105
sas85@psu.edu
https://fayette.psu.edu/academics/associate/physical-therapist-assistant (https://fayette.psu.edu/academics/associate/physical-therapist-assistant/)

**Hazleton**
PTA
7 Physical Education Building
Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-4043

https://hazleton.psu.edu/associate-science-physical-therapist-assistant (https://hazleton.psu.edu/associate-science-physical-therapist-assistant/)

**Mont Alto**
PTA
310 Allied Health Building
1 Campus Drive
Mont Alto, PA 17237
717-749-6020
gmt12@psu.edu
https://montalto.psu.edu/academics/associate/physical-therapist-assistant-degree (https://montalto.psu.edu/academics/associate/physical-therapist-assistant-degree/)

**Shenango**
PTA
147 Shenango Avenue
204B Forker Lab
724-983-2867
gad12@psu.edu
https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/degrees/2-year-physical-therapist-assistant (https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/degrees/2-year-physical-therapist-assistant/)