

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT, A.S.

Begin Campus: Fayette, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Shenango

End Campus: Fayette, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Shenango

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; Letters, Arts and Sciences; Human Development and Family Studies; Health Policy Administration; Psychology; 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

- Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (<https://www.fsbpt.org/>)
- American Physical Therapy Association (<https://www.apta.org/>)
- Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association (<https://www.aptapa.org/>)