

## What can you do with a major in Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)?

**Campus(s) program is offered: North Metro Campus**

**What are the most likely job titles one can expect to qualify for after completing this program?**

Physical Therapy Assistant

**What do students express as the thing they enjoy the most about this program?**

Students that make it into the program typically have a passion for the profession and enjoy learning the hands-on skills with their classmates. It is an unusual setting in that they get very close with their cohort group and form lifelong friendships. They also find clinical rotations to be extremely rewarding when they get a chance to work with real patients and have an impact on their lives.

**What is the least?**

The amount of studying required and the heavy course load. This program has a high level of rigor and it requires dedication to school and a passion for the profession to stay motivated.

**What are some typical misconceptions about this program of study?**

It is not uncommon for PTA program candidates to not see past the prospect of high employability and see that this is a very difficult program of study that requires hands-on practice with fellow students and patients.

**What are some essential skills a student needs to have to be successful in this program ?**

Speaking — Talking to others to convey information effectively.

Active Listening — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

Social Perceptiveness — Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

Monitoring — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

Coordination — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

Critical Thinking — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

Reading Comprehension — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

Writing — Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

Instructing — Teaching others how to do something.

Service Orientation — Actively looking for ways to help people.

**What are some essential abilities a student needs to have to be successful in this program?**

Oral Comprehension — The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.

Oral Expression — The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.

Speech Clarity — The ability to speak clearly so others can understand you.

Near Vision — The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).

Problem Sensitivity — The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.

Written Comprehension — The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.  
Written Expression — The ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.

**What are typical skills and abilities that a student gains once he/she has completed the program of study?**

Students will have learned all entry level skills to work as a Physical Therapist Assistant performing hands-on treatments utilizing therapeutic exercises, manual therapy, pain relieving modalities and other functional activities. They will learn to use critical thinking and problem solving skills on a daily basis to treat a variety of patients of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

**Typical work activities/occupational functions:**

Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist. Employing the knowledge of the patient's condition, the PTA performs hands-on treatments utilizing therapeutic exercises, manual therapy, pain relieving modalities and other functional activities such as gait and balance training to help patients. PTAs will also educate a patient and family members about their condition and what to do after treatment.

**What additional training would you recommend for a student who wants to go to the next level in this field?** N/A

**Do any of the occupational courses transfer easily?**

None of the PHTA prefix courses will transfer.

**What are some common limitations, if any, in this program that students face?**

Most students find that it is not practical for them to be employed while in this program. Due to this and the rigorous nature of the curriculum, students do well when they have solid levels of support at home or have been preparing for this time when they either cannot work or can only work a very limited number of hours.

**Are there any exams/certifications that a student needs to take after completing the courses? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?**

Once graduating from our program, they will be eligible to sit for the National Licensure Exam. Only graduates who pass the Licensure Exam will be able to work as Physical Therapist Assistants. This exam is offered in a variety of Prometric Testing locations and is administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (fsbpt). It is not offered on any college campus.

**Possible employment settings:**

Sports medicine facilities, Outpatient clinics, Hospitals, Schools, Rehabilitation centers, Nursing homes, Home care

**Names of potential employers:**

Northside Hospital	Southern Regional Hospital	Advanced Medical
WellStar Health System	Halcyon Rehabilitation	Amedisys, Inc.
Tara Therapy, LLC	Cartersville Medical Center	Genesis Rehabilitation

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