Physical Therapist Assistant

Taylor Health Science Building, 2nd Floor
1526 South Medical Center Drive
St. George, UT 84790
435-879-4861

https://health.dixie.edu/physical-therapist-assistant/

To find faculty and staff phone numbers and email addresses, please consult the University Directory (http://www.dixie.edu/directory/directory.php).

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Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Preiss

Program Description
A physical therapist assistant (PTA) is licensed to practice physical therapy under the supervision of a physical therapist (PT). They perform hands-on treatments for people who need to recover from injuries to the bones and joints, brain and nerves, problems with pain, developmental complications, and other movement problems. Their main purpose is to assist people with reaching their maximum level of health and function. They help people to recover their ability to walk, to heal from wounds, and to learn to work and live with the effects of injuries and other health problems.

Physical therapists (PTs) are responsible for evaluating and treating people who need physical therapy care. They identify problems that physical therapy can address, create goals, and decide what treatment the person will receive. PTAs usually work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, schools, home health – actually, anywhere that physical therapists work. They only work with physical therapists – this is exclusive and required by professional ethics, codes of conduct, and by law.

Licensure
PTA licensure is required for all practicing assistants in Utah. In order to receive a license to practice, an individual must graduate from an accredited PTA program and pass the State license examination.

Accreditation
The Dixie State University Physical Therapist Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education may be contacted at:

CAPTE
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-706-3245
Email: accreditation@apta.org
www.capteonline.org (http://www.capteonline.org)

Course Prefixes
• PTA

Degrees
• Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/physicaltherapy/associate_of_applied_science_in_physicaltherapist_assistant)
Program Admission

To be considered for admission to the PTA program, an applicant must first be accepted as a Dixie State University student. Then, the applicant must complete a separate application to the PTA program.

Application information, including deadlines (http://www.dixie.edu/health/physical_therapist_assistant/admissions.php) (https://health.dixie.edu/physical-therapist-assistant/admissions.php). Each cohort is limited to 16 students; therefore, admission is competitive. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Students are accepted into a “cohort” – a group of students who start the program at the same time, enroll and complete the same program courses, perform clinical education at the same time, and graduate together as a group. The program cannot be taken part-time; it is a full time commitment. Admission requirements include:

- Be admitted to Dixie State University
- Minimum GPA of 2.7 in prerequisite courses (no grade below “C”):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTA 1010</td>
<td>Introduction to Physical Therapy</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2320 &amp; BIOL 2325</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Human Anatomy Lab</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2420 &amp; BIOL 2425</td>
<td>Human Physiology and Human Physiology Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLOC 1000</td>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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- Minimum “C” grade in each required General Education course
- Observation or work experience (16 hours minimum)
- Official college transcripts

Upon conditional acceptance:

- Criminal background check
- Health/immunization requirements

Once an applicant is accepted into the program but before enrollment, additional health requirements, including selected immunizations, CPR certification, and drug screening, will be required.

Career Information

Physical therapist assistants work under the direction of physical therapists helping patients recover from injuries, illness, and surgeries to regain movement and manage pain. PTAs generally work in ambulatory health care service settings, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities.

Job Outlook*

Overall employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 30 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy is expected to increase in response to the healthcare needs of an older population and individuals with chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity.

Salary Range*

The median annual wage for physical therapist assistants was $56,610 in May 2016. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $34,640, and the highest 10 percent earned more than $79,040.