

Physical Therapist Assistant

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Physical Therapist Assistant program at Southern

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) associate degree program is designed to prepare graduates to provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. Our curriculum is designed to promote sequential learning as well as integrated clinical experiences. Hands-on physical therapy experiences develop students' treatment skills as well as provide health care to the community. As part of their training, students perform clinical hours in the University's Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy Department and in regional hospitals and clinics.

Admissions

Due to a variety of circumstances, including rules of accreditation, limitations of facilities/internship sites, and faculty-student ratio, enrollment in the program is limited. Following admission to the University, a prospective student must submit a separate Physical Therapist Assistant application packet to the Admissions Clerk. The application packet is available at the program website. Due to course sequencing, new students are admitted into the program fall semester only. The selection process begins early spring semester for the student planning to enter the program the following fall. It is important to complete all application procedures by the deadline listed at the program website.

Making the Choice to Come to Southern

Founded in 1968, our program at SIU was one of the first PTA programs in the nation to be developed and receive accreditation. Our faculty are involved in local, state, and national professional organizations. We have an on-campus physical therapy department.

On Campus

The PTA classroom and lab is housed in the School of Allied Health in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts building.

Career Opportunities

PTAs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, outpatient centers, home health, schools, work settings, and sports and fitness arenas. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment is projected to grow 41 percent from 2012 to 2022.

Professional Associations

Southern Illinois Physical Therapists Assistants
American Physical Therapy Association

PTA Majors

Physical Therapist Assistant majors should possess the following:

- Good coordination and manual dexterity
- Ability to problem solve
- Spirit of cooperation
- Positive attitude

Scholarships and Awards

Students who major in Physical Therapist Assistant are eligible for a variety of scholarship opportunities through the University, the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, and from several local and national organizations such as the Elk's Club.

For more information on some of these opportunities please visit SIU's financial aid webpage at:

<http://fao.siu.edu/>

Accreditation and Licensure

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Graduates are qualified to take the licensing examination in Illinois as well as in other states which require physical therapist assistants to be licensed.

Sample Course Sequence for Physical Therapy Assistant Students

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
<p>Year 1</p> <p>PTH 207 3 Human Neuromusculoskeletal Anatomy</p> <p>HED 334 3 First Aid and CPR</p> <p>AH 105 2 Medical Terminology</p> <p>AH 241 4 Intro: Physiology & Human Anatomy</p> <p>PTH 107 3 Introduction to Physical Therapy</p> <p>PTH 123a 2 Physical Agents I Theory</p> <p>PTH 123b 1 Physical Agents I Application</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>PSYC 102 3 Introduction to Psychology</p> <p>PTH 210a 2 Therapeutic Exercise Theory</p> <p>PTH 210b 1 Therapeutic Exercise Application</p> <p>KIN 320 3 Exercise Physiology</p> <p>PTH 233a 2 Physical Agents II Theory</p> <p>PTH 233b 1 Physical Agents II Application</p> <p>PTH 203 2 Pathology</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Most of these courses are sequential and are offered only in the semesters indicated.</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>ZOOL 115 3 General Biology</p> <p>KIN 321 3 Biomechanics</p> <p>ENGL 101 3 English Composition I</p> <p>PTH 212a 2 Physical Rehabilitative Theory</p> <p>PTH 212b 1 Physical Rehabilitative Application</p> <p>PTH 204 2 Practicum I</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>CMST 101 3 Intro: Oral Communication</p> <p>PSYC 301 3 Child Psychology</p> <p>PTH 205 2 Physical Therapy Science</p> <p>PTH 220a 2 Neurologic Therapeutic Ex Theory</p> <p>PTH 220b 1 Neurologic Therapeutic Ex Application</p> <p>PTH 230a 1 Advanced Therapeutic Ex Theory</p> <p>PTH 230b 1 Advanced Therapeutic Ex Application</p> <p>PTH 234 3 Practicum II</p> <p>Year 2 Summer Semester</p> <p>PTH 321a 4 Clinical Internship</p> <p>PTH 321b 4 Clinical Internship</p> <p>PTH 322 2 Clinical Seminar</p>

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For more information, please visit our website:
<http://www.sah.siu.edu/undergraduate/physical-therapist-assistant/index.php>