PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
208 Taylor Health Science Center
(435) 879-4862
http://dixie.edu/health/physical_therapist_assistant

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

Program Coordinator
William Patterson

Faculty & Staff
Assistant Professor
William Patterson, D.P.T.

Instructor
Drew Wilcox, A.A.S. (Clinical Coordinator)

Health Science Advisor
Joni Hale

School of Health Sciences
Dean
Carole Grady, Ed.D.
Administrative Secretary
Colleen Hales

Program Description
A physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a health care provider who works under the supervision of a physical therapist (PT). They do hands-on care 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. PTs supervise all care given by the PTA. 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 of Utah 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 St.
Alexandria VA 22314
(703) 706-3245
accreditation@apta.org
http://www.capteonline.org

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, is available at http://www.dixie.edu/health/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”):
  - PTA 1010 Intro to Physical Therapy (2)
  - BIOL 2320/25 Human Anatomy / Lab (3/2)
  - BIOL 2420/25 Human Physiology / Lab (3/1)
  - HLOC 1000 Medical Terminology (2)
- Minimum “C” grade in each required General Education course
- Observation or work experience (16 hours minimum)
- Official college transcripts
- PSB Health Occupations Aptitude Exam
- Criminal background check
- Health 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

Career Opportunities*

Physical therapist assistants work under the director 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**
Job growth for PTAs is expected to have extraordinary growth in the period from 2010 to 2020, with a 46% increase, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. This growth is attributed to an increased demand for physical therapy services in response to the health needs of an aging population who are staying more active later in life.

**Salary Range**
The median annual wage of physical therapist assistants is $49,690.

*From the Occupational Outlook Handbook*

**Course Prefixes**
- PTA

**Degrees**
- Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

**Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant**
79 credits

The Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant degree has three basic components:
1. General Education Requirements
2. Program Prerequisites
3. Discipline Core Requirements

**General Education Requirements**
Complete the following:
- ENGL 1010 Intro to Writing 3
- ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing 3

Complete one of the following:
- MATH 1030 Quantitative Reasoning 3
- MATH 1040/A Introduction to Statistics 3
- MATH 1050 College Algebra/Pre-Calculus 4

Complete one of the following:
- FCS 1500 Human Development/Lifespan 3
- PSY 1100 Human Development/Lifespan 3

Complete one of the following:
- COMM 1020 Public Speaking 3
- COMM 2110 Interpersonal Communication 3

**Program Prerequisites**
Complete the following:
- BIOL 2320/2325 Human Anatomy / Lab 3/2
- BIOL 2420/2425 Human Physiology / Lab 3/1
- HLOC 1000 Medical Terminology 2
- PTA 1010 Intro to Physical Therapy 2

NOTE: Students who have completed BIOL 2320, BIOL 2325, BIOL 2420, and BIOL 2425 can fulfill GE Life Science and GE Laboratory Science by taking BIOL 1300 Evolution & Ecology (1)

**Discipline Core Requirements**

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<th>Semester I</th>
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<tr>
<td>Complete the following:</td>
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<td>PTA 2010 Kinesiology</td>
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<td>PTA 2011 Kinesiology Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTA 2110 Fundamentals of Physical Therapy</td>
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<td>PTA 2111 Fundamentals of Phys Therapy Lab</td>
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<td>PTA 2400 Clinical Pathology</td>
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<th>Semester II</th>
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<td>Complete the following:</td>
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<td>PTA 2000 Practice Issues</td>
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<td>PTA 2200 Physical Agents</td>
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<td>PTA 2201 Physical Agents Lab</td>
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<td>PTS 2210 Observation &amp; Measurement</td>
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<td>PTA 2211 Observation &amp; Measurement Lab</td>
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<td>PTA 2300 Orthopedic Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>PTA 2301 Orthopedic Rehabilitation Lab</td>
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<td>PTA 2605 Clinical Practicum</td>
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<td>Complete the following:</td>
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<td>PTA 2410 Special Clientele</td>
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<td>PTA 2411 Special Clientele Lab</td>
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<td>PTA 2520 Neuromuscular Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>PTA 2521 Neuromuscular Rehabilitation Lab</td>
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<td>PTA 2530 Seminar</td>
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<td>Complete the following:</td>
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<td>PTA 2805 Clinical Affiliation II</td>
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**Graduation Requirements**
1. Complete a minimum of 79 college-level credits (1000 and above).
2. Complete at least 20 lower-division credits at DSU for
institutional residency.
3. Cumulative GPA 2.0 or higher.
4. Minimum 2.7 GPA in Program Prerequisite courses.
5. Minimum cumulative GPA 2.75 in Discipline Core Requirement courses.