

Physical Therapist Assistant, SAAS

Visit the Physical Therapist Assistant page (<https://www.uvu.edu/chps/allied-health/physical-therapist/>) for more information on the program and access to advising

Matriculation Requirements

Matriculation requirements are designed to ensure applicants who are admitted into the PTA program can be successful and meet the rigor required of the technical classes. This program uses a merit-based, competitive admission process. Applications may be submitted prior to the completion of the prerequisite courses listed below, but the students must complete all prerequisite courses prior to starting the PTA program and have obtained a C (74%) or better in all the courses.

Matriculation Requirements:

- Be admitted to Utah Valley University.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 in prerequisite courses (no grades below C)
- Complete the following courses: ZOO 2320 Human Anatomy/ ZOO 2325 Human Anatomy Laboratory, HLSC 1300 Medical Terminology and Functional Anatomy, ENGL 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing or ENGL 1005 Foundations of Academic Writing, MATH 1050 College Algebra or MATH 1055 College Algebra with Preliminaries or STAT 1040 or STAT 1045, PSY 1010 General Psychology or PSY 1100 Human Development Life Span, COMM 1020 Public Speaking.
- Observation, volunteer, or work experience in physical therapy (20 hours minimum)
- Exam scores for TEAS test
- Interview/Essay

Upon Conditional Acceptance:

Criminal background check
Health/immunization requirements
CPR certification
Drug screening

Program Description

The Physical Therapist Assistant, AAS combines classroom instruction, laboratory training, and clinical practice to prepare students to assist licensed physical therapists in delivering patient care. Students gain skills to enhance mobility, manage pain, restore function, and prevent disability in diverse settings. Graduates are equipped for careers in hospitals, clinics, schools, and rehabilitation facilities, promoting patient health and recovery. This program meets all educational requirements for licensure and prepares graduates for the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) for Physical Therapist Assistants.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours		72
General Education ¹		12
		Credits
ENGL 1010 or ENGL 1005	Introduction to Academic Writing Foundations of Academic Writing	3
Complete one of the following:		3
STAT 1040	Introduction to Statistics (3)	
STAT 1045	Introduction to Statistics with Algebra (5)	
MATH 1050	College Algebra (4)	
MATH 1055	College Algebra with Preliminaries (5)	
PSY 1010 or PSY 1100	General Psychology Human Development Life Span	3
COMM 1020	Public Speaking	3
Additional Pre-Program Requirements ¹		7
		Credits

ZOOL 2320 & ZOOL 2325	Human Anatomy and Human Anatomy Laboratory	4
HLSC 1300	Medical Terminology and Functional Anatomy	3
Discipline Core Requirements		53
		Credits
PTA 1010	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2
PTA 2010	Essentials of Physiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant	3
PTA 2015	Essentials of Physiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant Lab	1
PTA 2100	Clinical Kinesiology	3
PTA 2105	Clinical Kinesiology Lab	1
PTA 2200	Foundations of Therapeutic Interventions I	2
PTA 2205	Foundations of Therapeutic Interventions Lab I	1
PTA 2300	Therapeutic Procedures	2
PTA 2305	Therapeutic Procedures Lab	1
PTA 2400	Clinical Pathophysiology	3
PTA 2500	Health Systems and Services for the PTA	2
PTA 3100	Foundations of Therapeutic Interventions II	3
PTA 3105	Foundations of Therapeutic Interventions Lab II	1
PTA 3200	Orthopedic Rehabilitation	3
PTA 3205	Orthopedic Rehabilitation Lab	1
PTA 3300	Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation	2
PTA 3305	Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Lab	1
PTA 3500	Neurological Rehabilitation	3
PTA 3505	Neurological Rehabilitation Lab	1
PTA 3600	Specialty Populations in Physical Therapy	2
PTA 3605	Specialty Populations in Physical Therapy Lab	1
PTA 3700	Physical Therapist Assistant Seminar	2
PTA 3800	Capstone	2
PTA 3810	Clinical Practicum I	5
PTA 3820	Clinical Practicum II	5

¹ Students must complete these requirements before enrolling in the discipline core courses.

Graduation Requirements

1. Completion of a minimum of 72 semester credits.
2. Must earn a C or higher in ALL discipline courses, general education courses, and pre-requisite courses.
3. Residency hours: minimum of 20 credit hours through course attendance at UVU.
4. Completion of specified departmental requirements.

Graduation Plan

This graduation plan is a sample plan and is intended to be a guide. Your specific plan may differ based on your Math and English placement and/or transfer credits applied. You are encouraged to meet with an advisor and set up an individualized graduation plan in Wolverine Track (<http://www.uvu.edu/wolverinetrack/>).

First Year

Semester 1		Credit Hours
ENGL 1010 or ENGL 1005	Introduction to Academic Writing or Foundations of Academic Writing	3
HLSC 1300	Medical Terminology and Functional Anatomy	3
MATH 1050	College Algebra ((Recommended))	3
Credit Hours		9
Semester 2		Credit Hours
ZOOL 2320 & ZOOL 2325	Human Anatomy and Human Anatomy Laboratory	4
COMM 1020	Public Speaking	3

PSY 1010 or PSY 1100	General Psychology or Human Development Life Span	3
Credit Hours		10
Second Year		
Semester 3		
PTA 1010	Introduction to Physical Therapy	2
PTA 2010 & PTA 2015	Essentials of Physiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant and Essentials of Physiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant Lab	4
PTA 2100 & PTA 2105	Clinical Kinesiology and Clinical Kinesiology Lab	4
PTA 2400	Clinical Pathophysiology	3
Credit Hours		13
Semester 4		
PTA 2300 & PTA 2305	Therapeutic Procedures and Therapeutic Procedures Lab	3
PTA 2200 & PTA 2205	Foundations of Therapeutic Interventions I and Foundations of Therapeutic Interventions Lab I	3
PTA 2500	Health Systems and Services for the PTA	2
PTA 3810	Clinical Practicum I	5
Credit Hours		13
Third Year		
Semester 5		
PTA 3100 & PTA 3105	Foundations of Therapeutic Interventions II and Foundations of Therapeutic Interventions Lab II	4
PTA 3500 & PTA 3505	Neurological Rehabilitation and Neurological Rehabilitation Lab	4
PTA 3200 & PTA 3205	Orthopedic Rehabilitation and Orthopedic Rehabilitation Lab	4
PTA 3700	Physical Therapist Assistant Seminar	2
Credit Hours		14
Semester 6		
PTA 3300 & PTA 3305	Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation and Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Lab	3
PTA 3600 & PTA 3605	Specialty Populations in Physical Therapy and Specialty Populations in Physical Therapy Lab	3
PTA 3800	Capstone	2
PTA 3820	Clinical Practicum II	5
Credit Hours		13
Total Credit Hours		72

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Provide high-quality, patient-centered care as entry-level physical therapist assistants, under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.
2. Demonstrate appropriate professional conduct and behaviors reflecting the highest standards of the physical therapy profession.
3. Collaborate as members of the physical therapy profession and healthcare team through effective communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Physical therapist assistants

- Total Positions 108,500
- Field Growth 25.4%
- Median Salary \$64,080
- Average Openings 20.8