

Pathway: Health Sciences & Wellness

Associate of Applied Science, Physical Therapist Assistant

Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) work under the direction of physical therapists to help people of all ages who have health-related conditions that limit their ability to move and perform daily activities. Physical therapist assistants help patients reach their maximum performance and level of functioning while learning to live within the limits of their rehabilitation goals. Physical therapist assistants may assist in the development of treatment plans, treatment documentation, and modification of specific treatments that have been established by the physical therapist.

The Associate of Applied Science degree in the Physical Therapist Assistant professional curriculum is a five-semester sequence, with the first semester coursework the pre-requisites. Students must maintain a minimum grade of a "C" in each course, in addition to graduation requirements, to progress and graduate. Upon completion, graduates of the Physical Therapist Assistant program are eligible to apply for the national licensing exam administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) at Laramie County Community College (LCCC) is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703.706.3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: www.capteonline.org.

Additional Requirements: Each program has specific admission requirements—see program website for detailed information or meet with a health science academic advisor or faculty mentor for specifics.

Contact Information

Contact information is available on the [Physical Therapist Assistant](#) program website.

Competencies

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Perform physical therapist assistant procedures professionally under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist.
2. Implement a comprehensive treatment plan under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist (PT).
3. Implement PT interventions based on treatment outcomes for patients in a variety of settings.
4. Demonstrate effective communication skills with the patient, Physical Therapist, health care personnel, and others in a competent manner.
5. Integrate concepts from the pre-requisite course work, basic sciences and PTA programming with the use of critical thinking skills into physical therapy practice.
6. Use evidence-based research to guide treatment interventions within the physical therapy field.

Map your individual academic plan of courses with your College Advisor.

Students may need to take prerequisite courses before beginning college level math and English courses or moving through a program's course sequence. Check the [Course Descriptions](#) section of the catalog to see the course prerequisites. Students should work with their advising team on determining prerequisite requirements.

Certain courses may only be offered in Fall or Spring semester. Students who are part time or have unique circumstances should work with their Academic Advisors to develop their customized academic plan.

If students choose to transition to another program within the Health Sciences & Wellness pathway, they should be particularly aware of the choice points that indicate when a decision to branch off into another program must be made to ensure credits and time are not lost.

Coursework common to all degrees within this pathway is indicated by the ✓ in the Common Academic Coursework (CAC) column below.



Prerequisites

Gen Ed	CAC	Course code	Course name	Credits	Milestones and Choice Points
WC	√	ENGL 1010	English I: Composition	3	Choice Point- Students pursuing the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program should complete the prerequisite courses listed here during their first semester to avoid losing credits and to stay on track to apply to the program.
OC	√	COMM 2010	Public Speaking	3	
QL	√	MATH 1400	College Algebra	3	
		HLTK 1200	Medical Terminology	2	Milestone- Students are eligible to apply to the PTA program upon completion of this semester.
		ZOO 2010 OR ZOO 2015	Anatomy & Physiology I Human Anatomy	4	
			Semester Total	15	

First Semester

Gen Ed	CAC	Course code	Course name	Credits	Milestones and Choice Points
SS	√	STRT 1000	Strategies for Success	3	The PTA program typically begins during the spring semester.
		HLTK 2510	Pathophysiology	2	
		ZOO 2020 OR ZOO 2025	Anatomy & Physiology II Human Physiology	4	
		PTAT 1600	Introduction to Physical Therapist Assistant	3	
		PTAT 2030	Functional Kinesiology for the Physical Therapist Assistant	4	
			Semester Total	16	

Second Semester

Gen Ed	CAC	Course code	Course name	Credits	Milestones and Choice Points
		PTAT 1650	Therapeutic Procedures I	4	The PTA program has classes during the summer semester.
		PTAT 1720	Therapeutic Exercise	4	
		PTAT 1740	Cardiac Rehabilitation	2	
			Semester Total	10	

Third Semester

Gen Ed	CAC	Course code	Course name	Credits	Milestones and Choice Points
		EDST 2420	Human Lifespan Development	3	Milestone- Students begin an approved Clinical Practicum based on successful completion of academic coursework during this semester.
		PTAT 1660	Therapeutic Procedures II	3	
		PTAT 1820	Orthopedics	4	
		PTAT 2970	PTA Clinical Practicum I	7	
			Semester Total	17	

Fourth Semester

Gen Ed	CAC	Course code	Course name	Credits	Milestones and Choice Points
HSI	√		Choose an approved U.S./ Wyoming Constitution course	3	Milestone- Students begin an approved Clinical Practicum based on successful completion of academic coursework during this semester. Milestone- Completion of AAS degree, Physical Therapist Assistant. Milestone- Students are eligible to apply for the national licensing exam, administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).
		PTAT 1800	Neurology	3	
		PTAT 1840	Specialty Rehabilitation	1	
		PTAT 2971	PTA Clinical Practicum II	7	
			Semester Total	14	

Program credit hour total	72
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Program Comments

Students planning to apply to the Physical Therapist Assistant program should work closely with their Advising Team regarding course sequence options required for completion prior to program application. STRT 1000 is a general education requirement, but is not a prerequisite course requirement prior to program application. Students may apply to the program while enrolled in or completing the last semester of prerequisites. Students should closely review the program application for specific information and requirements prior to applying to the program.

The information below is intended to be a guide, and does not guarantee regional job placement, job availability, or a specific wage after completion of the program. Employment opportunities are available in a variety of settings including outpatient physical therapy offices and clinics, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and school districts. Upon completion, graduates of the Physical Therapist Assistant program are eligible to apply for the national licensing exam, administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).

Additional information on careers in Physical Therapist Assistant is available through [Career Coach](#) and career specific related links below.

Transfer Information

LCCC courses may transfer to institutions in addition to those with formal articulation agreements. Students are strongly encouraged to determine the degree requirements and transfer policy of the specific college/ university and program to which they plan to transfer.