

CERRITOS COLLEGE
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS DIVISION
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The Physical Therapist Assistant is a skilled technical health worker who performs physical therapy interventions under the direction of a Physical Therapist. This program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Length and Kind of Program

The program is four semesters in length. General education and Physical Therapist Assistant classes are scheduled on the college campus. Correlated clinical experiences begin the second semester and continue throughout the program. These experiences take place at selected hospitals and clinics in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura, and San Bernardino counties usually during regular business hours.

Admission Requirements (Prerequisites):

1. General Education Requirements
 - a. Completion of ENGL (English) 100 or equivalent with a grade of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the English Placement Process
 - b. Completion of MATH 80 (Intermediate Algebra) or equivalent with a grade of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the Math Placement Process.
 - c. Meet Reading proficiency requirement for AA degree – Plan A as described in the Cerritos College Catalog.
2. A&P 150 – Human Anatomy **AND** A&P 151 – Human Physiology or equivalent courses with grades of “C” or higher. Equivalent courses may include a combined course (A&P of at least 8 units) or a minimum of 4 units each course (8 units total). Each course must include a lab component.
3. An overall grade point average of 2.0 must be attained prior to admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, and a grade of “C” or higher must be attained for each general education course.

Courses in progress at the time of application must be verified by a work-in-progress statement showing a grade of “C” or higher. Those courses must then be completed with a grade of “C” or higher and verified by official transcript for admission to the program.

Application and Acceptance Procedures:

1. Complete application to the program. This can be obtained in the Health Occupations Division Office, or online at www.cerritos.edu/pta. All applications and information must be submitted by April 15. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.
2. Submit one official transcript of all college work to the Health Occupations Division office with your application no later than April 15. Official transcripts may be sent directly to the Health Occupations Division, 11110 Alondra Boulevard, Norwalk, CA 90650.
3. If you would like a counselor to review your transcript (optional), please make an appointment with the counseling department at (562) 860-2451, extension 2231. Many questions can be answered by e-mail via the online counseling link, www.cerritos.edu/counseling.
4. All work experience as a physical therapist aide must be verified by a letter from your employer stating you are/were a paid employee, giving your job title, and dates of employment. Work experience in related medical fields must also be verified in the same way. To receive credit for volunteer work, documentation must show at least six months of volunteer service. Students will only receive credit in one category of work experience (P.T. Aide or related medical field or volunteer).

5. Application packets will be evaluated after April 15. Documents to be reviewed include the application, official transcripts, work-in progress reports, and work verification. Clearances are verified and/or points are assigned using the following considerations:
 - a. Admission Requirements (Prerequisites)
 - b. GPA in prerequisite courses
 - c. Work/volunteer experience in the field or work experience in related medical fields
 - d. Additional coursework in medical and science classes
 - e. Overall grade point average
6. Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance will be mailed after June 1.
7. If admission requirements are in progress during the spring session, a work-in-progress report must be submitted to the Health Occupations Division by April 15.

After Acceptance and Prior to Enrollment:

1. CPR for Healthcare Provider - You must present a valid CPR card for Healthcare Provider offered through the American Heart Association prior to the beginning of the program. Card must be valid throughout the duration of the program.
2. Health Clearance - Applicants must present evidence of physical fitness and ability to perform tasks required of a physical therapist assistant. Physical exam, lab, x-rays, and immunization records must be cleared and verified after acceptance into the program.
3. Criminal Background Check - Clinical placements are a mandatory component of the curriculum and will require clearance of a criminal background check. Students who do not clear agency requirements are not eligible for clinical placement and will, consequently, be ineligible to continue in the program. If there is any concern regarding clearance of a criminal background check, please contact the Health Occupations Division for additional information.
4. A drug screen may be required depending on the internship site (determined during the clinical placement process).
5. If admitted to the program, failure to present the required documents described above by the deadline may result in reversal of acceptance or dismissal from the program.

Expenses

Enrollment fees, lab fees, uniforms, physical exam/immunizations, background check, books, and supplies will cost approximately \$3,000. Students are responsible for their own living accommodations, uniform laundry, and transportation to selected hospitals and clinics. Upon successful completion of all program requirements, the student will be eligible to receive and wear the Physical Therapist Assistant pin which is given at a graduation ceremony. The cost of the pin is the responsibility of the student.

Attendance and Scholarship

All students are expected to comply with the attendance requirements of the College and of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. To remain in the program, the student must maintain a "C" or higher in all courses. Uniforms are required in all hospital lab classes (PTA 126, PTA 236, and PTA 246).

Licensure

Successful completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program and Associate in Arts Degree qualifies the graduate to take the National Examination for Physical Therapist Assistants and the California Laws Test for Physical Therapist Assistant licensure. The California Physical Therapy Board requires all licensure applicants to provide a valid U.S. Social Security Number. Additional information regarding licensure requirements, fees, etc. can be found on their website:

<http://www.ptbc.ca.gov>.

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be completed to qualify for the A.A. Degree:

		<u>Units</u>
A&P 150	Human Anatomy	4
A&P 151	Human Physiology	4
ENGL 100	Freshman Composition	4
MATH 80	Intermediate Algebra	4
MA 161	Medical Terminology	3
PSYC 101	General Introductory Psychology	3
SPCH 100	Fundamentals of Oral Communication	3
U.S. History or American Government		3
Humanities or Fine Arts		3
<u>FIRST YEAR</u>		<u>Units</u>
Fall semester		
PTA 110	Introduction to Physical Therapy	4
PTA 120	Kinesiology	4
Spring semester		
PTA 125	Pathology	3
PTA 126	Clinical Practicum I	4
PTA 127	Soft Tissue Interventions	2
PTA 128	Physical Therapy Aspects of Growth and Development	3
PTA 235	Neurology	3
<u>SECOND YEAR</u>		<u>Units</u>
Fall Semester		
PTA 230	Therapeutic Exercises	4
PTA 233	Prosthetics and Orthotics for Allied Health Professionals	2
PTA 236	Clinical Practicum II	4
*PTA 129	Physical Therapy Aspects of Aging and Integumentary Management	1.5
Spring Semester		
PTA 240	Activities of Daily Living	2
PTA 245	Advanced Modalities	3
PTA 246	Clinical Affiliation	4

*Class may be offered in summer session between first and second year.

See Cerritos College Graduation Requirements