

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE, A.A.S.)

## Overview

The physical therapist assistant performs patient rehabilitation under the supervision of a physical therapist. PTAs treat neurologic, orthopedic, and cardiopulmonary dysfunctions, providing pediatric, athletic, and geriatric rehabilitation, treatment for wounds and burns, and more.

The PTA program includes didactic and laboratory preparation, extended opportunity to practice and apply learned skills in affiliated clinical settings, and education necessary for graduates to sit for required state licensing examinations and to function competently as entry-level practitioners.

Four semesters and two summer sessions comprise the program. Upon graduation, students receive the Associate of Applied Science degree. PTA students are encouraged to consider the advantages of obtaining a bachelor's degree from Missouri Western.

Admission to the program is limited to one cohort of twenty students every fall. Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the program. Selection is competitive and is based on applicants' grades, ACT (or TEAS or SAT) scores, completion of the Missouri high school core program or equivalent, science and math preparation, letters of recommendation, personal essays, and observation of physical therapy in practice. Application information is available online at [www.missouriwestern.edu/pta](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/pta) (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/pta/>). Application deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Missouri Western's Physical Therapist Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

## Admission

The PTA program is a competitive entrance program. Application to the program is made separately from application for admission to Missouri Western.

Application requirement information can be found at [www.missouriwestern.edu/pta](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/pta) (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/pta/>). Requirements include a completed application via PTA-CAS (<https://www.ptacas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>), ACT or TEAS scores, three forms of recommendation, high school and college transcripts (if applicable), twenty-four hours of observation, and answers to two short essay questions.

One cohort of 20 is accepted every year. Deadline for application is March 1st for the following fall start.

## Requirements

Students who choose this associate degree program will have no more than 6 years from admission or subsequent declaration to meet the requirements listed below. If certification, accreditation or statutory requirements change and additional requirements become effective during this time, the new requirements take precedence.

**Note:** Students pre-admitted into the associate degree program (pre-major) have three years to meet admission requirements before moving

to the overall 6 year time-frame allowed to complete the program requirements.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>General Studies</b>		<b>15-19</b>
Students must complete General Studies courses ( <a href="http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/university-information/academic-standards-regulations/associate-degree-certificate/#associate-general-studies">http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/university-information/academic-standards-regulations/associate-degree-certificate/#associate-general-studies</a> )		
<b>Major Requirements</b>		<b>63</b>
ALH 106	Medical Terminology	2
BIO 101	Principles of Biology	4
BIO 250	Anatomy and Physiology	5
EXS 304	Physiology of Exercise	3
PSY 101	General Psychology	3
PTA 100	Introduction to Physical Therapy	1
PTA 110	Patient Care Skills	3
PTA 120	Modalities	3
PTA 130	Functional Anatomy	2
PTA 140	Measurements and Procedures	3
PTA 165	Principles of Therapeutic Exercise	3
PTA 185	Clinical Education I	3
PTA 210	Professional Issues	2
PTA 251	Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation	2
PTA 255	Clinical Orthopedics	3
PTA 260	Clinical Neurology	3
PTA 265	Diseases and Dysfunctions	3
PTA 270	Psychosocial Aspects of Physical Therapy	1
PTA 280	Clinical Rehabilitation	3
PTA 285	Clinical Education II	5
PTA 290	Clinical Education III	5
PTA 295	Clinical Seminar	1

NOTE: The above is expanded upon in the Physical Therapist Assistant handbook that has been developed for use by students.

## Program Graduation Requirements

1. Earn an overall GPA of at least 2.0 and a major GPA of at least 2.0.

## University Graduation Requirements

1. Earn a minimum of 62 credit hours (100 level and above, maximum of 6 CED credit hours applicable).
2. Earn 20 of the last 30 credit hours at MWSU in institutional course work (exclusive of credit by examination).
3. Participate in required departmental and campus wide assessments.
4. Fulfill the Missouri Constitution requirement.
5. Successfully pass the Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement exam.