



Physical Therapist Assistant

Department: Allied Health

Degree: Associate of Applied Science

Entry time: Fall

Length: 2 years (5 semesters, including 1 summer)

- The curriculum is an integrated two-year model, with students' **clinical education experiences** woven throughout the program.
- Both full-time and adjunct faculty have extensive experience as physical therapists and educators, thereby bringing their **real-world knowledge** to the classroom and lab.
- Advisory committee members are actively involved in the Physical Therapy Assistant program and represent a **variety of employment settings**. The committee is instrumental in providing feedback to the program on up-to-date clinical practice.
- The program has a **spacious lab** that is well-equipped with state-of-the-art equipment used in current physical therapy practice.
- **Kibbie Grant:** Students in this program may be eligible to have half their tuition paid for by the Kibbie Grant. Go to www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie for more details.

Program Description

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) work closely with physical therapists (PTs) to provide services to people with physical disabilities. Patient treatments may include strengthening, flexibility, aerobic conditioning, exercise, balance activities, functional training, gait training, modalities and other therapeutic interventions.

The program includes curriculum focused on background theory, assessment, and treatment techniques for a variety of patient populations. Students will also have two short-term and two long-term clinical experiences that allow them to gain hands-on experience in a variety of health care settings. Clinic sites are located across Iowa and in neighboring states.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is located at the Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center in Hiawatha.

Career Opportunities

Outpatient clinics – orthopedics, sports medicine, pediatrics, etc.
Hospitals
Skilled nursing facilities
Rehabilitation centers
Home health
School systems

Sample Classes

Human Anatomy and Physiology
Kinesiology
Functional Motor Development
PTA Modalities
Pathophysiology
PTA Procedures

Orthopedic Issues
Rehab for Medical Conditions
Neurology for PTA

Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Kirkwood is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).



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Licensure

PTA graduates qualify to take the licensure exam given by the Federation of State Boards in Physical Therapy. Licensure is granted by the Iowa Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners. Most states, including Iowa, require a license to practice as a PTA. Annual continuing education hours are required to maintain a license.

Scholarships

Kirkwood will help you pay for college! Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. For more information and to apply, visit www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships.

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