

DEFINITION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical therapy is a health profession which involves the physical rehabilitation of people who have disabling conditions, either temporary or permanent. These conditions may include sports injuries, fractures, chronic pain, strokes, cerebral palsy, and spinal cord injuries. Physical therapy uses biophysical agents such as light, sound, electricity, water, and air as well as exercise and other interventions to treat and prevent pathologies of the musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems.

The physical therapist assistant (PTA) works under the supervision of a physical therapist in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other health facilities. Physical therapists evaluate patients, plan treatment programs, and may delegate parts of those programs to physical therapists assistants while completing other parts of the program themselves.

Guided by the physical therapist's plan of care, the PTA may use specialized equipment to administer treatments to accomplish the therapists generated rehabilitation goals. These treatments may include the application of heat, cold, light, sound, and electricity. The PTA may also administer therapeutic exercises, ambulation training, and train patients in the use of artificial limbs, braces, and various aids in an effort to maximize function and facilitate the rehabilitation process.

A student considering entering the field of PTA should have a demonstrate aptitude for sciences, interact well with others, have an interest in working with physically challenged, ill or injured people, and enjoy a physically active job.

The PTA Program

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accredits Kingsborough's P.T.A. program. Therefore, program graduates are eligible for licensing in any state within the United States.

The Program affiliates with many clinical sites including private clinics, nursing homes and hospitals in Brooklyn, the other boroughs and Nassau County. The campus has a large laboratory fully equipped with up to date physical therapy equipment found in a variety of settings.

Students are admitted in the spring following the pre-requisite semester. Advanced courses are offered during the day only. Students must be available for full time study.

Application Process

Students must apply for admission into the advanced courses of the PTA program. The three letters "PTA" designate advanced courses. The process begins October 1st with the release of the PTA Program Application. Completed applications will be accepted until mid-November of the Fall semester preceding entry into the program. Advance courses commence during the Spring semester.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Minimum Grade Point Average of 2.8
2. Minimum of 25 hours of observation in a physical therapy setting, documented by a physical therapist, on letterhead.
3. Minimum 500 word essay on assigned topic.
4. Letter of recommendation from a physical therapist.
5. Personal Interview (finalists only). The class of 20 to 24 students will be selected from students who have been designated as finalists, based on criteria 1-4, as listed above.
6. **All finalists must sit for the Health Occupations Aptitude Examination (HOAE). The test is administered at Kingsborough and is scheduled prior to the finalist interview. You can learn more about the HOAE at : <http://www.psbtests.com>**

**For more information, you can contact the
PHYSICAL THERAPIST
ASSISTANT PROGRAM AT:**

**Dr. Michael Mattia PT, DPT, MS, MHA
Director
718-368-4818**

**Prof. Christina McVey, PT, MA
Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education
718-368-5727**

**Lora John – Wells, PTA, CLT
Laboratory Tech
718-368-5750**

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM PROGRAM CURRICULUM

A.A.S. TWO YEAR PROGRAM

Fall Semester

BIO 11—Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4 credits
ENG 12—Freshman English I	3credits
MAT 20—Elements of Statistics	3 credits
PSY 11—General Psychology	3 credits

Spring Semester

PTA 10—Introduction to Physical Therapy	3 credits
PTA 1—Foundations of Physical Therapy I	3 credits
PTA 2—Kinesiology and Applied Anatomy	4 credits
PTA 20—Pathology	3 credits

Summer Module

PTA 3—Foundations of Physical Therapy II	3 credits
--	-----------

Fall Semester

PTA 4—Modalities and Procedures I	5 credits
PTA 5—Therapeutic Exercise	5 credits
BIO 12—Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4 credits

Winter Module

PTA 6 Clinical Practicum I	3 credits
----------------------------	-----------

Spring Semester

PTA 7—Modalities and Procedures II	4 credits
PTA 8—Selected Topics	5 credits
PTA 25—Interactions in the Clinic	3 credits
ENG 24—Freshman English II	3 credits
SPE 21—Effective Public Speaking	3 credits

Summer Module

PTA 9—Clinical Practicum II	3 credits
-----------------------------	-----------

Total Credits 68 Credits (1 credit to be determined)

(Students must present evidence of CPR certification by Fall semester of the second year)

Frequently Asked Questions

How many students actually apply for admission to the advanced courses?

About 40-60 students apply for admission to the advanced courses each year. The admission acceptance rate is approximately 50%. In other words, if applicants were placed in groups of ten, about five students in each would be accepted.

What percentage of students admitted to advanced courses actually graduate?

The PTA program at Kingsborough is rigorous. Students must be prepared to study hard, apply previous knowledge, and commit themselves to success. As of 2018, the two year average (2016 – 2018) graduation rate for the program is about 79%. In other words, almost eight out of every ten admitted students graduate.

Can I complete the advanced courses as a part time student?

No. PTA courses must be taken as outlined in the curriculum plan. Courses in any given semester are co-requisite to each other and pre-requisite for courses in the subsequent semester. Therefore, part time study is not possible. Students are able to complete all general education (English, anatomy and physiology, mathematics, etc) courses on a part time basis.

Once I am enrolled in the advanced courses will I have a lot of additional expenses?

There are not a lot of additional expenses. Program expenses (excluding books) are estimated at about \$150.00. These expenses include the purchase of liability insurance, professional association membership, laboratory attire, name tag, goniometer, etc. Other costs include transportation and food during clinical internships.

I understand the program requires full-time internships. Can I continue to work my regular job and complete this requirement?

The program includes the completion of two full-time 8 week clinical affiliations. During these periods you are required to work (unpaid) under the supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in a contracted health care facility. The clinical affiliation provides you with the opportunity to apply all of the skills and techniques learned in the classroom and laboratory in real clinical situations. Students work at their assigned clinical site for 40 hours per week. Affiliation schedules may include a combination of day, evening, and sometimes weekend hours. Some students have continued to work part-time jobs while completing their affiliations. However, given the required level of commitment, it may be difficult to work and complete clinical affiliations simultaneously.

If I decide to go on to PT school, will I get credit for my PTA courses?

No. Physical therapist assistant education is not a short cut to physical therapist school. Physical therapist education occurs at the doctoral level (DPT). Though courses in PT school may have similar titles as courses in PTA school, the depth, breadth, and emphasis of content may be very different. Certainly completing courses at the associate level may enhance your understanding of physical therapist education course material. General education courses such as English, math, philosophy, etc. are generally transferable to the baccalaureate degree.

Do you have to take an examination after graduation in order to be a PTA?

Yes. Following completion of all academic requirements graduates must successfully complete the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for Physical Therapist Assistants. Graduates must pass this examination in order to work as a PTA in the United States.

What percentage of program graduates pass the examination?

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) reports a program two- year examination pass rate of 88% (2017-2018). This number changes as more students who may have not passed, re-take the examination. Program records indicate that the overall pass rate for graduates is about 88% with a first time examination pass rate of 71%.

How difficult is it to find a job as a PTA?

Program statistics indicate that 100% of program graduates who seek employment are employed either full or part-time within 3 months of graduation.

Does the PTA program have a job placement program?

No. However, the program offers job placement assistance by informing students and graduates of available jobs and providing resume and interview training.

What kind of salaries do PTA's earn?

The U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics recently published the following information:

"Median annual earnings of physical therapist assistants were \$58,040 in May 2018. The middle 50 percent earned between \$46,800 and \$68,700. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$33,780, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$79,810. Median annual earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of physical therapists assistants in May 2018 were:"

Nursing care facilities	\$63,200
General medical and surgical hospitals	\$52,260
Offices of other health practitioners	\$52,910

It has been the program experience that in the New York metropolitan area, new graduates earn between \$39,000 and \$54,000 in annual salary. These figures differ greatly depending upon type of facility, full-time versus part-time, and other factors.



Kingsborough Community College of the City University of New York

Department of Allied Health, Mental Health and Human Services

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM



Kingsborough Community College
2001 Oriental Boulevard
Brooklyn, New York 11235