

# Physical Therapist Assistant, A.A.S.

HEGIS: 5219.00

PROGRAM CODE: 88328

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Dr. Steven Skinner

DEPARTMENT: ALLIED HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Physical Therapist Assistant AAS degree prepares students with the professional training and hands-on experience for a career as a Physical Therapist Assistant. The degree provides a balance of general education courses and introduces students to the theory and practice of physical therapy through classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences. The curriculum aligns with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) criteria and standards to ensure quality in the entry-level preparation of physical therapists assistants and the evolving nature of education, research, and practice characteristics of physical therapy. Students are eligible for licensure exam(s) after the successful completion of the course of study presented in this degree program.

The curriculum presented here applies to students who started the major in Fall 2025 or Spring 2026. If you enrolled as a matriculant prior to that, please see the College Catalog for the year you started the major as a matriculant for the curriculum requirements that apply to you.

***Consultation with the Program Advisor is required.***

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## Degree Maps:

[Degree Map for Physical Therapist Assistant, A.A.S.](#)

Your Degree Map contains the suggested term-by-term course sequence for your academic path towards graduation.

To ensure successful and timely completion of your degree, it is recommended that you meet with your academic advisor to discuss your unique map.

Please note some courses *may* only be offered once an academic year.

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## Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant degree program requirements, graduates will:

1. demonstrate PTA entry-level skills that are applicable to a variety of patient care settings
2. demonstrate an awareness and commitment to patient dignity as well as social responsibility, citizenship, and advocacy

3. recognize individual and cultural differences and respond appropriately in all aspects of physical therapy services
  4. demonstrate competence in implementing and adjusting selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care
  5. adjust interventions within the plan of care and report this and any changes in patient's status
  6. recognize when intervention should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and respond appropriately
  7. demonstrate competency in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care
  8. recognize when the direction to perform an intervention is beyond that which is appropriate
  9. communicate with the patient, the physical therapist, health care delivery personnel, and others
  10. communicate an understanding of the plan of care developed by a physical therapist to achieve short and long term goals
  11. demonstrate sensitivity to patients' non-verbal behavior as it relates to their reaction to treatment services provided
  12. complete thorough, accurate, logical, concise, timely, and legible documentation
  13. demonstrate competency in the use of information technology
  14. participate in administrative functions within a physical therapy service
  15. participate in discharge planning and follow-up as directed by the supervising physical therapist
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### **College Requirements:**

English and Math proficient as determined by the CUNY Proficiency Index, unless otherwise exempt, or successful completion of any required developmental course(s).

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### **Civic Engagement Experiences:**

One (1) Civic Engagement experience satisfied by Civic Engagement Certified or Civic Engagement Component course or approved outside activity.

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### **Writing Intensive Requirement:**

One (1) Writing Intensive Course in any discipline is required.

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### **Required Core (4 Courses, 13 Credits):**

**When Required Core Courses are specified for a category, they are required for the major**

- ENG 1200 - Composition I 3 Credit(s)
  - ENG 2400 - Composition II 3 Credit(s)
  - **Mathematical & Quantitative Reasoning Course\***
    - MAT 2010 - Statistics with Elementary Algebra 3 Credit(s) **or**
    - MAT 20B0 - Statistics with Algebra 3 Credit(s) **or**
    - MAT 2000 - Elements of Statistics 3 Credit(s)
  - **Life & Physical Sciences Course\***
    - BIO 1100 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I 4 Credit(s)
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## **Flexible Core (3 Courses, 10 Credits):**

**When Flexible Core Courses are specified for a category, they are required for the major.** Group C and E are satisfied by the courses shown.

### C. Creative Expression Designated Course

- SPE 2100 - Effective Public Speaking 3 Credit(s)

### E. Scientific World Designated Course\*

- PSY 1100 - General Psychology 3 Credit(s)
  - BIO 1200 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II 4 Credit(s)
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## **Major Requirements (12 Courses, 44 Credits):**

- PTA 100 - Foundations of Physical Therapy I 3 Credit(s)
  - PTA 200 - Kinesiology and Applied Anatomy 4 Credit(s)
  - PTA 300 - Foundations of Physical Therapy II 3 Credit(s)
  - PTA 400 - Modalities and Procedures I 5 Credit(s)
  - PTA 500 - Therapeutic Exercise 5 Credit(s)
  - PTA 600 - Clinical Practicum I 3 Credit(s)
  - PTA 700 - Modalities and Procedures II 4 Credit(s)
  - PTA 800 - Selected Topics in Physical Therapy 5 Credit(s)
  - PTA 900 - Clinical Practicum II 3 Credit(s)
  - PTA 1000 - Introduction to Physical Therapy 3 Credit(s)
  - PTA 2000 - Pathology 3 Credit(s)
  - PTA 2500 - Interactions in the Clinic 3 Credit(s)
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## **Electives:**

1 credit sufficient to meet required total of 68 credits

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**Notes:**

\* This program has a waiver to require particular courses in the Common Core, otherwise more than the minimum credits for the degree may be necessary.

The *Physical Therapist Assistant Program* is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), an independent part of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), 3030 Potomac Ave, Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22305-3085; phone (703) 706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org). If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call, (718) 368-4818 or email: [steven.skinner@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:steven.skinner@kbcc.cuny.edu).

**Total Credits: 68**

**THE A.A.S. IN PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA) HAS A LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS AVAILABLE FOR ADMISSION EACH SPRING SEMESTER. THE COURSES ARE OFFERED ONCE PER ACADEMIC YEAR.**

**ALL FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN AND TRANSFER STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED AS LIBERAL ARTS (A.A.) STUDENTS TAKING A SEQUENCE OF COURSES WHICH, ONCE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED, COULD LEAD TO ENTRANCE INTO THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT MAJOR.**

The mission of the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Kingsborough Community College is to: develop well qualified entry level physical therapist assistants who reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the community which the college serves and who function under the supervision of the physical therapist in a variety of physical therapy settings, capable of providing physical therapy treatments as outlined by the physical therapist to the satisfaction of the physical therapist. Further, the mission includes graduating clinicians who meet standards for licensure or registration as a physical therapist assistant in a variety of states. The mission also includes meeting the accreditation standards of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) for Physical Therapist Assistant Programs.

## **Minimum Entrance Requirements**

A maximum of 24 students are admitted each Spring term.

To be considered for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, students must be English and Math proficient as determined by the CUNY Proficiency Index, unless otherwise exempt, or have successfully completed any required developmental or corequisite model course(s).

Students must apply for admission to the PTA Program by mid-November of the term preceding entry into the program. Applications for the program are available in the Program Director's office, S-128.

## **Admission Requirements**

Minimum overall grade point average of 2.80. Successful completion of the following prerequisite courses: ENG 1200, PSY 1100, MAT 2010 **or** MAT 20B0 **or** MAT 2000, and BIO 1100 for consideration for the program. Courses from other colleges to be applied toward program requirements must have grades submitted for them.

In addition to completing the prerequisite courses, students must complete a minimum of 25 hours of exposure to physical therapy services, provide a letter of recommendation from a physical therapist working in the exposure facility, and submit a writing sample on an assigned topic.

Top candidates are interviewed by a panel of faculty and complete the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS).

Students who have been administratively dismissed from a Physical Therapist Assistant program at a previous school are not eligible for admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

The admissions process is a competitive process and not all applicants are granted admission to the program. Students interested in the program should contact the Director of the PTA Program, S-128.

Starting in the Fall 2020 semester and beyond, the Physical Therapist Assistant program will consider applicants for admission who are eligible for licensing in New York under the regulations of the New York State Education Department. The regulations provide eligibility for citizens and non-citizens who are “not unlawfully present,” including those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and those permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL)

In order to advance into the program, students may demonstrate eligibility through documents that verify that they meet the required criteria. Most common documents include:

1. Proof of U.S. Citizenship through a birth certificate, U.S. passport, naturalization certificate, or a certificate of citizenship
2. Proof of legal permanent resident status with what is known as a “Green Card”
3. Proof of various eligible categories, listed below, generally through an employment authorization document (EAD) or other satisfactory documents

Eligible immigration categories:

- International student with F-1 status
- Asylee
- Refugee
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Individuals paroled into the United States whose parole has not expired
- Persons residing in the U.S. pursuant to an Order of Supervision
- Persons granted a stay of deportation/removal
- Persons granted an indefinite voluntary departure
- Persons on whose behalf an immediate relative petition has been approved
- Persons who have filed an application for adjustment of status to permanent resident
- Persons granted Deferred Action Status
- Persons who entered and have continuously resided in the U.S. before 01/01/1972
- Persons granted suspension of deportation or cancellation of removal
- Cuban/Haitian entrants
- Persons with a pending application for asylum, withholding of removal or deportation, protection under the Convention Against Torture (CAT), cancellation of removal, or TPS

- Persons in T or U non-immigrant status
- Self-petitioner under the Violence Against Women Act
- Other persons living in the U.S. who are not unlawfully present

## **Retention Criteria**

Criteria for retention in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program mandates that students:

1. within the program must earn a “C” or better in all PTA courses. In addition, students must earn a “C” or better on all comprehensive final practical and written examinations in PTA courses.
2. receiving less than “C” in any PTA course will be prohibited from progressing in the program. The student may apply for readmission the following academic year. Upon readmission the student must repeat the course. A course may only be repeated once. No more than two required PTA courses can be repeated because of an unsatisfactory initial grade.
3. repeating a course must register for it the next time that course is offered and must demonstrate competency in all prior coursework before progressing in the program.

## **Practicum Courses**

Following the successful completion of the first two terms of the program students will enroll in Practicum courses and will participate as physical therapist assistant students in various physical therapy settings. During the Practicum courses, students will be required to attend the clinic full-time including days, nights and weekend hours, as directed by the facility.

## **Practicum Requirements**

Course Completion:

The student must complete and achieve a grade of “C” in the following courses prior to placement in the first Practicum:

PTA 100, PTA 1000, PTA 200, PTA 2000, PTA 300, PTA 400, PTA 500, BIO 1100 and BIO 1200.

## **Health Clearance – Malpractice Insurance – CPR Certification**

Prior to registration for the first Practicum, students in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program are required to obtain health clearance. The program will supply each student with a standard medical form. Students must submit physician signed evidence of compliance with health requirements regarding annual physical examination, immunization, tuberculosis testing by the second week of the fall session.

All PTA students are required to maintain liability insurance during clinical Practicums. Students must provide valid documentation of this to the Academic Coordinator of Clinical

Education (ACCE) in the PTA program prior to registration. Students must also obtain CPR (BLS) certification and provide documentation to the ACCE prior to registration in the first Practicum.

## **Notes**

- a. **Students incur the expenses of purchasing a lab coat and scrubs and may opt to purchase individual protective goggles.**
- b. **The academic requirements in the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum are demanding and students are cautioned to plan their work schedules and extra-curricular activities with this in mind.**

## **Licensure**

Following completion of all academic requirements graduates must successfully complete the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for Physical Therapist Assistants.