

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT AAS

Total Credits: 67

Catalog Edition: 2025-2026

Program Description

(TP/SS): 580

Students who plan to major in physical therapist assistant will be assigned the temporary major of prephysical therapist assistant, with POS code 580, until they are officially admitted to the physical therapist assistant program. Students may take preparatory courses and courses that fulfill general education requirements during the waiting period. As an alternative to being assigned a temporary major, students waiting for admission to the physical therapist assistant program may choose to major in general studies or any other open-admission program.

The Office of Records and Admissions at Takoma Park/Silver Spring will assign a matriculated code once students are admitted to the physical therapist assistant program. The program provides a foundation for graduates to become highly skilled in providing patient services using physical therapy techniques under the supervision and direction of a licensed physical therapist in clinics, hospitals, and many other health care settings. This is a selective program with specific admissions requirements. For additional information, contact the Office of Records and Admissions at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, 240-567-1501, or the program department.

Thirty to forty hours of volunteer experience in a physical therapy setting and completion of BIOL 212 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I are recommended before entering the program. It is advised that students not hold full-time jobs during enrollment in the program because physical therapist assistant students are required to attend full-time clinical practicum experiences and professional activities.

Each physical therapy course adds to material offered in previous courses. Students in this curriculum are expected to achieve a grade of C or better in each course in the curriculum. Upon completion of the curriculum, the graduate will receive the AAS and will be eligible to take the National Licensing Exam for Physical Therapist Assistants.

A suggested course sequence for full-time students follows; part-time students should consult an advisor.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate the entry-level knowledge, clinical skills, and professional abilities of a physical therapist assistant.
- Deliver competent patient care under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist, in an ethical, legal, safe, and effective manner in a variety of health care settings.
- Manage an effective transition from the educational program to a career as a licensed physical therapist assistant.

Program Advisors

Takoma Park/Silver Spring

- Prof. Anniet Glenn, 240-567-5524,
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For more information, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/programs/physical-therapist-assistant/physical-therapist-assistant-aas-degree.html>

To view the Advising Worksheet, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/documents/counseling-and-advising/advising-worksheets/current-catalog/580.pdf>

2025-2026

Program Advising Guide

An Academic Reference Tool for Students

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT AAS

Suggested Course Sequence

A suggested course sequence for full-time students follows. All students should review this advising guide and consult an advisor.

First Semester

ENGL 102 or English Foundation 3 semester hours
MATH Foundation (117 or higher) 3 semester hours
Arts/Humanities Distribution 3 semester hours
PSYC 100 - Introduction to Psychology 3 semester hours
BIOL 150 - Principles of Biology I 4 semester hours
BIOL 212 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I 4 semester hours
ENGL 101 or ENGL 101A if needed 3 semester hours

Second Semester

PHTH 101 - Introduction to PT 2 semester hours
PHTH 102 - Basic Health Care Skills for PTA 2 semester hours
PHTH 104 - Surface Anatomy, Palpation, and Massage 2 semester hours
PHTH 112 - Pathology for PTA 2 semester hours
PHTH 113 - Seminar I 1 semester hour

Third Semester

PHTH 103 - Therapeutic Procedures I 3 semester hours
PHTH 105 - Kinesiology I 2 semester hours
PHTH 114 - Seminar II 1 semester hour
PHTH 116 - Measures and Interventions for Clinical Problems I 2 semester hours

Total Credit Hours: 67

** ENGL 101/ENGL 101A , if needed, for ENGL 102/ENGL 103, or check with adviser.

Advising Notes

Pre-physical therapist assistant degree code is 580. Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant professional degree requires that students complete the Health Sciences Application - see <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/programs/physical-therapist-assistant/resources.html> Admissions requirements and the professional curriculum may change, so students should be advised to stay in touch with the PTA Program coordinator, attend an Information Session, and review the PTA Program course page on the MC web.

Minimum requirements for admission include completion of college level English, college level Math, college level Biology, a minimum gpa of 2.5, and the TEAS test. Priority course is BIOL 212. General education courses may be completed at any MC campus or transferred from another college. Successful applicants will have the professional degree code 300.

The professional PTA curriculum is organized as a cohort program offered only at TP/SS campus. Professional majors must take all PHTH courses offered in the semester and must successfully complete all courses before being allowed to progress to the next semester. Clinical internships have additional requirements including health physical; immunization records; drug/alcohol checks; criminal background checks; CPR; PPD; flu shots; and proof of health insurance.

Fourth Semester

PHTH 106 - Kinesiology II 2 semester hours
PHTH 201 - Medical Reporting for PTA 2 semester hours

Fifth Semester

PHTH 204 - Neurophysiology and Motor Learning 2 semester hours
PHTH 205 - Seminar III 1 semester hour
PHTH 206 - Measures and Interventions for Clinical Problems II 3 semester hours
PHTH 223 - Clinical Practicum I 5 semester hours – or 6 full time weeks at the end of the semester

Sixth Semester

PHTH 215 - Seminar IV 1 semester hour
PHTH 216 - Measures and Interventions for Clinical Problems III 2 semester hours
PHTH 220 - Therapeutic Procedures II 2 semester hours
PHTH 224 - Clinical Practicum II 7 semester hours – or 8 full time weeks at the end of the semester

Transfer Opportunities

Montgomery College has partnerships with multiple four-year institutions and the tools to help you transfer. To learn more, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/transfer> or <http://artsys.usmd.edu>.

Get Involved at MC!

Employers and Transfer Institutions are looking for experience outside the classroom.

MC Student Clubs and Organizations: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/life-at-mc/student-life/>

Related Careers

Some require a Bachelor's degree.

Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Physical Therapist Aide.

Career Services

Montgomery College offers a range of services to students and alumni to support the career planning process. To learn more, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/career>

Career Coach

A valuable online search tool that will give you the opportunity to explore hundreds of potential careers or job possibilities in Maryland and the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Get started today on your road to a new future and give it a try. For more information, please visit <https://montgomerycollege.emsicc.com>

Notes:

The transition from Physical Therapist Assistant to Physical Therapist requires a bachelor's degree and application to a graduate school at a university that has a physical therapy doctoral degree program.

Counselors can refer students interested in careers as a physical therapist to pre-physical therapy transfer information at <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/programs/physical-therapist-assistant/resources.html>. Counselors may also refer students to the PTA Program Coordinator or PTA Program faculty.