

## Careers

Physical therapist assistants and physical therapist aides are supervised by physical therapists in providing services that help improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients suffering from injuries or disease. Patients include accident victims and individuals with disabling conditions, such as low back pain, arthritis, heart disease, fractures, head injuries, and cerebral palsy.

Physical therapist assistants perform a variety of tasks under the direction of physical therapists, including exercises, massages, gait training, electrical stimulation, paraffin baths, hot and cold packs, traction, and ultrasound. They also record the patient's responses to treatment and report to the physical therapist the outcome of each treatment.

## Salary

Median annual earnings of physical therapist assistants were \$37,890 in 2004 (\$37,790 in general medical and surgical hospitals; \$37,120 in offices of other health practitioners). The middle 50 percent earned between \$31,060 and \$44,050. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$24,110, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$52,110.

## Job Outlook

Employment of physical therapist assistants is expected to grow faster than the average through 2014, due to the rapidly growing elderly population nationwide.

## Education & Training Options

Montgomery College offers an associate of applied science degree (A.A.S.) in physical therapist assistant. (See reverse for *physical therapist assistant curriculum*.)

### ■ Degree

The curriculum is accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association to provide entry-level education for the physical therapist assistant. Upon completion of the A.A.S., graduates are eligible for the national licensing exam for physical therapist assistants. Licensed physical therapist assistants practice limited physical therapy, while under the direction of a licensed physical therapist, in clinics, hospitals, and many other health care settings.

This is a selective program with specific program requirements. Thirty to forty hours of volunteer experience in a physical therapy setting are recommended before entering the program. Students completing BI 204 and EN 101 prior to the application process may improve their chances of admission to the program. It is advised that students not hold full-time jobs during enrollment in the program because physical therapist assistant classes and lab sessions are scheduled during the day, and students are required to attend full-time or part-time clinical practicum experiences during the last four to six weeks of the second, third, and fourth semesters.

## Contact @ MC

Takoma Park/Silver Spring

Campus . . . . .240-567-5520  
[www.montgomerycollege.edu/pta/](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/pta/)

# Physical Therapist Assistant Curriculum

## Degrees, Certificates, and Letters of Recognition

Montgomery College is authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to offer four degrees (associate of arts, associate of science, associate of applied science, and associate of arts in teaching) and certificates. In addition, the College recognizes students who satisfactorily complete certain course sequences with letters of recognition.

Some curricula are offered at all campuses, whereas others are limited to one or two. When a curriculum is offered at a specific campus, it is indicated by G for Germantown, R for Rockville, or TP for Takoma Park/Silver Spring.

## Admission to Montgomery College is open to all.

Math, English, and reading assessment tests are required prior to registering. (Some students may be exempt from assessment. Consult the *Montgomery College Catalog* for criteria.) Financial aid and scholarships are available to qualified candidates.

## Take the next step.

Complete an Application for Admission form (online @ [www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions/mcadmiss.htm](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions/mcadmiss.htm)) or call 240-567-5000 for information.

## Physical Therapist Assistant A.A.S. (TP)

### First Semester

BI	204	Human Anatomy and Physiology I*	4
EN	101	Techniques of Reading and Writing I	3
HE	107	First Aid and CPR	2
PT	101	Introduction to Physical Therapy	1
PT	102	Basic Health Skills for the Physical Therapist Assistant	2
PT	103	Therapeutic Procedures I	2
PY	102	General Psychology	3

### Second Semester

BI	205	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
		English foundation	3
PT	105	Kinesiology	3
PT	110	Therapeutic Procedures II	2
PT	111	Clinical Practicum I	3
PT	112	Pathology for the Physical Therapist Assistant	2

### Summer Semester

		Mathematics foundation	3
		Arts or humanities distribution	3

### Third Semester

PT	201	Medical Reporting for the Physical Therapist Assistant	3
PT	208	Therapeutic Procedures III	2
PT	209	Clinical Practicum II	3
PT	212	Psychological Aspects of Therapy for the Physical Therapist Assistant	3
PY	203	Human Growth and Development during the Lifespan	3
		Speech foundation	3

### Fourth Semester

PT	211	Rehabilitation Procedures	5
PT	213	Therapeutic Procedures IV	2
PT	214	Clinical Practicum III	5

**Total credit hours 69**

\* Students are encouraged to complete BI 204 prior to enrolling in PT courses; note that BI 204 has a prerequisite.