
Introduction

Physical Therapist Assistant is a two-year academic and technical program leading to an Associate's Degree in Applied Sciences, originally offered at the College of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Cincinnati for the past several years. The PTA Program has been set up under the guidelines of the American Physical Therapy Association. Students completing the Program should be eligible to take the examination for state licensure. The Program is accredited by the Commission on American Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

The current status of the program is as follows:

Clermont College has obtained approval for its recent Application for Substantive Change. The change involved a transfer of sponsorship of the accredited physical therapist assistant program at the University of Cincinnati to Clermont College. Clermont College will continue the accreditation efforts, as recognized by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org).

The Physical Therapist Assisting Program is designed to train students in the various exercises, techniques, and uses of equipment necessary for the physical rehabilitation of a patient. The physical therapist assistant works under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The goal of physical therapy is to improve or restore a patient's function following injury, illness, or disease. In order to do so, the therapist employs techniques such as heat and cold treatments, ultrasound, massage, and prescribed exercise programs which may involve the use of mechanical equipment. The physical therapist assistant performs many of the functions of this process: monitoring patient progress, instruction patients in the use of therapy aids and assisting in the performance of prescribed exercises.

Physical Therapist Assistants may work in private, federal, state, or city hospitals, voluntary health agencies, such as the Easter Seal Society, public health agencies, home health associations, skilled nursing facilities, and for Boards of Education. Because of the increase in the proportion of our population in the sixty-year-old and older category, continued concern for the handicapped, and an increasing interest in preventive medicine, it is likely that employment opportunities in extended care facilities, health care agencies, and home health associations will expand in the future. In addition, there are excellent opportunities which exist today in hospital physical therapy departments.

