



# Physical Therapist Assistant

Department: Allied Health

Degree: Associate of Applied Science

Entry time: Fall

Length: 2 years (5 semesters, including 1 summer)

- The curriculum is an integrated two-year model, with students' **clinical education** woven throughout the program.
- Two short-term and two long-term clinicals allow students to **gain hands-on experience** in a variety of healthcare settings located across Iowa and in neighboring states.
- Both full-time and adjunct faculty have extensive experience as physical therapists and educators, thereby bringing their **real-world knowledge** to the classroom and lab.
- Advisory committee members are actively involved in the Physical Therapist Assistant program and represent a **variety of employment settings**. The committee is instrumental in providing feedback to the program on up-to-date clinical practice.
- The program has a **spacious lab** that is well equipped with state-of-the-art equipment used in current physical therapy practice.
- The program includes curriculum focused on **background theory, assessment, and treatment techniques** for a variety of patient populations.
- **Kibbie Grant:** Students in this program may be eligible to have half their tuition paid for by the Kibbie Grant. Go to [www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie](http://www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie) for more details.

## Program Description

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) work closely with physical therapists (PTs) to provide services to people with physical disabilities. Patient treatments may include exercise, functional training, gait training, massage, electrical stimulation, hot/cold packs, traction, ultrasound, and other therapeutic interventions. The PT performs an initial patient examination and identifies patient problems and goals, then outlines a plan of care. The PTA assists the PT by carrying out all or part of the plan of care, monitoring the patient's progress and documenting the care.

The program includes curriculum focused on background theory, assessment, and treatment techniques for a variety of patient populations. Students will also have two short-term and two long-term clinical experiences that allow them to gain hands-on experience in a variety of health care settings. Clinic sites are located across Iowa and in neighboring states.

The primary location for Physical Therapist Assistant students will be the Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center in Hiawatha.

This Allied Health program has a mandatory background check for clinical purposes.

## Career Opportunities

Outpatient clinics – orthopedics, sports medicine, pediatrics, etc.  
Hospitals  
Skilled nursing facilities  
Rehabilitation centers

Home health  
School systems

## Sample Classes

Human Anatomy and Physiology  
Kinesiology  
Functional Motor Development  
PTA Modalities  
Pathophysiology  
PTA Procedures  
Orthopedic Issues  
Rehab for Medical Conditions  
Neurology for PTA

## Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Kirkwood is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).



3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100  
Alexandria, VA 22305-3085  
Telephone: 703-706-3245  
Website: [www.capteonline.org](http://www.capteonline.org)  
Email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org)

## Licensure

PTA graduates qualify to take the licensure exam given by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Licensure is granted by the Iowa Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners. Most states, including Iowa, require a license to practice as a PTA. Annual continuing education hours are required to maintain a license.

See reverse side for scholarship information.

## Scholarships

Kirkwood will help you pay for college!

Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa.

For more information and to apply, visit

[www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships](http://www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships).

Kirkwood Community College shall not engage in nor allow unlawful discrimination against individuals involved in its educational programs and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, age, disability, or actual or potential parental, family, or marital status. If you have questions or complaints related to compliance with the policy, please contact the Vice President of Human Resources at Kirkwood Community College, 313 Kirkwood Hall, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404, Telephone: 319-398-5572, Email: [equity@kirkwood.edu](mailto:equity@kirkwood.edu), or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604-7204, Telephone: 312-730-1560, Fax: 312-730-1576, Email: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov).