

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT



About This Program¹

Carrington's Physical Therapist Assistant program prepares students to function as entry-level practitioners under the supervision of a physical therapist. This is a mix of formal instruction, laboratory practice and hands-on clinical experience.

Students who successfully complete the Physical Therapist Assistant program are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for PTAs². To work as a physical therapist assistant in California, graduates must also pass the California Law Examination (CLE), which relates to the practice of physical therapy.

Careers in Physical Therapist Assisting

Physical therapist assistants work under the supervision of physical therapists to help patients whose ability to move is impaired and provide practical assistance to the elderly, injured athletes, children and countless others in hospitals, home care agencies, rehabilitation facilities, outpatient clinics and nursing homes.

Knowledge and Skills

Upon completion of the Physical Therapist Assistant program, graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate ability to document data collection, interventions, and patient/client responses.
- Interact skillfully with patients, families, and other healthcare providers while promoting optimal outcomes.
- Differentiate the appropriate actions to employ in emergency situations.
- Exhibit the appropriate skills necessary to perform routine entry-level physical therapist assisting in a professional setting.
- Demonstrate ethical behavior consistent with valuing the differences among patients, families, another healthcare providers.

General Education Coursework

In this degree program, students complete a broad base of general education course offerings focusing on:

- English Writing and Composition
- Communication
- Mathematics
- Social Sciences
- Science



¹ Individuals seeking to enter this career field may be subject to screenings such as, but not limited to, criminal background checks and drug/alcohol testing prior to externship, to attain occupational licensure/certification or employment, and throughout their careers.

² Carrington College prepares students to take appropriate certification and licensure exams related to their individual majors. The College does not guarantee students will successfully pass these exams or be certified or licensed as a result of completing the program. Credential preparation varies by location.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT



Campus Based: Las Vegas and Pleasant Hill

Physical Therapist Assistant Campus-Based Program Requirements

TECHNICAL AND GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES		LECTURE HOURS	LAB HOURS	CLINICAL HOURS	SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS
ENG101 ¹	English Writing and Composition	45	0	0	3
MAT101 ¹	Principles of Mathematics	45	0	0	3
BIO107 ^{2 3}	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	45	30	0	4
SPH205 ¹	Interpersonal Communications	45	0	0	3
BIO207 ²	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	45	30	0	4
SOC101 ¹	Introduction to Sociology (Pleasant Hill only)	45	0	0	3
BIO223 ^{2 3}	Therapeutic Exercise Prescription	45	0	0	3
GOV141 ¹	Nevada and US Constitutions (Las Vegas only)	45	0	0	3
PSY101 ¹	Introduction to Psychology	45	0	0	3
BIO222 ^{2 3}	Clinical Kinesiology	45	30	0	4
PTA112	Fundamentals of Physical Therapist Assisting	30	30	0	3
PTA224	Physical Therapy Data Collection and Documentation	30	30	0	3
PTA189	Pathophysiology for the PTA	45	0	0	3
PTA153.1	Physical Agents and Soft Tissue Mobilization	30	30	0	3
PTA177	Management of Orthopedic Disorders	45	30	0	4
PTA210	Management of Neurologic Disorders	45	30	0	4
PTA240	Ethics and Jurisprudence	30	0	0	2
PTA297	Licensure Review	0	0	60	3
PTA223	Advanced Concepts for PTA	45	30	0	4
PTA230	Clinical Applications Across the Lifespan	30	0	0	2
PTA258	Clinical Education II	0	0	320	6
PTA289	Clinical Education III	0	0	320	6
TOTAL FOR DEGREE		735	270	700	73

Technical courses must be taken in the sequence listed.

Approximate time to complete degree program: 80 weeks (not including breaks)

¹Online general education course, these may be taken in any order except when determined by prerequisite.

²Science-based general education course ³BIO107, BIO222, and BIO223 will not be eligible for transfer credits and must be taken at Carrington.

General education courses must be completed for progression into the technical portion of the PTA program.

Technical Coursework

The basic areas of study in this program include anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, human movement and movement disorders. The curriculum provides a broad base of knowledge covering issues related to the muscles, bones, nerves, ligaments and tendons. The program concludes with offsite clinical experiences during which students practice physical therapy interventions on patients in a variety of health care settings.

In addition to meeting the College's standard admission requirements, candidates may need to meet additional requirements, including drug screening and background checks.

Carrington's academic catalog, available at carrington.edu/catalog, provides the most current and detailed program information, including admission and graduation requirements.

Accreditation and Disclosures

Carrington College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, 428 J Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at accjc.org.

For comprehensive information on Carrington's accreditation and approvals, visit carrington.edu/accreditation. Visit carrington.edu/sci for important information on program outcomes.

Program availability varies by location. Carrington College reserves the right to update information as it becomes available. For the most updated information, visit carrington.edu.