

Physical Therapist Assistant

Entry wages (2014): \$23.15 per hour or \$ 48,152 annually

Projected growth (2016-2025) Faster than average at 51.3% in Tarrant County

What will you do?

Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs), work with patients in providing therapeutic exercises. Exercises include manual therapy, massage therapy, and aquatic therapy exercises. Using various therapy techniques such as heat, light, ultrasound, electrical stimulation, mechanical traction, and balancing activities. They perform instructions for patients in the proper use of equipment such as braces, crutches, walkers and other aides. Physical therapist assistants can also specialize in cardiovascular and pulmonary, clinical electrophysiology, geriatrics, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, sports, women's health, hand therapy, ergonomics, wound care and ostomy.

Where will you work?

Physical Therapist Assistants typically work in physical therapists' offices or in hospitals. Physical therapist assistants and aides are frequently on their feet and moving as they set up equipment and help care for patients.

What Experience do you need?

Physical Therapists Assistant is a Middle Skill Occupation. No previous experience is required to become licensed or certified as a Physical Therapist Aide or technician, but you cannot work as a Physical Therapist Assistant until you graduate from an approved accredited physical therapy program, and pass the National Physical Therapy Exam administered by the [Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy](#) (FSBPT). The FSBPT has assigned school codes of approved accredited education programs required for state licensure exam. Physical therapist aides usually have a high school diploma and receive on-the-job training and can only work under the supervision of a Physical Therapists or Physical Therapy Assistants.

What type of Training do I need?

Only physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapist assistants (PTAs) licensed by the [Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners \(TBPTE\)](#) can provide physical therapy in Texas. A PTA can provide physical therapy services only under the direction and supervision of a PT.

Physical therapist assistants entering the profession need an associate's degree from an accredited program. All states require physical therapist assistants to be licensed or certified. To renew your license, you are required to take continuing competence education courses that are TBPTE approved. Employers are able to verify your education and credentials when considering employment offers.



31-2021.00 – Physical Therapist Assistants (ONET Code)

What else should I know?

Medical occupations are sensitive to criminal backgrounds. For criminal background applicants please check each certifying organization's policy for application and recertifying. For complete listing of convictions and deferred adjudications,

See: <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/HS/htm/HS.250.htm>

Sec. 250.006. CONVICTIONS BARRING EMPLOYMENT.

Approved Tarrant County Training Programs

Provider	Program Name	Hours (Contact/Credit)	Cost	Pell Eligible
Tarrant County College-South	Physical Therapist Assistant	2112/70	\$7,225.00	Yes
The College of Healthcare Professionals	Physical Therapy Technician	800/0	\$12,000.00	Yes
Tarrant County College Physical Therapist Assistant education program is accredited. For a full listing of accredited schools approved go to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners website under "Apply for a License".				

The cost of training reflected on this page is set by the training provider and does not reflect Tarrant County WIOA funding amounts. All services are subject to availability and funding.

*This information is subject to change. See a Workforce Center Career Counselor for more information.



DRAFT Career Pathway Map – Physical Therapists Assistant Occupation

