



Physical Therapist Assistant, AAS Degree - 74 credits Program Area: Health (Fall 2025) Traditional and Military Bridge Tracks

The electronic program application may be found on the LSC website. The priority application deadline date for the on-campus program is March 1 for fall semester starts; applications are accepted after March 1 if the program is not yet full. Military Bridge program applications are accepted year-round for spring semester starts.

Program Description

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program provides an opportunity to become an educated health care provider who delivers physical therapy services under the supervision of a physical therapist. The PTA is able to observe and assess the patient's condition, teach exercises and activities of daily living, use specialized equipment, demonstrate professional skills while implementing treatment procedures, observe the patient's response to treatment, and document. Physical therapy practitioners minimize physical disability, movement dysfunction, and pain. Physical therapist assistants may find opportunity to work in a variety of settings.

Program Outcomes

- Work under the supervision of a physical therapist in an ethical, legal, safe, and effective manner.
- Implement a comprehensive treatment plan developed by a physical therapist.
- Communicate regularly with supervising physical therapists about the patient's progress and the need for adjustments to be made by the physical therapist in treatment procedures in accordance with changes in patient status.
- Perform appropriate data collection techniques within the knowledge and limits of practice to assist supervising physical therapists in monitoring and modifying the plan of care.
- Interact with patients and families in a manner which provides the desired psychosocial support including the recognition of cultural and socioeconomic differences.
- Participate in the teaching of other health care providers, patients and families.
- Document relevant aspects of patient treatment.
- Participate in discharge planning and follow-up care.
- Demonstrate effective written, oral, and nonverbal communication with patients and their families, colleagues, health care providers, and the public.
- Demonstrate an understanding of levels of authority and responsibility; planning, time management, supervisory process, performance evaluations, policies and procedures; fiscal considerations for physical therapy providers and consumers; continuous quality improvement; and evidence-based practice.
- Demonstrate professional behaviors required for success in the field of physical therapy.
- Identify career development and life-long learning opportunities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of physical therapy principles and concepts.

Pre-Program Courses

| Course | Course Title | Credits | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | | Traditional | Military Bridge |
| ALTH 1410 | Medical Terminology | 1 | 1 # |
| BIOL 1005 | Introduction to Cell Biology | 1 | 1 # |
| BIOL 1140 | Human Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 | 4 # |
| ENGL 1106 | College Composition I | 3 | 3 |

Required Courses

| Course | Course Title | Credits | |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------------|
| | | Traditional | Military Bridge |
| BIOL 1141 | Human Anatomy and Physiology II | 4 | 4 |
| PTA 1000 | Introduction to Health and Medical Literature | 1 | 1 # |
| PTA 1400 | Documentation for PTAs | 1 | 1 # |
| PTA 1410 | Intro to Physical Therapist Assisting | 2 | 2 # |
| PTA 1411 | Procedures for PTAs I | 2 | 2 # |
| PTA 1417 | Clinical Experience I | 2 | 2 # |
| PTA 1421 | Pathophysiology for PTAs I | 1 | 1 # |
| PTA 1431 | Therapeutic Exercise I | 2 | 2 # |
| PTA 1460 | Functional Kinesiology I | 2 | 2 # |
| PTA 1512 | Procedures for PTAs II | 2 | 2 # |
| PTA 1522 | Pathophysiology for PTAs II | 1 | 1 # |
| PTA 1527 | Clinical Experience II | 2 | 2 # |
| PTA 1532 | Therapeutic Exercise II | 4 | 4 # |
| PTA 1541 | Issues in Physical Therapy Practice I | 1 | NR |
| PTA 1562 | Functional Kinesiology II | 3 | 3 # |
| PTA 1564 | Manual Therapy Techniques | 2 | 2 # |
| COMM 1105 OR COMM 1100 | Interpersonal Communication OR Introduction to Communication | 3 | 3 |
| PSYC 1135 | Lifespan Developmental Psychology | 3 | 3 |
| PTA 2613 | Procedures for PTAs III | 2 | 2 # |
| PTA 2623 | Pathophysiology for PTAs III | 2 | NR |
| PTA 2637 | Clinical Experience III | 2 | NR |
| PTA 2642 | Issues in Physical Therapy Practice II | 1 | NR |
| PTA 2650 | Rehabilitation and Functional Therapy | 4 | 4 # |
| PTA 2651 | Advanced Physical Therapy Techniques | 3 | 3 # |
| PTA 2680 | Physical Therapy for Special Populations | NR | 3 |
| PTA 2682 | Legal and Ethical Aspects of Physical Therapy Practice | NR | 2 |
| PTA 2780 | PTA Basic Refresher (must be taken in final semester) | NR | 2 |
| PTA 2790 | Clinical Internship I | 6 | 6 # |
| PTA 2792 | Clinical Internship II | 6 | 6 # |
| PTA 2840 | Professional Integration | 1 | NR |

Total Credits

74 74

Courses may require a prerequisite. Check with an advisor.

= With approved training and work experience, Military Bridge track students will receive a total of 54 credits for courses indicated with a #.

NR = Not required for this track

Pre-program Requirements

Traditional PTA Program (On-Campus) – Applications due March 1st for fall start

Background Study approval is required from the State of Minnesota. Prior to acceptance into the program, students will need to complete the following:

- All Pre-Program courses, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (excluding BIOL 1005).
- A Verification of job shadowing form.
- Submit a program application.

Upon acceptance into the program, students participating in clinicals must have the following:

- A recent physical examination including current immunizations and current negative Tuberculosis (TB) screening.
- Current certification in American Heart Association: BLS Healthcare Provider or American Red Cross: BLS/CPR for Healthcare Providers is required for all clinical courses. ALTH 1430 will satisfy this requirement for one year.

Military Bridge Track (Online) – Applications accepted year-round

Pre-Program and general education courses should be completed prior to PTA courses. Prior to acceptance into the program, students must complete the following:

- Completion of an approved military training program per current program admission criteria.
- Submit a program application, including a recommendation from a supervising physical therapist verifying six-months post-training work experience, and a skills documentation log.

With approved training and work experience, Military Bridge track students will receive a total of 54 credits for courses indicated with a (#).

Federal background study approval is required through a designated provider.

Qualified applicants should be aware that program class sizes are limited, which may delay acceptance into the program.

TEAS Exam with a score at or above 58.6% on ATI TEAS required prior to online application deadline. Admission to the PTA program is competitive based on pre-technical and/or general education course GPA and TEAS score.

Students may be required to complete additional (or less) coursework, dependent upon the results of Computerized Placement Test (CPT) and/or previous coursework completed or certifications awarded. General Education courses required by this program may be taken during any term, including prior to formal program acceptance, as long as the specific prerequisites for that course have been met. All courses in the program need to be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

Successful entry into this program requires a specific level of skill in the areas of English, mathematics, and reading. Program entry will depend, in part, on meeting the prerequisites listed below.

English/Reading:

- Eligible for ENGL 1106 – College Composition I, or
- Completion of ENGL/READ 0950/0955 (or equivalent or higher). ENGL/READ 0950/0955 may not be taken concurrently with Semester I coursework

Mathematics:

- Eligible for MATH 0950/0955 Essentials of Mathematics: Intermediate/Advanced.

There are other ways to qualify. Visit [Course Placement](https://www.lsc.edu/course-placement) (lsc.edu/course-placement) to find out more.

For program application and more information about the Physical Therapist Assistant AAS degree program see the [program website](https://www.lsc.edu/degrees/physical-therapist-assistant-aas/) (https://www.lsc.edu/degrees/physical-therapist-assistant-aas/) or contact the [professional advising team](mailto:advising@lsc.edu) (advising@lsc.edu) at 218-733-7601; or [Jane Worley](mailto:jane.worley@lsc.edu) (jane.worley@lsc.edu), Director of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, 218-733-7632

Program Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Lake Superior College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; [CAPTE website](http://www.capteonline.org) (<http://www.capteonline.org>).



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