

PT Moves Me Ambassador Program - Talking Points for Late College

What is Physical Therapy:

- Physical therapy is treatment provided by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant that helps people improve their movement and physical function, manage pain and other chronic conditions, and recover from and prevent injury and chronic disease.

Who are Physical Therapists:

- Physical therapists are licensed doctors who examine, diagnose, and treat movement dysfunction. They treat people impacted by disease, injury, and disability as well as prevent movement loss and promote wellness.
- Physical therapists are anatomy and physiology experts and have an in-depth knowledge of the body's muscles, bones, nerves, ligaments, tendons, blood vessels, fascia, etc. and how they all work together to keep people moving.

Who are Physical Therapist Assistants:

- Physical therapist assistants are educated and licensed or certified clinicians that provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist.
- There is a difference between physical therapist assistants and physical therapy aids. PTAs are licensed or certified clinicians trained to provide health care services, while PT aides perform nonmedical tasks and assist with clinical duties, working under the supervision of a PT or PTA.

Pathway to DPT Education:

- Common Application Requirements:
 - o Bachelor's Degree at the time of matriculation
 - o Prerequisite Courses: Anatomy, Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Statistics, Psychology
 - o GRE
 - o Official Transcripts
 - o Observation Hours with a licensed physical therapist
 - During COVID many programs and altered this requirement
 - o Letters of Recommendation
 - o Supplemental Application – some programs require you apply to their institution in addition to completing the PTCAS application.
 - o PTCAS application fee (applicants can apply for fee waivers), program fees.
 - o PTCAS.org – find out more information here.
- DPT Application Preparation:
 - o Strong science background and an understanding of the breadth of the profession
 - o Find a mentor (PT, PT student, PT faculty/professor)

Pathway to PTA Education:

- Common Application Requirements – each program has individual application:
 - o High School Diploma/GED
 - o Prerequisite/General Education Courses
 - o Observation Hours
 - During COVID many programs and altered this requirement
 - o Letters of Recommendation
 - o Official Transcripts
 - o APTA.org & CAPTEonline.org – for more information

General Application Tips:

- Do Not:
 - o Wait until the deadline to apply
 - o Submit incorrect information
 - o Take a passive approach to the application process
- Do:
 - o Apply Early.
 - o Stay Organized.
 - o Pay attention to detail.
 - o Be proactive and specific.
- How to prepare:
 - o Strong science background and understanding of the breadth of the profession.
 - o Find a mentor (PT, PT Student, PT faculty/professor)
 - o DO your research
 - o Observe a PT or PTA and try to diversity your observation experience

Professional Opportunities:

DPT Professional Opportunities:	Advanced Proficiency Pathway Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Residency- Board Certified Specialist- Clinical Instructor credential- Fellowship- Leadership development- Post-professional degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Acute Care- Cardio/Pulmonary- Geriatrics- Orthopedics- Oncology- Pediatrics- Wound Management

Career Pathway options as a DPT: As a physical therapist you can be a clinical practitioner, researcher, professor, advocate, entrepreneur, CEO, influencer, etc. or a combination of these.

Why Choose PT:

- Top-ranked health care profession
- Growing Profession
- 2023 Median PT Salary = \$99,710 and median PTA Salary = \$58,740
- Build relationships with patients
- Rewarding: See the direct impact and benefit of your work

APTA Helpful Resources

- American Physical Therapy Association: [apta.org](https://www.apta.org)
- Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service: [ptcas.org](https://www.ptcas.org)
- Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education: [captonline.org](https://www.captonline.org)
- APTA Financial Solutions Center: [enrich.apta.org](https://www.enrich.apta.org)
- Questions about PT Careers or Pathways to PT/PTA: studentrecruitment@apta.org