

# A.A.S. in Physical Therapist Assistant

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Students in the Physical Therapist Assistant program benefit from a state of the art, dedicated learning suite, which include instructional computers, up to date physical therapy equipment, and instructional aids. The program has clinical agreements with over 50 healthcare facilities that provide outstanding clinical experiences during 16 weeks of full-time clinical education that all students must complete. Program graduates are eligible for licensure as physical therapist assistants and employable throughout the United States. The Physical Therapist Assistant program is a rigorous and selective program that prepares students to succeed in the field.

## SKILLS

**Active Listening.** Physical therapist assistants need to give full attention to what physical therapists and patients are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

**Communication skills.** Physical therapist assistants must be able to talk to others to convey information effectively.

**Coordination and Flexibility.** Physical therapist assistants have to administer active or passive manual therapeutic exercises, therapeutic massage, aquatic physical therapy, or heat, light, sound, or electrical modality treatments, such as ultrasound.

## CAREER INFORMATION

Physical therapist assistants assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. They may, in accordance with State laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist.

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

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.

## **EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK**

Employment of physical therapist assistants is projected to grow 27 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment of physical therapist aides is projected to grow 23 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations.

## **CAREER PATH**

The median annual wage for physical therapist assistants was \$58,040 in May 2018. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$33,780, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$79,810.

## **CAREER COACH – SEARCH CAREER INFORMATION & CURRENT LOCAL WAGE DATA**

<https://kingsborough.emsicc.com/programs/physical-therapist-assistant-aas/190619>

**INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY: [www.cuny.edu/apply](http://www.cuny.edu/apply) or 718-368-4600**

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