

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Curriculum Code #2411

Effective May 2025

Division of Health and Wellness Sciences (<http://catalog.lorainccc.edu/academic-programs/allied-health-nursing-health-physical-education-recreation/>)

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at Lorain County Community College (LCCC) prepares students to become competent, ethical, and professional physical therapist assistants who provide high-quality care under the direction and supervision of licensed physical therapists. Rooted in the mission and values of LCCC, the program aligns with the highest standards set forth by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Through a comprehensive curriculum and hands-on clinical experiences, the PTA program emphasizes critical thinking, evidence-based practice, and the importance of lifelong learning. Students are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver patient-centered care in diverse healthcare settings, effectively addressing the needs of individuals across the lifespan. The program fosters a commitment to health equity, interprofessional collaboration, and advocacy for community well-being.

By completing the PTA program at LCCC, graduates are prepared to contribute meaningfully to the physical therapy profession and their communities, embodying the APTA Core Values and advancing the health and well-being of individuals and populations they serve. Lorain County Community College has articulation agreements with colleges and universities including programs offered by Lorain County Community College's University Partnership.

First Year

Fall Semester		Hours
BIOG 221	ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I ¹	4
ENGL 161	COLLEGE COMPOSITION I	3
PTHA 105	FOUNDATIONS OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING ^{1,2}	2
PTHA 111	INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING ^{1,2}	2
PTHA 121	PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING PROCEDURES I ^{1,2}	5
SDEV 101	INTRODUCTION TO THE LCCC COMMUNITY ³	1
Hours		17

Spring Semester

BIOG 222	ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II ^{1,2}	4
MTHM 168	STATISTICS	3
PTHA 112	FUNCTIONAL ANATOMY AND KINESIOLOGY ^{1,2}	4

PTHA 122	PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING PROCEDURES II ^{1,2}	5
Hours		16
Summer Semester		
ALHN 121	GENERAL PATHOLOGY ²	2
PSYH 151	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY	3
PTHA 241	CLINICAL PRACTICUM I ^{1,2,4}	3
Hours		8
Second Year		
Fall Semester		
PSYH 251	HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ²	3
PTHA 221	REHABILITATION PRINCIPLES I ^{1,2}	3
PTHA 242	CLINICAL PRACTICUM II ^{1,2,4}	3
SOCY 151G	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	3
Hours		12
Spring Semester		
PTHA 222	REHABILITATION PRINCIPLES II ^{1,2}	4
PTHA 243	CLINICAL PRACTICUM III ^{1,2,4}	5
PTHA 245	ADVANCED TOPICS AND CLINICAL CRITIQUE ^{1,2}	3
Hours		12
Total Hours		65

1

Indicates that a grade of C (2.0) or better must be earned in order to continue in the sequence.

2

Indicates that this course has a prerequisite.

3

A student must register for the orientation course when enrolling for more than six credit hours per semester or any course that would result in an accumulation of 12 or more credit hours.

4

Indicates that this course incorporates experiential learning components.

American Heart Association Healthcare Provider certification is required upon entrance into the program.

Program Contact(s):

Carrie Firmanty
440-366-7881
cfirmanty@lorainccc.edu

For information about admissions, enrollment, transfer, graduation and other general questions, please contact your advising team (<https://www.lorainccc.edu/admissions-and-enrollment/advising-and-counseling/>).

More program information can be found on our website. (<https://www.lorainccc.edu/health/physical-therapist-assistant-2/>)

Admission Requirements for Physical Therapist Assisting

1. Official high school or GED transcripts and college/program transcripts (if applicable) on file in the LCCC Records office.

2. Minimum high school GPA of 3.0 if 15 credit hours of college-level work have not been completed or a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher if 15 credit hours of college-level program supporting coursework have been completed (includes transfer/transient work).
3. High school biology or college-level biology course (including lab) with a grade of C or better.
4. One year of high school or college-level algebra with a grade of C or better.
5. Program application form on file by February 5 in the spring semester in order to be considered for the next class. A student not offered admission into program for the fall semester must submit a new physical therapist assisting program application.

Selection for program entry is competitive and based on a combination of factors including:

- *grade point average*
- *In-person, group interview*
- *Self-narrative*
- *A student is provided additional consideration for volunteer/observation hours completed and submitted to the program director prior to the interview (up to 30 hours)*

Only selected candidates (initially based on support coursework completed and GPA) will be asked to interview and submit a narrative form. Observation verification forms can be located on the program website.

Learn more about Allied Health program requirements (<http://catalog.lorainccc.edu/academic-information/allied-health-nursing-admissions/>)

Credit for Prior Learning (PLA) options may be available for your program. For more information, please visit our website: www.lorainccc.edu/PLA (<http://www.lorainccc.edu/PLA/>)

1. Practice in a professional manner that is ethical, legal, and safe within the scope of practice defined by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), the profession, and licensure requirements.
2. Provide high-quality care that is inclusive, respectful, and responsive to patients' diverse backgrounds, while actively working to recognize and minimize the impact of personal and systemic biases.
3. Apply sound and rational clinical judgment to implement physical therapy interventions and collect data effectively, ensuring alignment with desired patient outcomes.
4. Possess the knowledge and skills to locate, critically appraise and apply high quality research to inform evidence-based practice within the profession.
5. Demonstrate effective and respectful communication and provide education targeting various learning styles during interactions with patients, caregivers, and all members of the healthcare team as it relates to the role of the physical therapist assistant.
6. Provide impactful service by advocating for health equity, addressing disparities, and building collaborative partnerships within communities.
7. Perform physical therapy techniques in a technically and accurate manner according to the established plan of care.
8. Achieve entry-level competence in clinical skills, professional behaviors, and patient care, ensuring readiness for effective practice in diverse healthcare settings.

9. Evaluate strategies for lifelong learning by engaging in professional development, self-assessment, and reflective practices to advance expertise and adapt to evolving physical therapy practices.

PTA Program Mission:

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Lorain County Community College (LCCC) aligns with the mission, vision, and values of the college and adheres to the highest standards of educational excellence as outlined by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) while also meeting the needs of stakeholders and the community. Our mission is to prepare Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) who demonstrate competence, professionalism, and ethical practice under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. The program emphasizes adherence to APTA Core Values, fosters inter-professional collaboration, and encourages lifelong learning. It supports the personal and professional growth of students, graduates, faculty, and the broader community, preparing PTAs to contribute meaningfully within their contemporary scope of practice.

PTA Program Philosophy:

The program is committed to promoting educational excellence through innovative teaching and experiential learning, both in the classroom and the community. It prepares graduates to function professionally, competently, and ethically under the supervision of a physical therapist, within their defined scope of practice, and as integral members of inter-professional healthcare teams. The program fosters a culture of lifelong professional development, encouraging physical therapist assistants (PTAs) to adapt to evolving practice standards and to contribute to the therapeutic community through continuous learning. It promotes service to the community by supporting cultural awareness, collaboration, and partnerships that enhance healthcare delivery and reduce health disparity. Additionally, the program values the holistic development of students by integrating cultural competence, humanities, science, and technology into the curriculum, ensuring accessible and inclusive educational opportunities that prepare PTAs to be preferred providers in a diverse and dynamic healthcare environment.