

PHYSICAL THERAPIST AIDE - CERTIFICATE

Overview

See Department website and program contacts here (<https://www.mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/physical-therapist-assistant/index/>)

The **Physical Therapist Aide certificate** is designed for students seeking entry-level employment in physical therapy and rehabilitation settings. The curriculum introduces foundational healthcare and rehabilitation skills that prepare students to work under the supervision of licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

Coursework includes topics such as **patient support, therapeutic exercise assistance, patient transport, clinic safety, therapeutic modalities, and healthcare office procedures**. Students develop practical skills used to support patient care and maintain safe and effective rehabilitation environments.

The Physical Therapist Aide program is workforce-focused and prepares students for entry-level roles in physical therapy clinics, rehabilitation centers, hospitals, and related healthcare settings. The certificate also satisfies pre-program requirements for entry into the MHCC Physical Therapist Assistant (AAS) degree program.

Students are encouraged to work with an advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) to ensure appropriate course selection and program planning based on their educational background and career goals.

Refer to the tabs above for additional information about:

- **Education Plan** – provides a sample term-by-term sequence of courses
- **Career Info** – includes information on potential occupations, employment trends, and earnings

Program Learning Objectives

At the completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Use numerical information and quantitative reasoning skills to solve real-world problems.
- Demonstrate effective oral, non-verbal, and written communication strategies appropriate to the healthcare workplace.
- Apply knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, cognitive development, medical terminology, and discipline-specific concepts during the performance of treatment and non-treatment related tasks under the direct supervision of a licensed clinician.
- Apply critical thinking skills to solve real-world problems in the health care setting.
- Demonstrate cultural humility and respect for others' cultural practices and views.
- Collaborate effectively as a member of the health care team.
- Practice ethical behavior in academic and professional settings.

This sample Education Plan illustrates one possible course sequence. Students should consult an advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) to create a personalized plan.

Program Description

The profession of physical therapy addresses movement and mobility challenges affecting individuals from all populations across the lifespan who are recovering from injury or illness.

The Physical Therapist Aide Certificate prepares learners for entry-level employment as a physical therapist aide and satisfies all pre-program requirements for entry to the Mt. Hood Community College Physical Therapist Assistant AAS degree program. It is designed for people who wish to begin work in the field of physical therapy quickly and meet requirements for future education and career advancement.

Physical therapist aides (PT Aides) work under close supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to perform delegated, selected, or routine tasks in specific situations including:

- Providing assistance to a licensed clinician during patient care, patient transport, direction and monitoring of an established exercise plan, and assisting with the performance of therapeutic modalities as prescribed and appropriate.
- Maintenance of a clean, safe patient treatment area, including set-up of clinic spaces, cleaning equipment, and performing laundry and stocking duties
- Assist staff with reception and clerical duties as needed.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Physical Therapist Aide Certificate, the learner will:

- Use numerical information and quantitative reasoning skills to solve real-world problems.
- Demonstrate effective oral, non-verbal, and written communication strategies appropriate to the healthcare workplace.
- Apply knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, cognitive development, medical terminology, and discipline-specific concepts during the performance of treatment and non-treatment related tasks under the direct supervision of a licensed clinician.
- Apply critical thinking skills to solve real-world problems in the health care setting.
- Demonstrate cultural humility and respect for others' cultural practices and views.
- Collaborate effectively as a member of the health care team.
- Practice ethical behavior in academic and professional settings.

First Quarter

Fall		Credits
PA101	Introduction to Physical Therapy Careers	2
BI231Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
MO111	Medical Terminology	4
HE262	Basic Life Support	1
Health / Physical Education (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health)		1

Credits **12**

Second Quarter**Winter**

PA102	Physical Therapist Aide Clinical Applications	1
PA111	Physical Therapist Aide Clinical Affiliation	1
BI232Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
PSY201Z	Introduction to Psychology I	4
WR121Z	Composition I	4
Credits		14

Third Quarter**Spring**

PA103	Basic Principles of Physical Therapy Practice	2
BI233Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology III	4
MTH065 or MTH058	Beginning Algebra II (or higher) or Quantitative Reasoning I	4-6
Credits		10-12
Total Credits		36-38

Career Information

Explore potential careers related to this program, including typical job roles, employment trends, and projected growth. This information can help you better understand how your education may align with future career opportunities.