



CAREER PATH

Health

CAREER CLUSTER
Health Sciences

CAREER PATHWAY
Therapeutic Services



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. In accordance with state laws, may 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. Generally requires formal training.

Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a physical therapist assistant are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)

Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Physical therapist assistants	11.7%	65.4%	22.9%
Occupational and physical therapist assistants and aides	5.9%	75.9%	18.2%
Healthcare support	28.4%	58.4%	13.2%

Most Common Educational Level: Associate degree

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing.

National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2007		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$17.27	\$21.22	\$25.16
	Yearly	\$35,900	\$44,100	\$52,300
Missouri	Hourly	\$17.11	\$20.31	\$22.97
	Yearly	\$35,600	\$42,200	\$47,800

Based on (*) lower 25% and (**) upper 25% percentile of wages

National and State Employment Trends

Physical Therapist Assistant	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2006	2016		
United States	60,300	79,800	+ 32%	2,730
Missouri	1,380	1,780	+ 29%	60

*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

Educational Opportunities

Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit www.dhe.mo.gov

Linn State Technical College

Linn, MO
(573) 897-5000
www.linnstate.edu

Metropolitan Community College - Penn Valley

Kansas City, MO
(816) 759-4000
www.mcckc.edu

Missouri Western State University

Saint Joseph, MO
(816) 271-4200
www.missouriwestern.edu

Ozarks Technical Community College

Springfield, MO
(417) 447-7500
www.otc.edu

Saint Louis Community College - Meramec

Kirkwood, MO
(314) 984-7500
www.stlcc.edu



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION**



www.dese.mo.gov

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



www.missouricareersource.com



www.missourieconomy.org
