



# Physical Therapist Assistants

**Also called:** Certified Physical Therapist Assistant (CPTA), Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant (LPTA), Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA), Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)

## What they do:

Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. 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. Generally requires formal training.

## On the job, you would:

- Instruct, motivate, safeguard, and assist patients as they practice exercises or functional activities.
- Document patient information, such as notes on their progress.
- Observe patients during treatments to compile and evaluate data on their responses and progress and provide results to physical therapist in person or through progress notes.

## KNOWLEDGE

### Business

- customer service

### Health

- therapy and counseling
- medicine and dentistry

### Arts and Humanities

- English language

### Education and Training

- teaching and course design

## SKILLS

### Basic Skills

- listening to others, not interrupting, and asking good questions
- keeping track of how well people and/or groups are doing in order to make improvements

### Problem Solving

- noticing a problem and figuring out the best way to solve it

### Social

- understanding people's reactions
- looking for ways to help people

# ABILITIES

## Verbal

- communicate by speaking
- listen and understand what people say

## Ideas and Logic

- notice when problems happen
- make general rules or come up with answers from lots of detailed information

## Attention

- pay attention to something without being distracted

## Hand and Finger Use

- keep your arm or hand steady

# PERSONALITY

People interested in this work like activities that include **helping people, teaching**, and talking.

They do well at jobs that need:

- **Dependability**
- **Integrity**
- **Cooperation**
- **Self Control**
- **Concern for Others**
- **Attention to Detail**

# TECHNOLOGY

You might use software like this on the job:

## Data base user interface and query software

- FileMaker Pro
- Microsoft Access 🔥

## Presentation software

- Microsoft PowerPoint 🔥

## Medical software

- eClinicalWorks EHR software
- TherAssist

# EDUCATION



**associate's degree** or  
**bachelor's degree**

usually needed

# JOB OUTLOOK

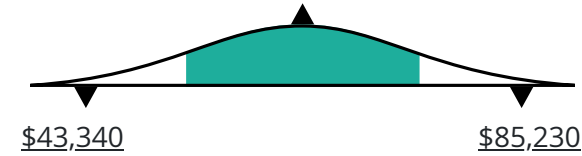


New job opportunities are **very likely** in the future.

**Bright**

SALARY:

**\$62,770**



## EXPLORE MORE

- [Occupational Therapy Aides](#)
- [Occupational Therapy Assistants](#)
- [Physical Therapist Aides](#)
- [Psychiatric Technicians](#)
- [Recreational Therapists](#)

You might like a career in one of these industries:

- [Health & Counseling](#)