General Areas of Service:

Physical therapy assistants work under the direct supervision of physical therapists. They are employed by hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and medical offices. They work to rehabilitate people with muscle, nerve, joint, and bone diseases or injuries. Physical therapy assistants train patients to do exercises and activities that will aid their daily living. They also observe, report, and assist in treatment programs that utilize heat, sound, water, electrical, and infrared technologies. In addition, they help patients learn to use artificial limbs, braces, crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs.

Professional Training:

An associate's degree from an accredited physical therapy program is required as well as supervised clinical experience. Many states require physical therapist assistants to be licensed by the state. Loma Linda University is the only denominational school that offers this training program.

Job Outlook:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), “[e]mployment of physical therapist assistants is projected to grow 41 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.” The BLS states, “Demand for physical therapy services is expected to increase in response to the health needs of an aging population,” and “[p]hysical therapists are expected to increasingly use physical therapist assistants...in order to reduce the cost of physical therapy services.” (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings:

In their May 2016 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for physical therapist assistants as $56,610, with the lowest 10 percent earning less than $34,640 and the highest 10 percent earning more than $79,040. (See www.bls.gov)
Entry requirements vary according to the professional school. The chart below details the suggested path a student may take to complete the requirements for entry into the Physical Therapy Program at Loma Linda University. **Classes that are offered with multiple sections are listed in each quarter they are available.** Cognates, general studies courses & electives should be taken to complete 96 credit hours for admission into Loma Linda University’s Physical Therapy program.

*It is the students’ responsibility to contact the school of their choice & to meet the requirements for that school.

*See the Undergraduate Bulletin for complete requirements.*

**Total Credits Required:**
96 Credits for acceptance into the program at LLU

**English Requirements:**

**Freshman**
ENGL 121 & 122 – College Writing

**Sophomore**
ENGL 223 – Research Writing

**Notes:**
+ Classes offered even years
- Classes offered odd years
* Intro to Art or Music, American History, Literature, or Foreign Language

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Work Experience: A documented minimum of 80 hours of work/observation experience (20 hours must be in an inpatient setting and 20 hours in an outpatient setting) in a physical therapy department is required.

Electives: Electives are needed to meet the minimum total requirements of 48-quarter units.

Loma Linda University also requires:
- A documented minimum of 80 hours of work/observation experience in a physical therapy department or community service before acceptance.
- Mathematics or two years of high school math with a grade of C or better.

C- grades will not be accepted for transfer credit at LLU. Admission is competitive so a 3.20 GPA or above is highly recommended.