Physical Therapy Assistant
Pre-Professional Program
2019-2020

**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 30 percent from 2016 to 2026, 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](http://www.bls.gov))

**Earnings:** In their May 2017 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for physical therapist assistants as $58,040, with the lowest 10 percent earning less than $33,780 and the highest 10 percent earning more than $79,810. (See [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov))

**Note:** Walla Walla University does not offer the clinical portion of this degree.

Entry requirements vary according to the professional school; it is the students’ responsibility to contact the school of their choice & to meet the requirements for that school.
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 48 Credits for acceptance into the program at LLU. See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete the requirements for entry into the Physical Therapy Program at Loma Linda University.

Cognates are listed in *italics.*

* Intro to Art or Music, American History, Literature, or Foreign Language
+ Offered even years only – Offered odd years only

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

### Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Winter Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology (BIOL 121)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology (BIOL 122)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology (BIOL 123)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Psychology (PSYC 130)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Psychology Option (PSYC 215)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>Medical Terminology (NRSG 234)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Speech Comm. (SPCH 101)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Conceptual Physics (PHYS 201 &amp; 204)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research Writing (ENGL 223)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Writing I (ENGL 121)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>College Writing II (ENGL 122)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Psychology Option (PSYC 492)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Humanities: Choose 4 credits from the following

- Intro to Art (ART 251) ................................................. 4
- Survey of British and American Literature (ENGL 210, 211 OR 212) .......... 4
- History of Western Civ. (HIST 121 OR 122) ........................................ 4
- History of the U.S. (HIST 221 OR 222) ................................................ 4
- Intro to Music (MUHL 124) ......................................................... 4
- Intro to Philosophy (PHIL 205) ....................................................... 4

*Any foreign language courses may be used as well*

### Physical Education or Health: 2-4 credits from the following

- Wellness for Living (HLTH 110) ......................................................... 3
- Human Nutrition (HLTH 220) ......................................................... 4
- Any PEAC activity courses (PEAC) .................................................. 2

### Religion: 4 credits a year; 8 credits max.

### Electives: To meet a minimum total of 48 credit hours.

Physical Therapy Assistant programs also require documentation of a minimum of 80 hours of work/observation experience with a physical therapist.