Physical Therapy Aide
Information Packet

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**AMCA Physical Therapy Aide Curriculum**

Welcome to the American Medical Certification Association. As a resource to the allied healthcare industry, it is our job to bring to schools attention the job opportunities with the greatest growth potential. Keeping this in mind, the AMCA has completed extensive research and surveys that indicate the Physical Therapy Aide (PTA) career will have a 40% growth rate from now until the year 2020. According to the 2015 Occupational Outlook Handbook, employment of physical therapist aides is projected to grow 41 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy services is expected to increase in response to the healthcare needs of an older population and growing rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes and obesity.

**Curriculum Cost: $0***
The Physical Therapy Aide curriculum free to all AMCA approved testing sites

**Curriculum includes:**
1. PTAC approved course curriculum
2. Printed version of the AMCA Physical Therapy Aide Study Guide with practice questions
3. PDF version of the PTA study guide
4. PDF version of the AMCA *Medical Jeopardy game

**Recommended Course Tuition:**
Between $750 and $1250 per student, plus materials

**Recommended Course Hours:**
Between 80 and 120 classroom hours
Job Outlook
Employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 41 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy services is expected to increase in response to the healthcare needs of an older population and growing rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes and obesity.

Tasks:
Under close supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, perform only delegated, selected, or routine tasks in specific situations. These duties include preparing the patient and the treatment area.
- Clean treatment areas and set up therapy equipment
- Wash linens
- Help patients move to or from a therapy area
- Do clerical tasks, such as answering phones and scheduling patients
- Gait training
- Prepare patient transport

What Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides Do?
Physical therapist Aides work under the direction and supervision of Physical Therapists. They help patients who are recovering from injuries and illnesses regain movement and manage pain.

Work Environment
Most physical therapist assistants and aides work in physical therapists’ offices or in hospitals. Physical therapist assistants and aides are frequently on their feet and moving as they set up equipment and help care for patients.

How to Become a Physical Therapist Assistant or Aide
Physical therapist aides generally have a high school diploma and receive on-the-job training.

Potential Pay:
In May 2012, the median annual wage for Physical Therapist Aides was $23,880*
*As provided by the 2015 Occupational Outlook Handbook

**Similar Occupations**
Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of physical therapist assistants and aides with similar occupations.

**Physical Therapy Aides vs. Personal Trainers**

- Both use exercises as a way to strengthen and improve
- Both use corrective exercises
- Both concentrate on Anatomy and Physiology
- Both work one on one
- Both work on increasing flexibility
- Both programs are based on science
- Both use repetition and consistency
- Both have certifications and job growth potential

Physical Therapy Aides also concentrate on gait training, ambulatory training, patient mobility and rehabilitation. The physical therapist would work in a rehabilitation center, fitness center, or a wellness center whereas the Personal Trainer would mainly work in a gym/wellness center or independently. The personal trainer also does not necessarily require oversight as a physical therapy aide requires oversight by an assistant or a therapist.

**Potential Growth:**
United States only Between 2012 to 2020 40% or 20,000 people

**Average annual growth:**
2500 people

**Area of Concentrations:**
California, Texas, New Jersey, New York, Illinois
**Place of Employment: Top 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employment (1)</th>
<th>Percent of industry employment</th>
<th>Hourly mean wage</th>
<th>Annual mean wage (2)</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>

**Kentucky PTA Employment**

- Between 550 and 930
- Annual mean wage of physical therapist $26,290 – to 28,520

**Important Qualities**

**Compassion:**
Physical therapist assistants and aides should enjoy helping people. They work with people who are in pain, and they must have empathy to help their patients.

**Detail oriented:**
Like other healthcare professionals, physical therapist assistants and aides should be organized and have a keen eye for detail. They must keep accurate records and follow written and verbal instructions carefully to ensure quality care.
**Dexterity:**
Physical therapist assistants should be comfortable using their hands to provide manual therapy and therapeutic exercises. Aides should also be comfortable working with their hands to set up equipment and prepare treatment areas.

**Interpersonal skills:**
Physical therapist assistants and aides spend much of their time interacting with clients and therefore should be courteous and friendly.

**Physical stamina:**
Physical therapist assistants and aides are frequently on their feet and moving as they work with their patients. They must often kneel, stoop, bend, and stand for long periods. They should enjoy physical activity.
Medical Certification Examinations Provide...

✓ Credibility
✓ Enhanced Placement Statistics
✓ Portability
  Career Advancement
✓ Increased Enrollment
✓ Improved Marketability

American Medical Certification Association (AMCA) is headquartered in Fairfield, New Jersey. The AMCA was established in 2010 with a vision of implementing national standards to ensure that each successful exam candidate has proven that they are knowledgeable in their specific subject matter. Additionally, the AMCA collaborates and actively participates in the allied healthcare industry to serves as a support network for allied healthcare professionals. The AMCA has obtained membership in various organizations to strengthen its’ ties to the industry.

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the healthcare field continues to represent the fastest growing segment of our nation’s economy. The American School of Business recognized the need for certifying these individuals and through its newest division, the American Medical Certification Association (AMCA) which offers certification exams to the allied healthcare field. The American Medical Certification Association is nationally approved and recognized as a certification organization in all 50 states.

Increasing numbers of trained, career-oriented professionals enter this promising field each year, sharing common goals, interests and needs. To help these healthcare professionals meet their goals, AMCA offers certification exams to increase a candidate’s marketability and enhance their career portfolio.
What is Certification?
Certification or the word certify as defined by Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (2000) means, “to attest as being true or as represented as meeting a standard.” It is through a set of standards that the American Medical Certification Association has developed each of its exams. Each exam is developed by a team of Subject Matter Experts who have many years of experience in their chosen field. The exams are designed to meet standards that will certify each successful exam candidate has proven that they are knowledgeable in their specific subject matter. The exams are based on 5 subject areas: Medical Terminology, Medical Law and Ethics, OSHA and Infection Control, Anatomy and Physiology and the subject matter related to that specific area i.e., phlebotomy, EKG or mental health.

Test Requirements:
- Graduate from an approved program (proof of completion is required)

- Must be monitored while taking the exam by an approved AMCA test site, and must pass with a minimum score of 70% or higher.

Period certification is valid:
2 year requirement for maintaining or renewing certification.

Continuing Education
The AMCA requires 10 hours of Continuing Education, every two years. To keep your certification current, AMCA will supply you with CE Volumes on or about every 6 months. Each CE Volume will provide 5 CE credits, at a cost of $79.00

As an option, credits may be obtained through your employer or other educational providers.

Note: 1 hour is equivalent to 1 credit
Please direct your CE questions to our AMCA Customer Service Representatives.
Memberships and Affiliations:

- Institute for Credentialing Excellence
- Private Career School Association of New Jersey
- Coalition of New York State Career Schools
- Career Colleges & Schools of Texas
- PAPSA - Pennsylvania Association of Private Schools
- APSCU
- eHire
- ARMYCool/NAVYCool
- TAICS - Tennessee Association of Independent Colleges & Schools
- FAPSA – Florida Ass. Of Postsecondary Schools & Colleges
- OACCS – Ohio Ass. Of Vareer Colleges and Schools
Why Choose the American Medical Certification Association for your students National Certification

FREE JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

Gainful Employment Action Plan
46,000 Searchable Job Openings
FREE Daily Emailed Job Leads
All Services FREE for all Users
No Personal Information Required

At zero cost to your organization, E-Hired can be easily added to your career service action plan. Become an AMCA Approved Testing site and certify your students through the AMCA.

Once your students successfully pass our National Certification exam, they will receive free daily emailed job leads within a 50 mile radius of their zip code, specific to their certification. They will also have access to thousands of searchable allied healthcare job positions.

We believe utilizing AMCA with E-Hired as an action plan to address the requirements of Gainful Employment will be of great help to your career service departments.

Put the AMCA and E-Hire on your team!
### Certifications Offered (Study Material Included)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th># of Certifications</th>
<th>Exam Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Medical Assistant Certification</td>
<td>CMAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Medical Administrative Assistant Certification</td>
<td>CMAAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phlebotomy Technician Certification</td>
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<td>EKG Technician Certification</td>
<td>ETC</td>
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<td>Mental Health Technician Certification</td>
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<td>Patient Care Technician Certification</td>
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<td>Dental Assistant Certification</td>
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<td>Medical Administrative Assistant Certification</td>
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<td>Physical Therapy Aide Certification</td>
<td>PTAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billing Coding Specialist Certification</td>
<td>BCBS</td>
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<td>Electronic Health Record Certification</td>
<td>EHRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Healthcare Instructor Certification</td>
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<td>Trichology Certification</td>
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Certification Exam Descriptions and Minimum Requirements

Name of Certification: Physical Therapy Aide Certification

Abbreviation of Certification: PTAC

Fee charged for the exam: $109.00 (Study Material Included)

Description and purpose of test:
Physical Therapist Aides work under the direction and supervision of physical therapists. They help patients who are recovering from injuries and illnesses regain movement and manage pain. Physical therapist assistants are involved in the direct care of patients. Physical therapist aides often do tasks that are indirectly related to patient care, such as cleaning and setting up the treatment area, moving patients, and performing clerical duties.

Physical therapist aides typically do the following:

- Clean treatment areas and set up therapy equipment
- Wash linens
- Help patients move to or from a therapy area
- Do clerical tasks, such as answering phones and scheduling patients

The test is comprised of 100 questions: To be Announced
### Recommended Text(s) and Workbook(s) – Clinical

| Physical Therapy Aide Certification | Physical Therapy Aide – A Work text  
Publisher: Delmar-Cengage Learning  
Author: Roberta C. Weiss 3rd Ed.  
Medical Terminology Word Builder and communications  
Workbook w/Flashcards Thierer:  
Publisher: McGraw Hill Higher Ed.  
# 0073315443  
*Medical Jeopardy – is available through the AMCA and is available in power Point or with the Klickerz program |