

Professional Organizations

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is the official organization representing the profession. Students accepted into the clinical phase can join the APTA, as well as the Maryland Physical Therapy Association. For more information on the APTA, visit their website at www.apta.org.

Accreditation

Allegany College of Maryland is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association,
3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22305-3085
Phone: 703-706-3245
Email: accreditation@apta.org
Website: http://capteonline.org

Allegany College of Maryland does not discriminate on the basis of federally protected classes of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, and veteran/military status in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs and activities. Allegany College of Maryland recognizes and complies with additional protections for employees and/or pursuant to state law. Additional information is available at https://www.allegany.edu/non-discrimination.

For inquiries related to the application of this statement, the Non-Discrimination policy, Title IX, and ADA/504, please contact: Dr. Renee Conner; Chief Compliance, Student, and Legal Affairs Officer; Title IX Coordinator; ADA/504 Coordinator; 301-784-5206 / rconner@allegany.edu

Allegany College of Maryland is required to inform prospective and current students of important College policies. For full details on these key policies, please visit the Allegany College of Maryland website at allegany.edu/policy-mandates.

Testimonials

"For support, encouragement, and guidance, you will not find a better school than Allegany College of Maryland. The instructors and support staff here are honestly concerned about your success as a student, and will go out of their way to work with you in achieving your goals."

— Jennifer Webster

"The education I received at Allegany College of Maryland's PTA Program was a very pleasurable experience. The staff and instructor's main goal was to give all students well-rounded exposure to all aspects of physical therapy. It was the basis and foundation of my career. I enjoyed the experience so much that I wanted to be part of other student's education so I have been a clinical instructor for the past several years."

— Jim Ward

"As a 'non-traditional' PTA student that had a degree in Athletic Training previously, I found the Allegany College of Maryland's PTA program extremely accommodating to my needs. The educators are very knowledgeable and take time out for each individual student. I feel my PTA degree from ACM has furthered my career in physical therapy and has given me new tools to more effectively treat any patient population."

— Kristin Ertinger

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About the Profession

Physical Therapy is a profession with a long history, an exciting present, and an unlimited future. The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) works under the supervision of a Physical Therapists (PT) to restore patient function, movement, wellness, and quality of life.

▶ Patient Population include:

any age with a variety of neurological disorders (e.g., stroke, spinal cord injury); orthopedic issues (e.g. muscle, joint, and bone injuries); cardiovascular disease; integumentary disorders (e.g., wound care); and other pathologies.

▶ Workplace settings include:

home health care, schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, private practice, out-patient clinics, sports medicine facilities, hospices, etc. Some of these employment opportunities may be managed or even owned by a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant.

▶ Interventions Include:

adequate knowledge and skill in professional communication, data collection, and treatment interventions. Data collection may include: the completion of standardized tools and tests for sensation, joint range of motion, muscle strength and tone, functional mobility, balance and coordination, etc. Treatment intervention may include: integumentary health, functional mobility and adaptive equipment training, manual therapy, postural & body mechanics education, therapeutic strength and endurance exercises, and the application of various modalities for the control of pain and inflammation, strengthening of muscles, enhancement of motor control, and/or wound care.

Course Requirements

The Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) program is based on the **1+1 model**, which includes **Phase I** – general education requirements, and **Phase II** – clinical requirements.

Students may complete the general education curriculum **(Phase I)** at their own pace and then progress to the highly specialized clinical phase of the PTA program **(Phase II)**. Although Phase I of the program is open to every interested student, Phase II involves competing with other students through a selective admission process.

Phase I

General Education Credit Requirements	Credit Hours
Anatomy & Physiology I and II	8
Freshman English	3
Mathematics Elective	3
General Psychology	3
Human Growth & Development	3
Medical Terminology	3
Speech Communication I	3
Introduction to PTA	2

Phase II of the program is an intense course of study composed entirely of physical therapy coursework. This includes travel to a variety of clinical sites.

The PTA Program at Allegany College of Maryland is currently affiliated with over 80 healthcare facilities for these clinical rotations.

Graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science degree (A.A.S.) and are eligible to take the national licensure exam, the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).

Deadline to apply to the *clinical phase* of the program: April 15

Acceptance Date: June 15

Students may request a complete program information packet from:

Allegany College of Maryland
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
12401 Willowbrook Road SE
Cumberland, Maryland 21502-2596

Phone: 301-784-5538

Visit our website at www.allegany.edu for more information on the following:

- Phase I coursework
- Phase II requirements
- PTA program outcomes
- License information
- Comments/suggestions link

Job Market & Salary Information

The job outlook for PTA is expected to be very good and grow much faster than average. View salary information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at www.bls.gov. Another helpful website is the Maryland Occupational Industry Projections.

Contacts

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