



Explore a Career as a **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

What do Physical Therapist Assistants do?

Physical therapist assistants perform components of physical therapy procedures and related tasks, as directed by a supervising physical therapist. They help patients and clients who have movement difficulties due to injury or disease, by using therapies designed to improve mobility, relieve pain, prevent or limit permanent physical disability, and promote overall fitness and wellness. Patients may include accident victims and individuals with short and long-term disabling conditions, such as low back pain, fractures, head injuries, arthritis, heart disease and cerebral palsy.

Physical Therapist Assistants are in demand in Kankakee County!

Kankakee County employment of physical therapist assistants is expected to increase through 2020. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes the job outlook for this career as growing much faster than average.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have plenty of employment opportunities as a physical therapist assistant, but first you will have to earn an associate degree in a Physical Therapy Assistant program and state licensure as a physical therapy assistant through the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Classroom study includes courses in English, anatomy, physiology, psychology and algebra. You will also undergo a criminal background check.

As a Physical Therapist Assistant you will:

- Educate patients about what to do after treatment
- Help patients do specific exercises as part of the plan of care
- Observe patients before, during and after therapy
- Treat patients using a variety of techniques such as massage and stretching
- Use devices and equipment such as walkers to help patients

Physical Therapist Assistant

Training Providers

The following certified training provider offers programs and certifications to train for a career as a physical therapist assistant:

- Kankakee Community College

Career scholarships may be available if you qualify.



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire physical therapist assistants in Kankakee County, including:

- Doctor offices
- Home healthcare services
- Hospitals
- Nursing care facilities
- Offices of physical therapists

Wages & Openings

Physical Therapist Assistant Employment Data for Kankakee County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$23.10
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$42.53
Average Annual Job Openings Kankakee County	~10
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	304

Opportunities

After receiving your physical therapist assistant degree, you will have many opportunities for specialization. Some opportunities include:

- Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy
- Geriatric Physical Therapy
- Pediatric Physical Therapy



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