

**Physical Therapy Assistant  
Pre-Professional Program  
2025-2026**

**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), "Overall employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 24 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 25,500 openings for physical therapist assistants and aides are projected each year, on average, over the decade." The BLS states, "Demand for physical therapy services is expected to increase in response to the health needs of an aging population," and "physical therapists are expected to rely on physical therapist assistants, particularly in long-term care environments, in order to reduce the cost of physical therapy services." (See [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov))

**Earnings:** In their May 2021 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for physical therapist assistants as \$29,200, with the lowest 10 percent earning less than \$22,140 and the highest 10 percent earning more than \$37,920. (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.

**PRE-PROFESSION: PHYSICAL  
THERAPY ASSISTANT**

Winter Education Complex  
(509) 527-2041

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**Websites**

[Walla Walla University](#)  
[University Bulletin](#)

[Pre-Profession: Physical Therapy  
Assistant](#)

**Faculty**

Advisor  
[Ruth Meltzer](#)

**Professional Organizations**  
[American Physical Therapy Association](#)

**Additional Sources**  
[Loma Linda School of Allied Health  
Professions](#)

## Suggested Degree Path

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*.

### Required Courses

Fall Courses	Hours
Anatomy & Physiology ( <a href="#">BIOL 121</a> )	4
General Psychology ( <a href="#">PSYC 130</a> )	4
Conceptual Physics & Lab( <a href="#">PHYS 201</a> & <a href="#">204</a> )	4
College Writing I ( <a href="#">ENGL 121</a> )	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Winter Courses	Hours
Anatomy & Physiology ( <a href="#">BIOL 122</a> )	4
Psychology Option ( <a href="#">PSYC 215</a> )	(4)
Fundamentals of Speech Comm. ( <a href="#">SPCH 101</a> )	4
College Writing II ( <a href="#">ENGL 122</a> )	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

Spring Courses	Hours
Anatomy & Physiology ( <a href="#">BIOL 123</a> )	4
Medical Terminology ( <a href="#">NRSG 234</a> )	2
Research Writing ( <a href="#">ENGL 223</a> )	3
Psychology Option ( <a href="#">PSYC 492</a> )	(4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

+ Offered even years only

- Offered odd years only

\* Intro to Art or Music, American History, Literature, or Foreign Language

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

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.

### Office of Academic Advisement

Canaday Technology Center, Room 311 • (800) 558-2132 • (509) 527-2132