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**CONTACT THE
NAVIGATOR!**

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STAY ON COURSE

**Guided Pathways to
Success for STEM**

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

What our College & Career Navigator can do for you:

- Assists in registering for GPSTEM programs at BCC
- Help with GPSTEM career pathways plan
- Help students overcome barriers that could prevent student success
- Direct students to internal and external resources for assistance
- Guide students through the process of registration, funding sources and general questions
- Guidance for Transfer or Employment
- Connect students to BerkshireWorks, the county's one-stop career center, providing comprehensive services for job-seekers including career readiness, placement and unemployment services.
- One-on-one assistance throughout their educational career from admissions to employment or transfer



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Berkshire Community College values inclusion and equal access to its programs and activities and is committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If you are an individual with a disability and require reasonable academic accommodations, you are advised to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) prior to the start of a course to discuss your accommodation needs and options. The DRC will work collaboratively with students with disabilities to develop effective accommodation plans. The DRC is located in the Susan B. Anthony Building in A-107. For an appointment, please call (413) 236-1605.



Physical Therapist Assistant

Stay on Course

Suggested PTA Pathway

WHAT does a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) do?

Under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist, a PTA can:

- Observe and collect data on patients before, during and after therapy, noting patient status and reporting it to a physical therapist
- Develop and carry out patient care with specific treatments as part of the plan of care
- Educate patients and family members about prevention, treatments and home programs
- Treat patients using a variety of technical skills, such as massage, stretching, exercise, mobility training, ultrasound and electric stimulation
- Educate the community on health and wellness
- Assist patients to maximize their function using devices and equipment, such as walkers, wheelchairs and prosthetic devices

What type of people do PTAs work with?

- All ages — from babies to the elderly
- Patients with all types of medical diagnoses such as orthopedic, respiratory, neurologic, cardiac, wound & burn care and general health issues
- People who have limited ability to function normally throughout their day
- People interested in improving their fitness level

WHERE can an Associate of Science in PTA take you?

- Eligibility to sit for the National PTA Licensing exam (96.6% of BCC graduates between 2013–2016 have passed)
- Employment as a licensed PTA anywhere in the country (BCC has 100% employment rate)
- Employment as a manager of a clinic
- Employment in hospitals, nursing homes, private PT practices, community health agencies, school systems, industrial or corporate health facilities, fitness centers, spas, pediatric facilities and rehabilitation centers

JOB GROWTH

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the job outlook for Physical Therapist Assistants will **grow 40 percent from 2014 to 2024**, 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 individuals with chronic conditions.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2015, Physical Therapist Assistants

WAGES

In Massachusetts, Physical Therapist Assistants earn a median wage of **\$57,310** per year. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2015, Physical Therapist Assistants



For program information contact Michele Darroch at mdarroch@berkshirecc.edu or 413-236-4525.

ENROLL NOW AT BCC to begin working toward your A.S. to become a Physical Therapist Assistant — and start your pathway to success! Learn more at www.berkshirecc.edu/gpstem.