

Physical Therapist Assistant

Image on screen: Physical therapist assistant working with client on rehab equipment

Speaker: Jane Miller, Program Coordinator, PTA

“Heartland’s offering a brand-new Physical Therapist Assistant Program. You’ll come out with an Associate in Applied Science degree. It’s a sixty-six credit hour curriculum, and we call it a “one-plus-one” curriculum, meaning all your general education classes are taken prior to your entrance into the physical therapy program. You should be able to complete this in five semesters.”

Image on screen: Physical therapist assistant helping young girl jump into a pile of balls during physical therapy session

Speaker: Jane Miller

“It’s a very fun career. You will be assisting the physical therapist. The physical therapist evaluates patients and you basically carry out the plan of care. So you’re really trying to help people of all ages restore motion and function and get back to their normal activities.”

Image on screen: Physical therapist assistant working with male patient using arm muscle strengthening stretch bands

Speaker: Jane Miller

“With all the baby boomers aging, the job prospects are very good in this field. There’s just a variety of different kind of work you can do that could be very adapted to what your needs are in your life at that time, so if you work at a skilled nursing facility, they may have Monday through Friday hours. You might be able to work PRN. You might be able to work part-time, so settings that they could work in would be hospitals, outpatient, orthopedics, sports medicine, schools, home health, hospice care, skilled nursing facilities. You could do research. You could go into education as well.”

Image on screen: Physical therapy patient tosses beach ball onto equipment as physical therapist assistant looks on. Young girl hops from one colored floor marker to the next as physical therapist assistant watches.

Speaker: Jane Miller

“You really do get to have a lot of interactions with patients. And there’s nothing better than to be working with someone day in and day out and allow them maybe to achieve their goals, whether it’s going home again; whether it’s reducing their pain and allowing them to get back to the things that they love to do. So there’s a huge level of satisfaction in helping these people restore their motion .”

Image on screen: Heartland logo and contact information