

*For personal use only, do not print commercially.*



## OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Watching your patient walk for the first time after an auto accident brings a great feeling of personal satisfaction that can be even more gratifying when shared with an entire rehabilitation team. Your patient's goal will become your goal, so you will experience his or her achievements firsthand. Patients will thank you for literally giving them back their lives.

**Physical therapy assistants (PTAs) can meaningfully impact the lives of clients through treatment of impairments in physical strength, mobility or balance resulting from injury to the musculoskeletal system, neurological disorders (e.g., stroke, arthritis) or aging.**

### Who is the face of PTA?

Ideal PTAs are passionate about health and fitness in their personal and professional spheres since the core of what they do is physical and requires stamina and strength to best serve clients in their recovery.

Other qualities that can enhance this role are compassion; persistence; and a curiosity about and willingness to understand body mechanics, particularly in a physical therapy context.



# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

## Job Outlook



### BRIGHT OUTLOOK

**30% projected growth in employment**  
from 2016 to 2026, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Did You Know?

- PTAs work as part of a team under the immediate direction of a physical therapist to implement selected portions of a therapy plan and track patient progress
- PTAs work with patients of all ages in a variety of settings
- Nearly three-quarters of PTAs work in hospitals, private practices or outpatient clinics. Other care settings include home health agencies, nursing homes, and sports and fitness facilities
- Roughly three-quarters of PTAs work full time, on day shifts. They are typically eligible for overtime, health benefits and paid vacation
- To enter the profession, one must graduate from a two-year Associate degree program, which in most states must be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, in order to sit for the licensure exam if required