



# The Physical Therapy Profession

Month DD, YYYY

Name or Location [Arial 20pt, White]

# PTMovesMe

Provided by  **APTA**



# Introduction to Physical Therapy





**Physical therapy** is treatment provided by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant that helps people improve their movement and physical function, manage pain and other chronic conditions, and recover from and prevent injury and chronic disease.



# Physical Therapists Are Movement Experts



- **Licensed doctors** who **examine, diagnose, and treat** movement dysfunction.
- Help people impacted by disease, injury, and disability.
- Prevent movement loss and promote wellness.
- Use therapeutic exercise, modalities, assistive devices, patient education, and evidence-based research to treat patients.

# Physical Therapist Assistants Collaborate With PTs

- Educated and **licensed or certified clinicians.**
- Provide physical therapy services **under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist.**
- Implement components of patient care, obtain data related to the treatments provided, and collaborate with physical therapists to modify care, as necessary.
- Physical therapist assistants are not the same as physical therapy aides.





# Physical Therapy Education



# There Are Two Physical Therapy Career Pathways

## Pathway to DPT



\* Some DPT programs offer freshman entry

## Pathway to PTA







# Pathway to DPT

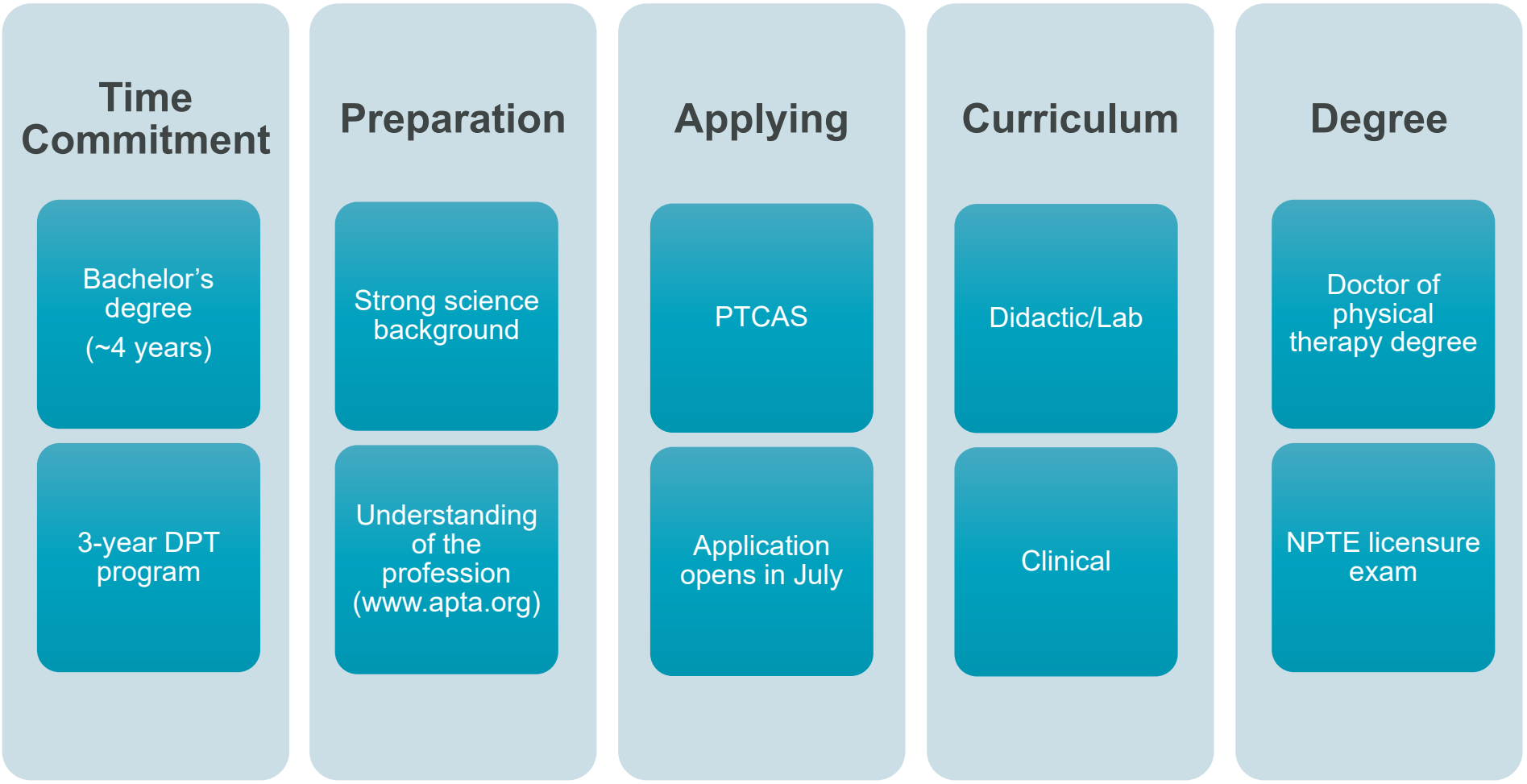


\* Some DPT programs offer freshman entry






# DPT Education



# Primary Content Areas in DPT Curriculum

- Biology
- Anatomy/physiology
- Cellular histology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanics/kinesiology
- Neuroscience
- Pharmacology/pathology
- Ethics/values
- Management sciences
- Communication
- Sociology/behavioral sciences
- Clinical reasoning
- Evidence-based practice
- Cardiovascular and pulmonary
- Endocrine and metabolic
- Musculoskeletal





# Common DPT Application Requirements

Prerequisite Courses

GRE

Observation Hours

Letters of Recommendation

Supplemental Application

[www.PTCAS.org](http://www.PTCAS.org)

# Pathway to PTA

High school diploma or GED

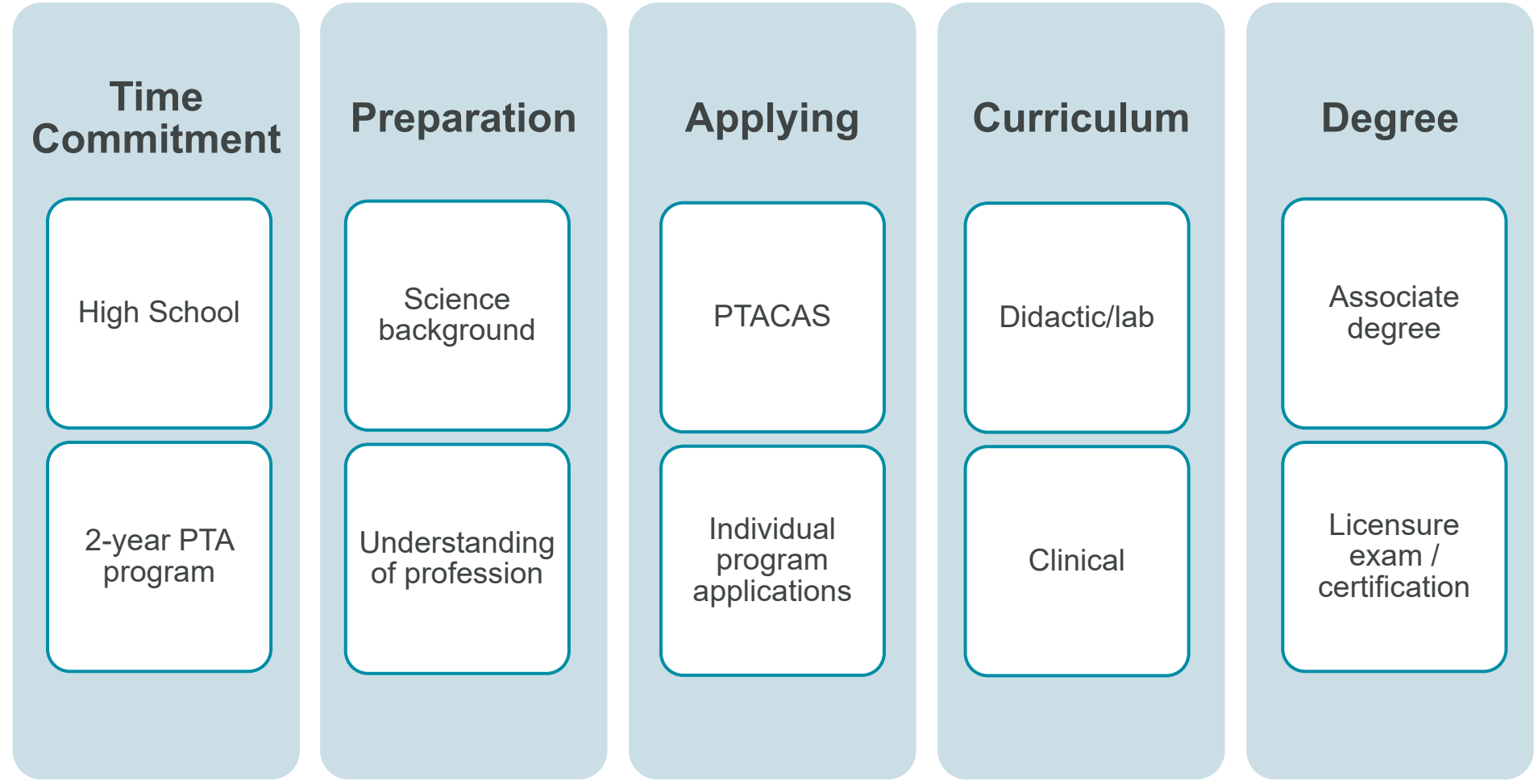
Two-year associate degree

PTA licensure exam






# PTA Education



# Some Primary Content Areas in PTA Curriculum

- Anatomy/physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanics
- Kinesiology
- Neuroscience
- Clinical pathology
- Ethics/values
- Behavioral sciences





## Common PTA Application Requirements

Prerequisite Course(s)

Observation Hours

Letters of Recommendation

Official Transcripts

Application Fees/Fee Waiver

[www.APTA.org](http://www.APTA.org) or [www.CAPTEonline.org](http://www.CAPTEonline.org)





# General Application Tips

## Do not ...

- Wait until the deadline to apply.
- Submit incorrect information.
- Take a passive approach to the application process.

## Do ...

- Apply early.
- Stay organized.
- Pay attention to detail.
- Be proactive and specific.

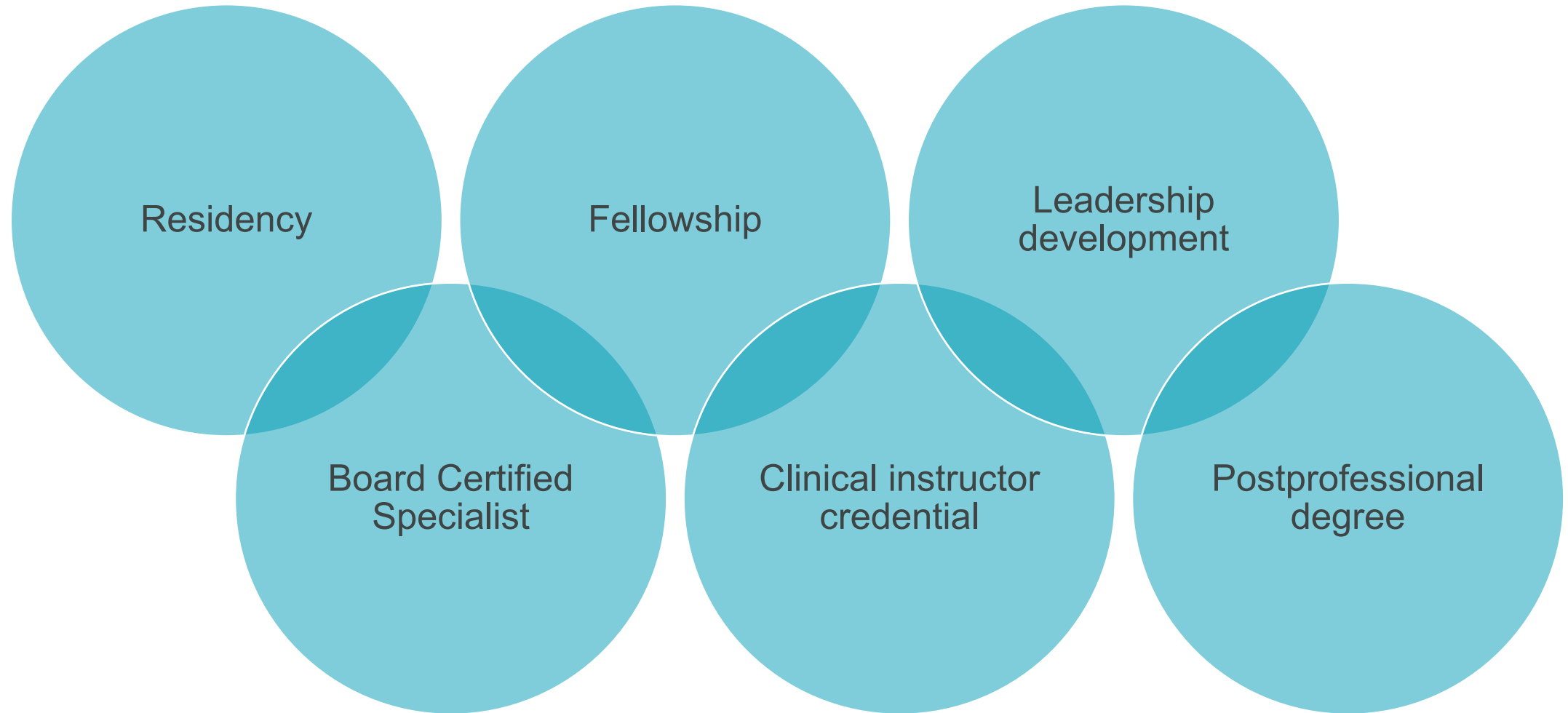


# Professional Opportunities





# DPT Professional Opportunities





# As a Physical Therapist You Can Be a ....

- Clinical practitioner.
- Board-certified specialist.
- PT resident.
- PT fellow.
- Professor/program director.
- Researcher.
- Professional advocate.
- APTA staff/CEO/Board member.
- Travel PT.
- Entrepreneur.
- Influencer.
- More ...

# PTA Career Development - Advanced Proficiency Pathway Program

Acute Care



Cardio/Pulmonary



Geriatrics



Orthopedics



Oncology



Pediatrics



Wound Management





# Why Choose Physical Therapy?



## Movement Is Essential to Life

PTs and PTAs optimize quality of life by focusing on movement loss prevention and optimal movement performance.



Boston Marathon bombing survivor Adrienne Haslet thought her quality of life would be a zero. Her physical therapist and the rest of her health care team helped Adrienne to move and to believe again.





# PT is a Personally, Professionally, and Financially Rewarding Career!

- Top-ranked health care profession
- Growing profession
- Median salaries: \$89,499 (PT) and \$58,520 (PTA)
- Fosters relationships with patients
- Allows you to see the direct impact and benefit of your work





# What You Can Do Now





**Start**

**Preparing**

**Now!**

Do your research

Observe a PT or PTA

Diversify your experience

Find a mentor

Review anatomy and physiology

Build a strong science foundation

# Resources



# APTA Helpful Resources

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)

[apta.org](http://apta.org)

Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS)

[ptcas.org](http://ptcas.org)

Physical Therapist Assistant Centralized Application Service (PTACAS)

[ptacas.liaisoncas.com](http://ptacas.liaisoncas.com)

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

[capteonline.org](http://capteonline.org)

APTA Financial Solutions Center

[enrich.apta.org/](http://enrich.apta.org/)

Questions about PT Careers or Pathway to PT/PTA

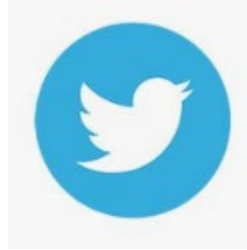
[studentrecruitment@apta.org](mailto:studentrecruitment@apta.org)



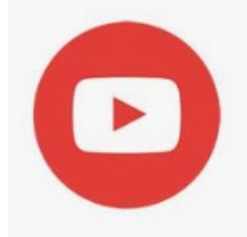
# Stay Connected



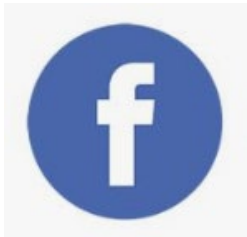
**@APTAPics**



**@APTATweets**



**@ChoosePTVideos**



**@AmericanPhysicalTherapyAssociation**

# Questions & Answers



# Thank You





Building a community that  
advances the profession of  
physical therapy to improve  
the health of society.

