

## Quincy College Plymouth Campus hosts Open Houses for Physical Therapist Assistant Program

*Community invited to learn more about one-of-a-kind program offered in Plymouth - one of only seven PTA programs in the Commonwealth*



**Suggested Caption:** Quincy College Physical Therapist Assistant Students in the Physical Therapy Lab at Quincy College at Plymouth. Explore the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at an upcoming PTA Open House.

**SOCIAL MEDIA RELEASE:** #QuincyCollege supports community need for skilled Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) professionals, holds PTA Open Houses in March & April.

**Plymouth, MA (2/26/20)** - Quincy College will host Physical Therapist Assistant Open Houses for prospective students throughout the Spring at Quincy College's Plymouth Campus at 36 Cordage Park Circle, Plymouth, MA. These events are free and open to the public. The Physical Therapist Assistant Open Houses will be held Thursday, March 19, 2020 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the PTA Classroom/Lab and Tuesday, April 14, 2020 from 9:00am to 12:00pm in Room 231.

Prospective students will be able to meet program faculty, tour the physical therapist assistant lab space, speak with a representatives from academic advising and financial aid, and hear from current PTA students.

The Quincy College PTA program uniquely fulfills a need in the region - it is one-of-a-kind in the Plymouth and Southeastern Massachusetts and one of only seven programs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Like other healthcare fields, demand for skilled workers has increased due to greater accessibility to health insurance and the aging population. According to the most recent data from the [National Bureau of Labor Statistics \(May 2018\)](#) the 10 year job outlook for physical therapist assistant workforce will increase 22% with Physical Therapist Assistants earning a national average of \$30.86 an hour or an annual salary of \$64,180.

" The PTA program is a shining example of our 37 associate degrees and 27 certificates that mix the best of hands-on and classroom education, and are designed to produce skillful graduates who are leaders and innovators. Ongoing collaboration with the College's multiple industry advisory boards keeps course offerings relevant to industry needs, establishes workforce pipelines, and helps students maximize their return on investment in their studies. In fact, Quincy College delivers the highest return on our student's education investment across two-year public colleges in Massachusetts, " Quincy College President Daniel Asquino reflecting on the PTA program and the recent data from the [U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard](#) and the [Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce Report](#).

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program is a two year, five semester Associate Degree program. PTA graduates work under the direction and supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist. The PTA program is a combination of foundational education courses, technical education courses, and clinical experiences. Previous Clinical work has been done in facilities across the South Shore including South Shore Hospital, Long Pond Physical Therapy, The US Department of Veteran Affairs, and several other clinical sites in Southeastern MA and Cape Cod.

Students complete three clinical affiliations during the program, focused on different populations that a PTA may work with. This allows the student to network and frequently creates job leads post-graduation. PTAs are employed by hospitals, outpatient facilities, and rehabilitation facilities and can work in areas specializing in a wide range of topics including geriatrics, pediatrics, neurology, and orthopedics.

Dr. Kathleen Cook, PT, DPT, joins Quincy College as the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Chair at the Quincy College at Plymouth Campus. Dr. Cook has been a physical therapist for 31 years. She obtained both her PT, and DPT degrees from Simmons University. She has more than 18 years of academic experience in several PTA programs including Washtenaw Community College, where she helped develop the program, Henry Ford Community College, in MI, and Northern Virginia Community College, VA, and most recently served as the Program Director and Director of Clinical Education at Bay State College. Her clinical background includes various settings including Skilled Nursing Facilities, Rehabilitation Hospitals, Outpatient Services, Acute Care, Home Care, and Long Term Care. Dr. Cook has been an APTA member for 32 years.

" I'm pleased to join Quincy College as the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Chair. It is our pleasure to open our doors to the community to highlight the depth and breadth of career opportunity for those interested in the healthcare of others. Our program is a unique program, supporting healthcare and wellness across Southeastern Massachusetts. Like other health care fields, demand has increased due to greater accessibility to health insurance and the aging population. Quincy College's PTA Program provides new pathways to healthcare professions for prospective students and the greater community, addressing a critical skills gap head-on and meeting employer needs in the Commonwealth," Cook elaborates.

The Fall 2020 PTA program application is now open; the application deadline is May 29, 2020.

Registration is encouraged for Quincy College PTA open house events, please visit <https://forms.gle/Q4rcioo6vigjYxzC9> to register.

For more information about the Quincy College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program, visit the PTA website at <http://www.quincycollege.edu/pta>.

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## ABOUT QUINCY COLLEGE

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,000 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 36 associate degree programs and 25 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, and Natural & Health Sciences. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. The college draws a diversity of students from the greater Boston area as well as 121 countries around the world. For additional information, visit [www.quincycollege.edu](http://www.quincycollege.edu)

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