

Rehabilitation Assistant

Run the exercises and daily-living practice that physiotherapists and occupational therapists prescribe. A 2-year diploma, hands-on from day one.

TYPICAL PAY

\$56,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$37k to \$76k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Hospitals, rehab centres,
long-term care, private physio cli...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
Grade 12 English plus biology. Some programs ask for a math or science credit.
- 2 OTA and PTA (occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant) diploma** 2 years
The combined program is a 2-year college diploma offered across Canada. Look for one accredited by the national OTA and PTA accreditation program, which most employers expect.
- 3 Placements** Built into the program
Several unpaid placements in hospitals, rehab centres, long-term care and clinics, usually adding up to hundreds of hours.
- 4 First job** Weeks to months
No exam or licence. Apply to hospitals, clinics and care homes; placement sites hire a lot of their own students.

Pros and cons

- + Two years of school and no licensing exam
- + Hands-on, active work with visible results
- + Weekday hours in most settings
- Pay tops out well below the therapists you work beside
- Physically hard: lifting, transfers, all day on your feet
- Private clinics can pay close to minimum wage

Good to know

Two jobs in one diploma

Canadian colleges train occupational therapist assistants and physiotherapist assistants together in one program. Graduates can work on either side, or both on the same day, which is why the combi...

Accredited by the professions themselves

The national OTA and PTA (occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant) accreditation program is run with the Canadian physiotherapy and occupational therapy associations. It re...

Optional boosts

Bridge to physiotherapy or occupational therapy. Kinesiology degree. Specialty courses. Team lead or scheduler.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Rehabilitation assistant, wages (updated Nov 2025)

OTA and PTA Education Accreditation Program

Alberta ALIS: Physical therapist assistant occupation profile

Alberta ALIS: Occupational therapist assistant occupation profile

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/rehabilitation-assistant>



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