

Alumni Questionnaire (Job or Grad School)

Currently, I am a rehabilitation tech at Columbus Regional Health. My responsibilities consist of assisting Physical and Occupational Therapist, which generally includes patient transfers, ambulation, and wound care. I also do personal training of the side. I teach a senior fitness class, a small group class, and have a few one-on-one clients.

I am also in the Physical Therapy Assisting Program at Ivy Tech in Sellersburg, Indiana.

How did your experience at USI help you find your first position after graduation?

My experience at USI taught me to be diligent, but patient. Work hard and things will fall into place as they should. USI offered me several leadership roles, which has allowed me to fulfill my goals of being a personal trainer as well as become a leader within my PTA cohort.

If you had it to do all over again, what would you do differently?

My experience at USI is something I genuinely cherish. If I had to do it all over again, I would have stayed in Evansville and worked on a Masters Degree, maybe in health administration. However, I am very happy with how things are working out for me. I got accepted into the PTA program I wanted, I work at a wonderful hospital (hoping for a PTA position in the future), and I teach fitness.

On a typical day in this position, what do you do?

Typically, on my days at the hospital I do what is asked of me by the physical/occupational therapists. However, the most important thing to me is the knowledge and experience I am gaining. The rehab tech position is not a long term career for me. It is simply a way for me to earn some money while observing the career field I am passionate about.

What personal qualities or abilities are important to being successful in this job?

Compassionate, communicable, detail oriented, and multitasker. There are several things that make a PTA successful and many characteristics will make you a distinguished PTA. However, these are a few "much needed" qualities.

What opportunities for advancement are there in this field?

A PTA has the opportunity to work in conjunction with physical therapist to ensure the success of a patient. However, a PTA can go back to school for DPT or they could hold a managerial position.

Is there a demand for people in this occupation?

Yes, Indiana is most definitely a "pro PTA" state (some are not). The PTA career is on the rise and will see increased demands, because therapy is becoming more and more commonly prescribed by medical doctors. Especially as the baby boomers continue to get older.

What do you think of the experience you've had so far in terms of entering this field?

I've seen and heard many great things. With just entering into my second semester of PTA school I have already met many professionals within the field. Also, I have attended a conference which speaks measures to those just entering the PT field, because it truly shows you the different avenues you can take in the PT world.

If you could do things all over again, would you choose the same path for yourself?

I may have decided on DPT school, but right now PTA school is what I decided to focus on and I am confident that it was the best decision for me and where I currently am in life.

What part of this job do you find most satisfying? most challenging?

School is challenging, especially with working amongst those already in the field. It makes me eager to finish and get my career as a PTA started!

I loved USI and the experiences I had. I met some of my absolute best friends! I was an RA, a member of the SAB, Student Organization Council, and many other clubs. However, my favorite was SAB (and I'm not just saying that). The SAB made me feel as if I mattered, as if I had a voice within the college. Dr. Bower was phenomenal mentor and I still greatly appreciate everything she did for me while I was at USI. Dr. Bower and the SAB made USI my home and I loved every bit of my 3.5 years there!