

Industry 101

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical therapists, often called PTs, help injured or ill people improve their movement and manage their pain. These therapists are often an important part of the rehabilitation, treatment, and prevention of patients with chronic conditions, illnesses, or injuries.

year and provide specialty training.

Therapists may choose to specialize further via fellowship in an advanced clinical area.



TRENDS & INDUSTRY INFO

Employment of physical therapists is projected to grow 34 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Physical therapists on average make \$84,000 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Job opportunities are expected to be good for licensed physical therapists in all settings. Job prospects should be particularly good in acute-care hospitals, skilled-nursing facilities, and orthopedic settings, where the elderly are most often treated. Job prospects should be especially favorable in rural areas because many physical therapists live in highly populated urban and suburban areas.



WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical therapists typically work in private offices and clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes. They spend much of their time on their feet, actively working with patients.

Did you Know? - DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy) Programs:

Most require a bachelor's degree and certain educational prerequisites(classes in anatomy, physiology, biology, chemistry, and physics) typically last 3 years.

Most require applicants to apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS).

Coursework and clinical work comprise most of a student's educational experience.

Physical therapists may apply to and complete a clinical residency program after graduation.

Residencies typically last about 1

FACTS & STATS

There are around

198,600

Physical Therapists in the United States.

The average median pay for Physical Therapists is

\$76,310

or

\$36.69 per hour

What can you do in PHYSICAL THERAPY?

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Experience

To prepare for a Physical Therapy Program:

- Get involved in allied health clubs on campus
- Work as a Physical Therapy Aid
- Participate in job shadow opportunities with Physical Therapists
- Complete CPR certification
- Find a mentor in the industry

Skills Required

- Compassion
- Physical Stamina
- Interpersonal skills
- Dexterity

Hiring Process and Timelines

There is high demand for physical therapists and you should begin applying to jobs after you have finished school and all licensing has been completed.

ON CAMPUS RESOURCES

- [UMD Pre Health Advising](#)
- [Pre-Physical Therapy Association](#)
- [Kinesiology Student Group](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

- [American Physical Therapy Association](#)

WHERE ARE ALUMS?

