



Career Guide

Physical Therapy

Profession Description

Physical therapists are highly educated health professionals trained to identify problems with movement and function of the human body. They work to restore and improve normal body motion, alleviate pain, and prevent disabilities by planning and administering medically prescribed physical therapy. Physical therapists provide quality care by assessing and interpreting evaluations and test results. They determine physical therapy treatment plans in consultation with physicians or by prescription. Physical therapists also educate and empower patients and families to be active participants in their recovery process. They also instruct on future injury prevention.

Academic Requirements

- Physical therapists entering the occupation need a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.
- All states require physical therapists to be licensed.

Professional Associations

- American Physical Therapy Association (<https://www.apta.org/>)
- American Physical Therapy Association of Massachusetts Home (aptaofma.org)

Further Resources

- Glass Door (<https://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm>)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/>)
- Explore Health Careers (<https://explorehealthcareers.org/>)
- NU Career Guides (<https://careers.northeastern.edu/group/career-guides/>)

Related Fields

- Sports Medicine
- Behavioral Health