



What do Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants do?

Physical Therapists provide services that help restore function, improve mobility and relieve pain for those patients suffering from injuries or disease. They develop a treatment plan that describes treatment strategy, purpose and anticipated outcome. The ultimate goal for the Physical Therapist is to improve how an individual functions at home and in the workplace.

Physical Therapy Assistants perform components of physical therapy procedures and related tasks selected by a supervising Physical Therapist.

Where do Physical Therapists work?

Physical Therapists work in hospitals, nursing care facilities, through home health care services, in physician's offices and in outpatient care centers. Physical Therapists often consult and practice with a variety of other professionals, such as physicians, dentists, nurses, educators, social workers, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Some Physical Therapists specialize in areas such as pediatrics, geriatrics, orthopedics, neurology, sports medicine and cardiopulmonary physical therapy.

How can I become a Physical Therapist? After high school...

All Physical Therapists must be licensed to work in Pennsylvania. After graduating from an accredited

physical therapy program, aspiring therapists must pass a licensure examination before they can practice.

Physical Therapist Assistants typically earn an associate degree from an accredited physical therapist assistant program.

Is this the career for me?

Both Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants should be critical thinkers and decision-makers. They should be organized, be able to pay attention to detail and have strong communication skills. They also need to be sensitive to their patients' needs and adhere to safety procedures. Recommended high school courses include Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.

How much do Physical Therapists make?

	Average Yearly Salary
Physical Therapist	\$65,250
Physical Therapist Assistant	\$36,590

Will I be able to get a job in Pennsylvania?

There are an average of 221 openings for Physical Therapists and 78 openings for Physical Therapist Assistants annually in Pennsylvania.

Where do I go for more information?

www.pahealthcareers.org

Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers

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