

GENERAL CAREER INFORMATION

The physical therapist is a member of the health-care team whose primary responsibility is to test, evaluate, and treat patients with acute or prolonged movement dysfunction. Treatments are planned and implemented to restore normal health and function to the body. This is accomplished through patient and family education, a planned program of exercise, and the use of a variety of physical agents such as heat, cold, light, water, or electricity. The American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties certifies qualified physical therapists in seven areas: pediatrics, neurology, orthopedics, sports physical therapy, cardiopulmonary, clinical electrophysiology, and geriatrics.

Although many physical therapists practice in hospitals, nearly 80 percent practice in:

- Outpatient clinics or offices
- Inpatient rehabilitation facilities
- Skilled nursing, extended care, or subacute facilities
- Homes
- Education or research centers
- Schools
- Hospices
- Industrial, workplace, or other occupational environments
- Fitness centers and sports training facilities

Students planning on careers in physical therapy should be aware that admission to a professional program is not automatic. Competition is keen among applicants and schools prefer those who have a proven interest in the field. Volunteer experience in the field is required and will strengthen a student's interpersonal skills as well as increase his understanding of career requirements. In Texas, students must receive a four-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited university and then enroll in a master's degree program in physical therapy. Many of the programs in Texas have transitioned, or are in the process of transitioning, to offering the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (DPT).

Physical therapists are licensed by the state in which they practice. Texas requires that physical therapists hold at least a master's degree from an accredited physical therapy program and pass a national exam administered by the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners. There are nine accredited universities in Texas that offer physical therapy programs.

More information on physical therapy is available from the following sources:

American Physical Therapy Association www.apta.org

Physical Therapy Journal www.ptjournal.org

**Summary Information and Prerequisite Course Requirements
for the Physical Therapy Programs in Texas**

Please be aware that these requirements can change. Check with your health professions advisor or the director of admissions of the professional school for any changes or additional requirements.

	ASU	HSU	TSU	TTU	TWU	USBU**	UTEP	UTSA	UTMB	UTSW
Degree Offered	DPT	DPT	DPT	DPT	DPT	DPT	MPT	MPT	DPT	DPT
Biology w/ lab		8 hrs		8 hrs	8 hrs	4 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs
Upper Division Biology	8 hrs									
General Chemistry w/lab	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs
Physics w/ lab	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs
Anatomy & Physiology	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	8 hrs	4 hrs	8 hrs	4 hrs	8 hrs
Psychology	6 hrs	6 hrs*	6 hrs*	6 hrs*	6 hrs	6 hrs	6 hrs	6 hrs	6 hrs	6 hrs
Sociology						3 hrs		3 hrs		
Statistics	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs
Speech		3 hrs					3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	
Medical Terminology			3 hrs		3 hrs			3 hrs		
College Algebra				3 hrs					3 hrs	3 hrs
Calculus					3 hrs					
English				6 hrs			9 hrs		6 hrs	
Technical Writing								3 hrs		
Undergraduate Requirement	bach. degree	bach. degree	bach. degree	bach. Degree	bach. degree	bach. degree	bach. Degree	90 hrs	bach. degree	bach. degree
Minimum Overall GPA	3.0		3.0		3.0	3.10	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Minimum Science GPA	3.0		3.0		3.0	3.10	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Clock Hrs PT Observation/Employment	75			100	40	100	50	100	40-80	150
Admission Exam Required	GRE	--	GRE		GRE	GRE	GRE	GRE	GRE	GRE
Class Size	30		40	64	45 Dallas 50 Houston		24			40

* General psychology and developmental psychology

** Also leads to commission in U.S. Army, Navy or Public Health Service

PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

Angelo State University (ASU):

Department of Physical Therapy
P.O. Box 10923, ASU Station
San Angelo, TX 76909-0923
Tel: (325) 942-2545
<http://www.angelo.edu/dept>

Hardin-Simmons University (HSU)

Department of Physical Therapy
2200 Hickory, Box 16065
Abilene, TX 79698-6065
Tel: (325) 670-1298
<http://www.hsutx.edu>

Texas State University (TSU):

Department of Physical Therapy
College of Health Professions
601 University Dr
San Marcos, TX 78666-4616
Tel: (512)-245-8351
<http://www.health.txstate.edu/PT>

Texas Tech University (TTU):

Department of Physical Therapy
School of Allied Health Sciences
3601 4th St
Lubbock, TX 79430
Tel: (806) 743-3220
<http://www.ttuhs.edu/sah/mpt>

Texas Woman's University (TWU):

College of Health Sciences
P.O. Box 425766, TWU Station
Denton, TX 76204
Tel: (940)-898-2460
<http://www.twu.edu/pt>

U.S. Army – Baylor University (USBU):

Academy of Health Sciences
MCCS-HMT, Physical Therapy Branch
3151 Scott Rd, Suite 1303
Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6138
Tel: (210) 221-8410 ext 6457
<http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/baylorpt>

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP):

Physical Therapy Department
College of Health Sciences
1101 North Campbell Rm 500
El Paso, TX 79902-0581
Tel: (915) 747-8220
<http://academics.utep.edu/physicaltherapy>

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTSA):

Department of Physical Therapy
(MC 6247)
7703 Floyd Curl Dr
San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
Tel: (210) 567-8750
<http://www.uthscsa.edu/sah/pt>

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB):

Department of Physical Therapy
School of Allied Health Sciences
301 University Blvd, Rm 3.1042
Galveston, TX 77555-1144
Tel: (409) 772-3068
<http://www.sahs.utmb.edu/programs/pt>

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas (UTSW):

Department of Physical Therapy
School of Allied Health Sciences
5323 Harry Hines Blvd
Dallas, TX 75235-8876
Tel: (214) 648-1551
<http://www8.utsouthwestern.edu>