

Physical Therapists

SOC: 29-1123 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$101,020 Median Salary	267,200 Employment	+11.0% Growth Rate
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Doctoral

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

8.6/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.4/10	Investigative	8.6/10
Artistic	4.8/10	Social	9.0/10
Enterprising	5.4/10	Conventional	6.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Compassion, Detail oriented, Dexterity, Physical stamina, Resourcefulness, Time-management skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Physical Therapists typically perform the following tasks: • Plan, prepare, or carry out individually designed programs of physical treatment to maintain, improve, or restore physical functioning, alleviate pain, or prevent physical dysfunction in patients. • Perform and document an initial exam, evaluating data to identify problems and determine a diagnosis prior to intervention. • Record prognosis, treatment, response, and progress in patient's chart or enter information into computer. • Instruct patient and family in treatment procedures to be continued at home. • Evaluate effects of treatment at various stages and adjust treatments to achieve maximum benefit. • Confer with the patient, medical practitioners, or appropriate others to plan, implement, or assess the intervention program. • Administer manual exercises, massage, or traction to help relieve pain, increase patient strength, or decrease or prevent deformity or crippling. • Obtain patients' informed consent to proposed interventions. • Test and measure patient's strength, motor development and function, sensory perception, functional capacity, or respiratory or circulatory efficiency and record data. • Direct, supervise, assess, and communicate with supportive personnel. • Review physician's referral and patient's medical records to help determine diagnosis and physical therapy treatment required. • Identify and document goals, anticipated progress, and plans for reevaluation. • Provide information to the patient about the proposed intervention, its material risks and expected benefits, and any reasonable alternatives. • Provide educational information about physical therapy or physical therapists, injury prevention, ergonomics, or ways to promote health. • Inform patients and refer to appropriate practitioners when diagnosis reveals findings outside physical therapy. • Discharge patient from physical therapy when goals or projected outcomes have been attained and provide for appropriate follow-up care or referrals. • Administer treatment involving application of physical agents, using equipment, moist packs, ultraviolet or infrared lamps, or ultrasound machines. • Refer clients to community resources or services. • Construct, maintain, or repair medical supportive devices. • Evaluate, fit, or adjust prosthetic or orthotic devices or recommend modification to orthotist.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm>