

ABOUT THE PROFESSION



A MOTTO TO
LIVE BY:
"TO MAKE
MAN WHOLE"

JOB EARNINGS

Average salary for new graduates is \$70,000. Average salary for DPT's in California through the year 2024 is projected at \$112,000. Salaries may vary depending on experience and area of specialization, location, and size of employer.

CPR CERTIFICATION

Students are required to have current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification for all scheduled clinical experiences. CPR certification must be completed in person and through an American Heart Association program.

THE PROFESSION

Physical therapists provide services to patients/clients who have impairments, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status as a result of injury, disease, and other causes. They restore and promote overall fitness and health. Physical Therapy is often indicated for individuals with disabling conditions such as low back pain, arthritis, heart disease, fractures, head injuries, and cerebral palsy as well as for individuals needing services for disease and disablement prevention.

Physical therapists test and measure strength, range of motion, balance and coordination, posture, muscle performance, respiration and motor function; they use electrical stimulation, hot packs or cold compresses, and ultrasound to relieve pain and reduce swelling. They may also use traction or deep tissue massage to relieve pain. Therapists teach patients to use assistive and adaptive devices such as crutches, prostheses and wheelchairs. Some therapists specialize in areas such as pediatrics, geriatrics, orthopedics, sports medicine and neurology.





PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Satisfactory completion of the degree requirements and clinical affiliation qualify the student to sit for all state registration examinations. Information about the state registries of physical therapists can be obtained at the office of the department chair. All states require that a physical therapist pass the national qualifying examination for registration to practice. California application form and fee are submitted to the Physical Therapy Board of California, 2005 Evergreen St # 1350, Sacramento, CA 95815

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of physical therapists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2024 and beyond.

The growing elderly population is particularly vulnerable to chronic and debilitating conditions that require therapeutic services. Also, the baby-boom generation is entering the prime age for heart attacks and strokes, increasing the demand for cardiac and physical rehabilitation. Further, young people will need physical therapy as technological advances save the lives of a larger proportion of newborns with severe birth defects.

Future medical developments also should permit a higher percentage of trauma victims to survive, creating additional demand for rehabilitative care. In addition, growth may result from advances in medical technology that could permit the treatment of more disabling conditions. Widespread interest in health promotion also should increase demand for physical therapy services. A growing number of employers are using physical therapists to evaluate work sites, develop exercise programs, and teach safe work habits to employees in the hope of reducing injuries in the workplace.



CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Supervised experience is obtained in a variety of settings and at five different times during the program. In the spring quarter of the first year, students complete one four-week short clinic experience. In the summer quarter of the third year, students complete one four-week short clinic experience. During the third year of the program, students complete three 10-12 week long clinic experiences.

All clinical assignments will be made by the academic coordinator of clinical education or a designate. Because of the limited number of local facilities available, assignments cannot be made on the basis of the student's family/marital status or personal preference. Although the department makes an effort to accommodate the student's preference, the student agrees to accept the clinical assignments made by the department at any of the affiliated facilities, whether local or out of state.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

Our entry-level doctor of physical therapy program (DPT) is designed for individuals who have no previous degree in physical therapy or who have an Associate degree in the field of physical therapy and wish to pursue a doctor of physical therapy degree and professional certification.

Admission to the University follows completion of the prerequisite earned at an accredited college or university. The emphasis in the program is on professional courses, ethics, and practical experience. Additional emphasis is placed on research and specialized clinical affiliations.

The program is three years in length. Loma Linda University utilizes a four quarter system yearly. School breaks are built into the program. This program begins in June once a year. Our students and graduates are eligible for membership in the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

The objective of the association is to foster development and improvement of service and education. This organization grants student membership at a nominal

cost. Our students are required to become members of this association while in the program and are encouraged to read the journal and attend the APTA sponsored meetings.