

CONSIDERING A CAREER AS A PHYSICAL THERAPIST?

Information on the Physical Therapy Application Process

What is a Physical Therapist?

- A Physical Therapist (PT) diagnoses and treats patients of all ages.
- Physical therapists treat patients experiencing health or medical issues limiting one's physical ability.
- A PT will work with each patient to develop a treatment plan that works best for the individual.
- The primary goals of physical therapy treatment are to increase function and mobility, decrease pain and soreness, while preventing further disability. -APTA

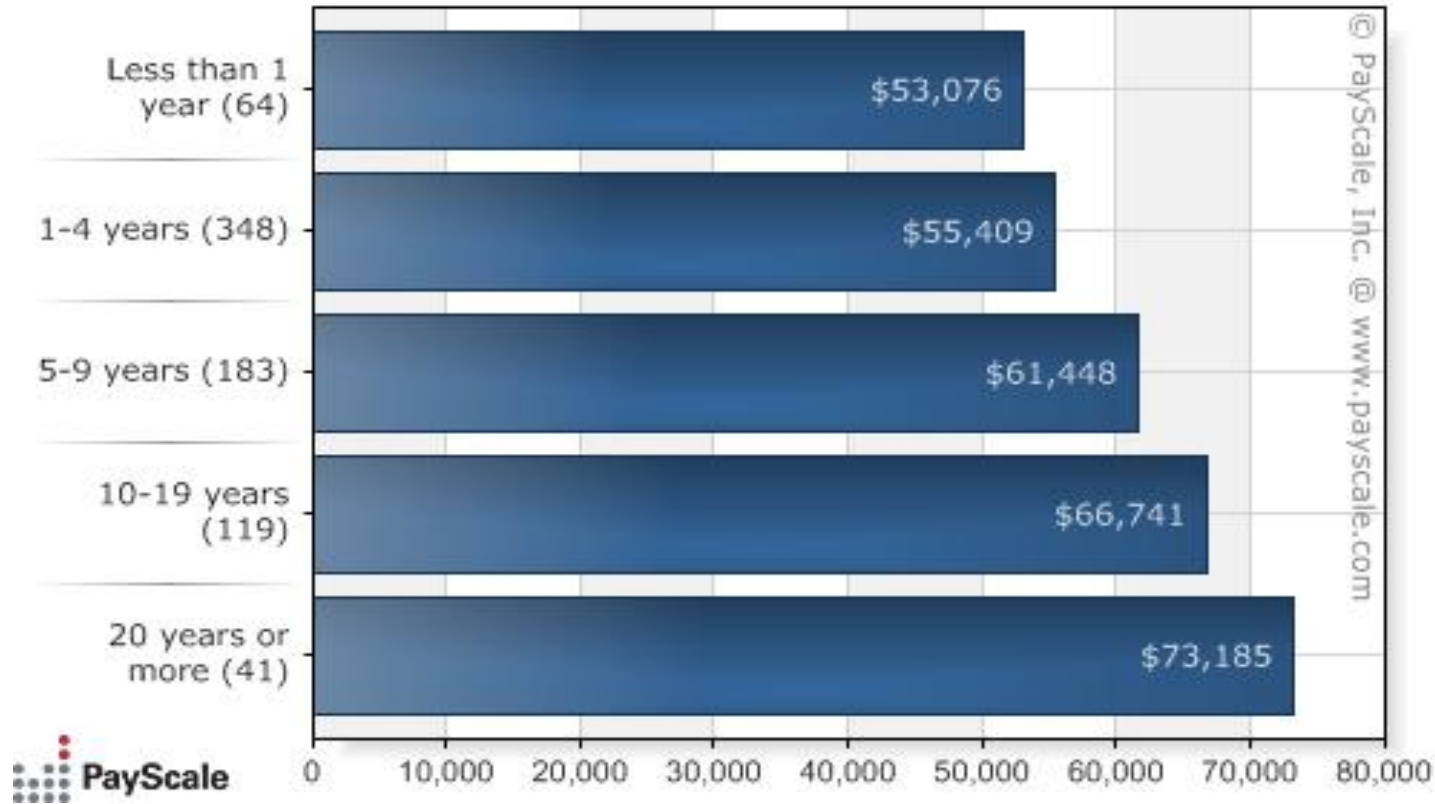


Why Become a PT?

- **Workplace:** The work setting of a Physical Therapist provides a fun and less structured environment compared to other occupations. (Hospitals, clinics, schools, etc...)
- **Treatment:** While working with patients there is a number of different ways to treat one condition. This keeps work from becoming repetitious.
- **Results!** Because Physical Therapists work with patients on a routine basis, they are able to see the impact that therapy has on one's quality of life.

If you are patient, looking for a career in the medical field, and enjoy helping other people; than a career in physical therapy may be of interest to you!

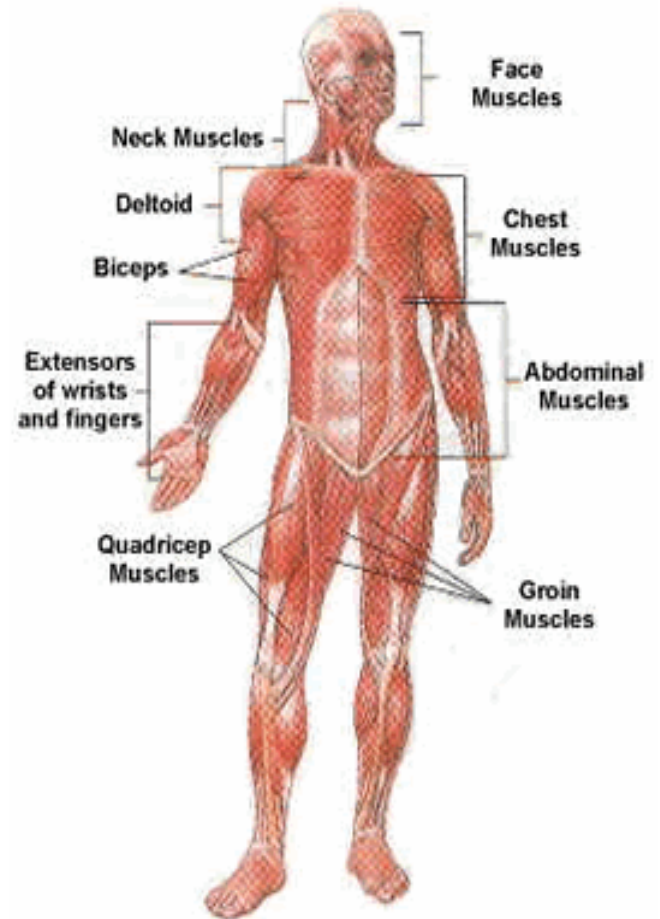
Salary, 2008



Salary is often based on experience. Full time Physical Therapists make an average of \$60,000 and above.

What You Will Study in PT School

- ❖ Medical Science
- ❖ Biomechanics
- ❖ Neuroanatomy
- ❖ Pathology
- ❖ Rehabilitative Procedures
- ❖ Professionalism/ Ethics
- ❖ Human Anatomy & Physiology



Doctorate PT Colleges in Wisconsin (number of students admitted)

Last Updated 4-17-08

- **Carroll College, Waukesha**
- **Concordia University, Mequon**
(24)
- **UW-Lacrosse (48)**
- **UW-Madison (40)**
- **UW-Milwaukee (24)**

Note: Most Doctorate Programs are three years in duration

<http://www.uscollegesearch.org/wisconsin-physical-therapy-colleges.html>

Tips on Preparing for PT Admission

- Volunteer/Internship at a hospital, nursing home, health center or PT clinic. This work experience will acquaint you with the healthcare field.
 - Take advantage of what Whitewater has to offer. Apply to become a Volunteer/ Intern (Internship in Biology) at the UHCS!
Visit: <http://www.uww.edu/uwcs/Internships.htm>
- Most schools want 40+ hours of observation with a licensed PT.
 - You can never start gaining experience too early! Call up your local PT clinic, most likely they will be willing to help you out.
- Get in touch! Call your schools of interest and set up an appointment to speak with an advisor. This will insure that you are on the right track for admission.

GENERAL PREREQUISITE COURSES REQUIRED BY MOST SCHOOLS

Note: Check with your preferred School website to obtain updated/exact pre-requisites! Last Updated 4-17-08

- 8 cr. Human Anatomy & Physiology w/Lab
- 8cr. General Chemistry w/Labs
- 8cr. General Physics (Calc based not req.) w/Labs
- 3-6cr. Psychology
- 3cr. Sociology
- 3-4 cr. Statistics
- 4cr. General Biology w/ Lab

Requirements Unique to Madison Only

- Introductory Biomechanics (Madison only)
- Kinesiology

Requirements Unique to Carroll Only

- 1 semester Computer Science
- 3 semester humanities
- 1 semester English Composition

Suggested (not required) Undergraduate Courses

Check Out Your Preferred Schools Website!

- Biochemistry
- Kinesiology/Biomechanics
- Genetics
- Trigonometry
- Computer skills
- Advanced Writing

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Carroll College: Requirements

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- **3 Letters of Rec.** (PT, professor , attest to character)
- **2 Essays**
- **Volunteer Hours/ Community Service**
- **Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 and above** (Remember, competition drives the accepted GPA higher than a 3.0)
- **Completion of GRE**
- **Offers Rolling Admissions:** This means they review applications as they are received and accept the class until all seats are full. **The earlier you apply the better!**
- **Website:**
http://www.cc.edu/gradprograms/physicaltherapy/admission_nontraditional.asp



Carroll College Students

UW-Lacrosse/UW- Milwaukee Requirements

- ❑ **Offers an Early and General Admission date.** (Those who do not receive early admission will be considered for general admission)
- ❑ **Complete GRE**
- ❑ **Min. GPA accepted 3.0 w/ no required coursework below a “C”.**(The average GPA accepted at Lacrosse in 2008 was 3.7)
- ❑ **2 – 20 Hour clinical observations of a licensed PT,** Preferable in 2 different settings- ie. hospital vs. clinic
- ❑ **2 Letters of Recommendation**
- ❑ **Website:** <http://www.uwlax.edu/pt/> AND
<http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/prospective/areas-of-study/physical-therapy/#entry-level-dpt>
- ❑ **Note:** UW-Milwaukee is a new PT program! It is in the process of seeking accreditation for 2011. UW-Lacrosse is Milwaukee’s consortial partner (shared curriculum).

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Concordia University, Mequon: Requirements

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- ❑ Offers early and general admission dates
- ❑ **GRE is NOT required for admission**
- ❑ **Required** experience in dealing with disabilities. (No specific amount of time needed, but shadowing does not count. Good places to get experience are nursing homes, special YMCA activities, or hospitals)
- ❑ 500 word essay explaining motives for studying PT
- ❑ 2 work/ volunteer reference forms
- ❑ To make an advising appointment call 262-243-4248
- ❑ Website:

http://www.cuw.edu/AdultEd_Graduate/programs/dpt/edpt_general_info.html



UW-Madison: Requirements

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- ❑ Offers both early and general admissions
- ❑ Complete GRE
- ❑ At least 2 patient care experience forms completed by a licensed PT.
- ❑ 3 letters of rec.
- ❑ Personal Statement for interest/motives in PT.(750 words)
- ❑ Website:
<http://www.orthorehab.wisc.edu/physical-therapy/>



UW- Madison D-PT

Graduate Records Exam Information

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- The GRE (general test) is needed for admission to most PT schools.
- The GRE tests verbal reasoning, math skills (NO calculators!), and analytical writing.
- The computer based GRE will provide your math/verbal scores immediately after the exam. Writing scores will be mailed to you 10 -15 days after examination.
- The cumulative score of math and verbal is out of 1600. 200-800 pts per section.

GRE Information Cont'd...

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- Register to take the exam early to get your preferred testing site and to receive study materials on time. (FREE study materials will be mailed to you after registering. There are also FREE study materials available on the ETS website.)
- You can register online at: www.ets.org
- You are allowed to take the test once per month but no more than 5 times per year.
- Included in the registration fee of \$140, you can send scores to 4 universities.

Need Tuition Money?

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- **Scholarship Information:** (Note: this is only one source)
 - http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Scholarships_Aid&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=275&ContentID=34687
- **Financial Aid Information**
 - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- **Government Loan Information:**
 - **Stafford loan Information:**
 - <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/studentloans.jsp>
 - **Graduate PLUS loan Information:**
 - <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PlusLoansGradProfstudents.jsp>
 - **Grant Information:**
 - <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/grants.jsp>



**Rachel K. Backhaut, UW Whitewater
Direct Care Intern 2008**

