Physical Therapy

A major in physical therapy involves integrating courses in anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, orthopedics, neuroscience, human development, research, management, social and behavioral sciences, and ethics as a basis for patient evaluation and exercise prescription in the prevention and treatment of physical impairment and disability. Graduates who receive a Master in Physical Therapy degree are eligible to take physical therapy licensure examinations and for active membership in the American Physical Therapy Association. The Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Sciences (Pre-Physical Therapy Concentration) does not qualify the holder for licensure.

Physical Therapists seek to prevent injury, impairments, functional limitations, and disability; to maintain and promote fitness, health, and quality of life; and ensure availability, accessibility and excellence in the delivery of physical therapy services to the patient. As essential participants in the health care delivery system, physical therapists assume leadership roles in prevention and health maintenance programs, in the provision of rehabilitation services, and in professional and community organizations.

Skills & Knowledge Developed in this Field of Study

Problem-solving skills are developed, as well as knowledge of disease processes and how they affect the normal function of the human body. Skills in teaching, exercise development, and evaluation are developed to prepare students to assume responsibility for the health of others.

Career Options

Practice as a physical therapist in a variety of settings including hospitals, private outpatient clinics, school systems, and extended care facilities, clinic management, supervisory and administrative positions.

Job Outlook

Excellent job outlook, especially in geriatrics and pediatrics. Starting salary is $35,000-$40,000 per year.