

# Physical Therapists

## Occupational Profile



### DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?

**Work Interests** involve descriptive categories (compatible with Holland's Model) attributed to success in this career:

- **Realistic** – Involves work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions; often dealing with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.
- **Investigative** – Involves working with ideas requiring an extensive amount of research, fact finding, problem solving, and thought analysis.
- **Social** – Involves working with, communicating with, and teaching people; providing service.

**Work Styles** depict worker characteristics conducive for this career:

- **Concern for Others**
- **Integrity**
- **Dependability**
- **Social Orientation**
- **Self Control**

**Work Values** are associated with aspects of work that provide satisfaction in this career:

- **Achievement**—Sense of accomplishment; results oriented.
- **Recognition**—Advancement potential.
- **Relationships**—Provide service to others in noncompetitive environment.

**Aptitudes** reflect an ability to acquire skills and knowledge for success in this career:

- **Deductive Reasoning**
- **Inductive Reasoning**
- **Oral Comprehension**
- **Oral Expression**
- **Problem Sensitivity**

### OVERVIEW

Assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury. Belongs to the Health Science career cluster and Therapeutic Services career pathways.

### SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

#### Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring

#### Technology Skills:

- Accounting Software
- Action Games
- Medical Software
- Spreadsheet Software
- Word Processing Software

#### Knowledge:

- Medicine and Dentistry
- Customer and Personal Service
- Psychology
- Therapy and Counseling
- Biology

## ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

| Occupational Title                               | 2014<br>Estimated<br>Employment | 2024<br>Projected<br>Employment | 2014-24<br>Employment<br>Change | Annual<br>Growth<br>Rate (%) | Total<br>Annual<br>Openings |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total, All Occupations                           | 1,795,100                       | 1,949,240                       | 154,140                         | 0.9                          | 58,145                      |
| Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations | 86,030                          | 98,955                          | 12,925                          | 1.5                          | 3,190                       |
| Physical Therapists                              | 1,720                           | 2,220                           | 500                             | 2.9                          | 95                          |

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>

## 2017 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

| Occupational Title                                     | Mean<br>Wage | Mean<br>Salary | Entry<br>Wage | Entry<br>Salary | Exp<br>Wage | Exp<br>Salary |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Total All Occupations                                  | 20.93        | 43,539         | 10.09         | 20,991          | 26.35       | 54,813        |
| Total Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations | 34.33        | 71,400         | 17.33         | 36,038          | 42.83       | 89,081        |
| Physical Therapists                                    | 39.00        | 81,111         | 29.25         | 60,842          | 43.87       | 91,245        |

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-employment-and-wages>

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

| Education                    | Work Experience | Job Training |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Doctoral/Professional Degree | None            | None         |

A doctoral degree is required for physical therapists that may include commensurate internship experience.

Licenses, certificates, and/or commissions required. Sources: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>, [https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_education\\_training\\_system.htm](https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_education_training_system.htm), and <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/iowa-licensed-occupations>

## NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

| Skill                       | Median Skill Level | Minimum Skill Level | Maximum Skill Level |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Applied Mathematics         | 4                  | 4                   | 5                   |
| Locating Information        | 5                  | 5                   | 5                   |
| Reading for Information     | 6                  | 6                   | 7                   |
| Applied Technology          | n.a.               | n.a.                | n.a.                |
| Business Writing            | 3                  | 3                   | 5                   |
| Workplace Observation       | 3                  | 3                   | 4                   |
| Listening for Understanding | 4                  | 3                   | 4                   |

An ACT assessment-based credential issued in determining essential work skills needed for employment success across industries and occupations. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6 & higher). Source: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workkeys-for-employers/assessments.html>

## ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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## PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

### (Where are Physical Therapists Employed?)

Ambulatory Health Care Services  
Hospitals  
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities  
Self Employed  
Educational Services

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>