The physical therapist (PT) works with patients to help improve their strength and mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical impairment (AMA, 2000). They are the experts of movement and function and they work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics and private practitioner offices. PTs may specialize in areas such as sports medicine, orthopedics, neurologic rehabilitation, pediatrics, cardiopulmonary, women’s health and geriatrics. Depending on experience and job setting, a PT can earn between $55,000 to $90,000 annually.

PT is a dynamic and progressive profession with continued advances in evidence-based and innovative practice, education, lifelong learning and public advocacy. As of 2016 all entry-level PT programs will be required to award the Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. As of 2015 there are 211 DPT programs in the U.S. Time magazine listed PT as the sixth most recession-proof job. US News & World Report has repeatedly included physical therapists among its best 100 jobs in terms of employment opportunity, good salary, manageable work-life balance, and job security: 2014 (#7), 2013 (#8), 2012, and 2009. CNNMoney.com also included physical therapists among its list of the top 10 "Fastest Growing Jobs" in November 2012 and ranked the profession as one of the 100 "Best Jobs in America" in 2013. PT is a field that is growing in diversity as well. 68% of physical therapists are female. Most PTs work in private outpatient office or group practice.

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**Core Pre-Requisites**

- **Human A&P**: ANT 3100, 3120
- **Biology**: BIO 1120, 1150
- **Physics**: PHY 1110, 1120
- **Chemistry**: CHM 1210, 1220
- **Statistics**: STT 2640
- **Psychology**: PSY 1010
- **Lifespan Development**: PSY 3410
- **Exercise Physiology**: EXB 3530

Humanities courses including but not limited to English, sociology, cultural studies & art or music history.

Science courses typically must include laboratory.

In addition to course work, many programs require experience or observational hours. Letters of recommendation (including one from a Physical Therapist) and a competitive GRE score are often required as well.
Wright State University offers all the courses necessary to meet the requirements for entry to PT programs. In addition, most courses are offered two or three times per year. A pre-professional advisor is also available to assist students with program variations, information on the application process, and current trends within the profession.

There are many undergraduate fields of study that will prepare students for the PT graduate programs. Among the most common at WSU are Exercise Biology, Biology, Athletic Training, and Psychology.

Ohio has a variety of PT programs throughout the state. Requirements needed for admission into these programs vary and students should meet with the professional advisor to review prerequisites for each school. Most of these programs have specific requirements in addition to the core set of admission requirements listed on the front of this fact-sheet.

In addition to the pre-requisites, students will need to complete a standardized test assessing communication and reasoning skills (GRE or MCAT); gain exposure to a variety of physical therapy experiences; have their personal and interpersonal attributes evaluated (interview, references); maintain GPAs (cumulative and science) above a 3.00. On average, 4.9 applications are received for each available class seat. Applicants offered admission to physical therapy programs average a GPA of 3.5.

Excellent Income
The median salary for PTs in private practice is $81,000 with the potential to reach over six figures.

Satisfying
Many PTs enjoy the independence and autonomy of owning their own practice and the flexibility of determining their practice hours (thus allowing more time for personal life).

Diverse Career Outlook
New physical therapists are needed in private practice and as teachers in academic settings. Because of our aging population, opportunities for physical therapists specializing in geriatrics are abundant.

Flexibility
Many PTs work part-time, making it easier to balance a career with family life.

Great Employment Rate
With just a 0.2% unemployment rate, PTs are experiencing some of the best employment conditions.

Wright State University
College of Science & Mathematics

For additional information please visit our website:
http://www.wright.edu/cosm/premed

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