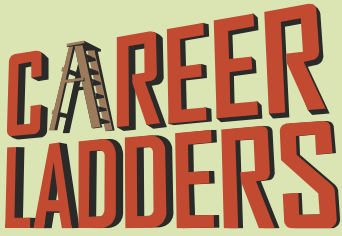


PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Physical therapists are responsible for providing services to patients suffering from injuries or disease to help restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities.



Employment opportunities in the health care field are currently at an exceptionally high level. No matter what the state of the economy, the demand for health care professionals will continue to grow. Individuals can start in entry-level occupations and advance their careers while enjoying the stability of employment. Also, individuals can start at the mid or advanced levels, depending on their education, training, and career goals. At each of the levels, there are many opportunities for more challenging and higher paying positions.

SAGINAW VALLEY

Each ladder depicts a series of work experiences that leads to more challenging and higher paying opportunities. While every level of the ladder can provide a satisfying job, some employees will choose to gain even more skills and responsibilities that will advance them in their careers. To do so, they will need more education, training, and work experiences. Some jobs will require a certificate, a license, or an advanced degree.

CLIMBING THE CAREER LADDER

ADVANCED LEVEL

Associate's, bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree required; must graduate from an accredited program; must obtain license or certification

Physical Therapist
\$23.31-\$33.68/hour

Dental Hygienist
\$21.96-\$32.48/hour

MID LEVEL

Associate's degree or graduation from an accredited program required; must obtain a license or certification

Physical Therapist Assistant
\$14.55-\$20.57/hour

Medical Records Technician
\$9.40-\$14.71/hour

Respiratory Therapist
\$16.55-\$22.18/hour

ENTRY LEVEL

Most occupations require a high school diploma or a graduate equivalency diploma (GED), three to six months training, and knowledge of medical terminology; certification is required in some of the occupations

Home Health Aide
\$6.65-\$9.06/hour

Medical Billers and Coders
\$7.65-\$24.46/hour

Dental Assistant
\$8.35-\$16.20/hour

Wages will vary within this occupation based on the employee's education, training, and years of experience.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Each occupation is described in terms of specific tasks and typical job duties.

A PHYSICAL THERAPIST MUST BE ABLE TO:

- Test and measure a patient's strength, range of motion, balance and coordination, posture, and muscle performance
- Develop and coordinate a goal-directed plan of care
- Document the patient's progress, conduct periodic examinations, and modify treatments when necessary
- Practice effective problem-solving identification and resolution skills as a method of sound decision making
- Demonstrate competency in utilizing the computer for the calendar, exercise programs, charges, etc.
- Demonstrate effective communication methods and skills
- Display high regard for personal dignity, diversity, and uniqueness of individuals
- Encourage patients so they can improve how they function at work and at home

WAGES

Wage information was obtained from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth and from local employers to give a general idea of the wages and salaries for this occupation.

WAGE RANGE

\$23.31-\$33.68/hour

WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical therapists practice in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and private offices that have specially equipped facilities, or they treat patients in hospital rooms, homes, or schools. The job can be physically demanding because therapists often have to stoop, kneel, crouch, lift, and stand for long periods of time. Physical therapists can work full- or part-time.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Courses, programs, and certificates that are needed for employment are offered by local education and training providers.



HIGH SCHOOL

- Completion of high school's Health Sciences Career Pathway requirements and/or appropriate career and technical education classes
- Algebra
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- Social science
- Career studies, such as the medical careers program at the Saginaw Career Complex and health technology/medical science and the nursing assistant/health careers program at the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center
- Co-op experience
- Volunteer experience in a health care environment

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Delta College: associate's degree in applied science – physical therapist assistant

UNIVERSITY

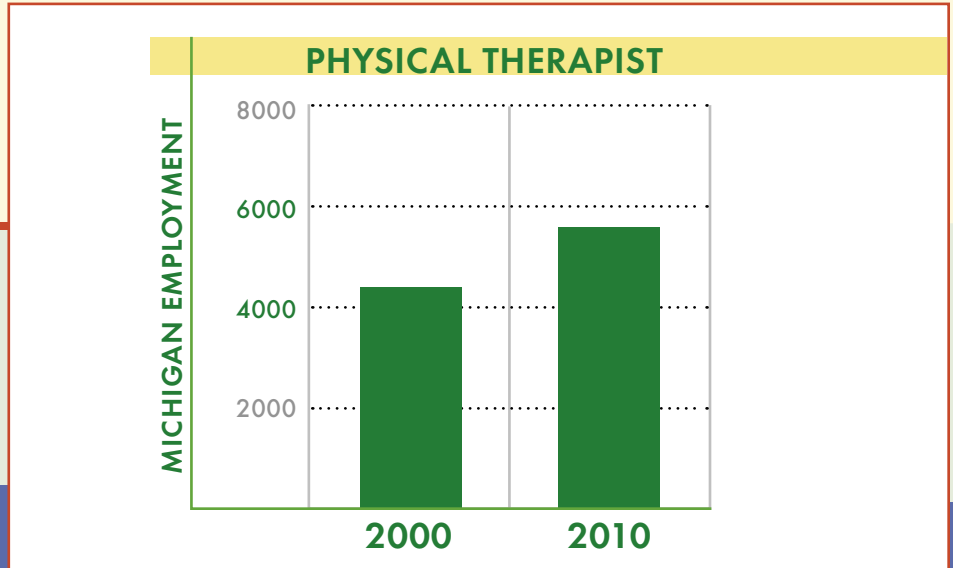
- Central Michigan University: doctor of physical therapy
- Ferris State University: bachelor's degree in applied biology – pre-physical therapy; master's degree in physical therapy

LOCAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

- Local school districts
- Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center
- Saginaw Career Complex
- Delta College
- Central Michigan University
- Ferris State University

JOB OUTLOOK

The rate of growth within this occupation is projected by data from local employers and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.



ADVANCEMENT

Physical therapists are expected to continue their professional development by participating in continuing education courses and workshops. Some physical therapists choose to specialize in such areas as pediatrics, geriatrics, sports medicine, and orthopedics. Physical therapists may move into program leadership positions.

WHAT THE EMPLOYER SAID



WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE FOR THIS POSITION?

"We look for people who are knowledgeable, dependable, and comfortable working with people of all ages. They also have to use all of their senses as they help patients to get better. They must be able to use their sense of sight to observe reaction; their sense of hearing to hear responses; and their sense of touch to feel muscle contractions or change in balance or body alignment."

Lureen Bausa, clinical supervisor of physical therapy department
HealthSource Saginaw

STAR PROFILE

This interview is intended to show you what is needed to be a star employee.



EMPLOYEE:
MATHEW HOARD

OCCUPATION:
PHYSICAL THERAPIST

COMPANY:
**HEALTHSOURCE
SAGINAW**

TELL US HOW YOU ATTAINED YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

My first job after I graduated was at McLaren Hospital in Flint. I worked there for about one year. I heard about a job opening at HealthSource and decided to apply. I interviewed for the job and was selected. I have worked here now for about one year.

DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY.

Basically what I do is concentrate on strengthening people who have been injured or debilitated. As a physical therapist, I have to evaluate new patients by measuring their strength, range of motion, balance and coordination, posture, muscle performance, respiration, and motor function. I then develop a treatment plan and set one- to two-week goals for them. A typical day for me is a 10-hour day. I work with patients in the rehabilitation unit and with our outpatients as well.

WHAT TRAINING AND EDUCATION DID YOU NEED TO ENTER THIS POSITION?

A person must have a master's degree from an accredited program of physical therapy. In the future, students will have to have a doctorate degree to enter this profession.

WHAT QUALITIES MAKE SOMEONE A "STAR" IN THIS OCCUPATION?

One of the most important qualities that a star employee must have is to be a team player. In my position, teamwork is the biggest component in getting work done. In addition, a star must be able to work with all different kinds of people. A star must also be flexible with such things as scheduling and working with others.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST/LEAST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The thing I like best about my job is the joy of seeing people come in that can't move and after receiving therapy they are able to walk out. Working with the patients is really fun. The thing I like least is the paperwork, because it takes away from the time that I can spend with the patients.

WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE SOMEONE SEEKING A JOB IN YOUR FIELD?

Someone who is interested in being a physical therapist should take a lot of college-prep courses while they are in high school. Classes such as biology and physics. Getting good grades will help prepare for the five or six years that are needed to get a physical therapist degree. Also, be involved in extra curricular things like band and sports. It is in those kinds of activities that one learns about taking directions and how to work as a team member.

ARE THERE ANY LICENSES OR CERTIFICATIONS NEEDED FOR YOUR POSITION?

A physical therapist needs to have a current license with the Board of Physical Therapy registration in the state of Michigan.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Career Ladders project began as a Saginaw County Vision 2020 initiative. To date, more than 300 individuals have been involved in the project. It is impossible to list them all, but the Comprehensive Education and Workforce Development Committee appreciates each one and the incredible participation by our major employers and educational institutions, as well as the support from the Arnold and Gertrude Boutell Memorial Fund, The Dow Chemical Company, The Dow Corning Foundation, the Fordney Club, the Hospital Council of East Central Michigan, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the National Tooling and Machining Association – Saginaw Valley Chapter, the Saginaw Community Foundation, the Saginaw County Business and Education Partnership, the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Saginaw County's local school districts, Saginaw County's Promise, the Saginaw County Vision 2020, the Saginaw Future Inc., the Saginaw/Midland/Bay Michigan Works!, the Saginaw Township Business Association, the Saginaw Valley Manufacturers' Association, and the Saginaw Valley Tech Prep Partnership. We also want to thank NOVA for their guidance.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM. AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.