

Physical Therapy

Physical Therapy

Physical therapists, or PTs, are health care professionals who evaluate and treat people with health problems resulting from injury, disease, or biomechanical dysfunction. Physical therapists are integral members of the primary care team and are involved in prevention of disability and promotion of positive health. They are also acting consultants in restorative care.

Physical therapy includes the following:

1. Examining and evaluating patients with health-related conditions, impairments, functional limitations, and disability in order to determine diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention;
2. Alleviating impairments and functional limitations by designing, implementing, and modifying therapeutic interventions;
3. Preventing injury, impairments, functional limitations, and disability while promoting and maintaining fitness, health, and quality of life in all age populations; and
4. Engaging in consultation, education, and research.

Career Opportunities

Physical therapists practice in acute care or subacute care hospitals, private physical therapy offices, community health centers, industrial health centers, sports facilities, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, schools, or pediatric centers. Others work in research institutions or teach in colleges and universities.

Faculty and Facilities

The faculty is composed of physical therapists that collectively have advanced preparation in all major areas of physical therapy. Most have earned doctorates or advanced specialty certification. Together they represent extensive years of clinical experience. Many faculty members continue to engage in practice in tandem with their faculty responsibilities. Several have held significant positions of leadership in professional associations and have authored textbooks used nationally; several also publish regularly in professional journals. Their efforts have been recognized frequently with prestigious awards from the profession and the community.

Clinical laboratory experiences are conducted in a variety of health care facilities throughout the state of California and out of state on a limited basis.



Faculty

Peggy R. Trueblood, *Chair*
Yuping Chen
Joanne M. Laslovich
Gary L. Lentell
Robert K. Martin
Marilyn Miller
Toni Tynner

Physical Therapy Education

The Department of Physical Therapy offers an undergraduate pre-physical therapy option and a Master of Physical Therapy leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy which meets pre-professional and professional education requirements to become a licensed physical therapist in all 50 states. The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program is self-support joint program with the University of California, San Francisco and is also available for experienced, licensed physical therapists with a master's degree in physical therapy.

Interdisciplinary Pre-Health and Rehabilitation Professions Education

The B.S. in Interdisciplinary Health and Rehabilitation Sciences offers preprofessional options in Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Occupational Therapy, Pre-Public Health, and Pre-Rehabilitation Services. These degree options prepare students to meet the prerequisite requirements of graduate programs in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Public Health, and Rehabilitation Counseling.

College of Health
and Human Services

Department of Physical Therapy

Peggy R. Trueblood, *Chair*
Ora Murray, *Administrative Support
Coordinator*

McLane Hall, Room 186A
559.278.2625

www.csufresno.edu/physicaltherapy

B.S., Interdisciplinary Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Options:

- Pre-Occupational Therapy
- Pre-Physical Therapy
- Pre-Public Health
- Pre-Rehabilitation Services

M.P.T., Master of Physical Therapy

D.P.T., Doctor of Physical Therapy

Minor in Interdisciplinary Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

In addition to the major, a minor in Interdisciplinary Health and Rehabilitation Sciences is recommended for students pursuing career paths in other health and human service professions, such as nursing, communicative disorders, health science, dietetics, dentistry, chiropractic, medicine, optometry, clinical psychology and counseling.

B.S. in Interdisciplinary Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

The major is designed to prepare undergraduate university students with prerequisite coursework, knowledge, attitudes and skills that will help them to gain admission to and succeed in graduate programs in the rehabilitation and health professions.

Rehabilitation professionals provide specialized services that enhance the function, self-care, mobility, vocational potential, communication or adaptive skills of persons with disabilities. Their services may result in an individual post head injury being able to live independently in the community, an elderly person following hip fracture being able to ascend a flight of stairs, or an individual with a visual impairment being able