

There are many promising occupations in the health field. Prepare yourself for growing career opportunities in physiotherapy.

Physiotherapists are licensed health care professionals who help people who have been ill or injured return to a healthy life.

They work directly with patients to design and administer treatment plans involving hands-on therapy such as soft tissue massage and joint mobilization and the use of hot and cold packs, ultrasound, lasers, and other mechanical tools.

In addition, physiotherapists teach patients specific exercises and stretches to improve their progress. Therapists monitor and document their patients' progress, and report to doctors, insurance companies, and employers.

Physiotherapy can also lead to a career in research to promote healthier lifestyles or changes in therapies and treatments.

MORE INFORMATION

Programs

Dalhousie University
Search for School of Physiotherapy
www.dal.ca

Professional Organizations

Canadian Physiotherapy Association
www.physiotherapy.ca

Sport Physiotherapy Canada
www.sportphysio.ca

Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists
902-454-0158
email: nsphysio@ns.sympatico.ca

Career and Job Prospects

Nova Scotia Career and Labour Market Information
For up-to-date information visit
www.novascotiacareeroptions.ca

Job Futures

Canada's National Career and Education Planning Tool
www.jobfutures.ca

Human Resources and Skill Development Canada

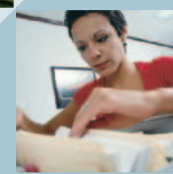
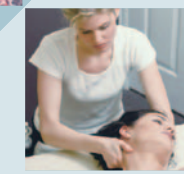
National Occupation Classification (NOC)
www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

NOC Code Search
Physiotherapist: 3142



Career Pathways Series

PHYSIOTHERAPY



Information for High School Students

PERSONAL SKILLS

NEEDED

Physiotherapists require dedication to attending to the physical and emotional needs of others.

People who succeed have skills and abilities that include the following:

- excellent speaking and writing skills
- physical dexterity, precision, and endurance
- sound judgment and decision-making skills
- problem-solving skills
- good interpersonal skills, including patience, reliability, and teamwork
- technological skills



WHERE THEY

WORK

Physiotherapists may work in clinical or community settings in

- community health centres
- hospitals
- nursing homes
- post-secondary research centres
- privately funded clinics
- publicly funded clinics
- rehabilitation centres
- school athletic departments
- schools for physically challenged children

As the Nova Scotia population becomes older, more physiotherapy services are delivered in community settings.

WHAT THEY

EARN

Average hourly income: \$29.50
Minimum: \$18.50
Maximum: \$34.75



REQUIRED

COURSES

High School

To prepare for a program in physiotherapy, take high school courses with an emphasis on English, math, biology, chemistry, physics, and physical and health education.

Post Secondary

For admission to a Bachelor's degree in physiotherapy, most schools require successful completion of two years of undergraduate studies including science and math courses.

Starting in 2010, universities in Canada will no longer offer bachelor's degrees in physical therapy. Anyone who wants to be a physiotherapist will have to complete a master's degree. To get into a masters program, you will need to complete a four-year undergraduate program including courses in areas such as biology, physics, and chemistry.

Dalhousie University offers Atlantic Canada's only physiotherapy program.

All physiotherapists must complete the Physiotherapy Competency Examination (PCE) and be licensed by the College of Physiotherapists in their province.

For admission and licensing requirements, visit the links on the back of this brochure.

What is the difference between a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist?

Physiotherapists work with people who have been injured, for example, through serious sports-related or car accidents. They also work with people who are suffering from disabling conditions such as heart disease, and those who are coping with physically limiting diseases such as arthritis, multiple sclerosis, or cerebral palsy.

The goal of occupational therapists is to help their clients lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives. They work with people who have physical, mental, emotional, or developmental problems. They help them to regain, develop, and build skills that they have lost or have never had.

People of diverse identities, backgrounds, and experiences find physiotherapy to be a challenging and rewarding career that offers mobility through a broad range of practice settings and research options. Both men and women are enjoying job security at good rates of pay.