

# Physical Therapist Assistant



**JOB DESCRIPTION:** Physical therapist assistants work under the direction and supervision of physical therapists. They help patients who are recovering from injuries and illnesses regain movement and manage pain. Physical therapist assistants are involved in the direct care of patients. Some of the duties include observing patients before, during and after therapy, noting the patient's status and reporting it to a physical therapist, helping patients do specific exercises as part of the plan of care, treat patients, using a variety of techniques, such as massage and stretching.

**MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARY:** \$57,430

**EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Associate's degree required from an accredited program. All states require physical therapist assistants to be licensed or certified.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** These programs typically require two years of full-time study and instruction. This occupation is projected to grow 30% by 2026.

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Sources: *Bureau of Labor Statistics and South Carolina Hospital Association.*