Physical Therapy is a dynamic profession with an established theoretical and scientific base and widespread clinical application in the restoration, maintenance and promotion of optimal physical performance.

For more than one million people every day in the United States, physical therapists:

- Diagnose and manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional abilities.
- Restore, maintain and promote not only optimal physical function but optimal wellness and fitness and optimal quality of life as it relates to movement and health.
- Prevent the onset, symptoms, and progression of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities that may result from diseases, disorders, conditions, or injuries.

Physical therapists are essential participants in the healthcare delivery system. They assume leadership roles in rehabilitation, in prevention, health maintenance, and in programs that promote health, wellness, and fitness in professional organizations and the community. Physical therapists also play important roles both in developing standards for physical therapist practice and in developing health care policy to ensure availability, accessibility and optimal delivery of physical therapy services (Rothstein, 2001).

Social and economic trends point towards people with and without physical disability living longer as well as a growing population of uninsured individuals. In addition, the baby boom generation is entering the prime age of age-related conditions – heart attack, stroke, and musculoskeletal injury. Future medical developments will also permit higher survival rates for trauma cases resulting in the increased need for rehabilitation. Health promotion, another major area of expertise for physical therapists, has potential to diminish risk factors for certain pathologies and thereby promote a healthier population in any one community. Physical therapists, at a lower cost and risk than surgery and medication, can provide services to these groups of individuals that can enhance performance, restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities. The need for physical therapists will always be present. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics lists physical therapists as one of the fastest growing occupations, 2012-2022.

**Immunization Requirements**

It is the policy of the College of Health Professions that each student must provide a health report completed by a physician and must take specific immunizations before the student can be placed in a clinical or internship assignment. Information on these will be provided once students are enrolled in the program.

**Background Check and Drug Screening**

As a condition for placement in some professional practice sites, some students are required to have a background check and/or drug screening to meet requirements set by individual sites. Information on the drug screening process will be provided by program/department/school. Previous misdemeanor or felony convictions under various titles of the Texas Penal Code may affect eligibility for practitioner license status following graduation.

**Financial Assistance**

Assistantships may be available for qualified applicants in the second and third year of the program. The office of The Graduate College can provide further information regarding scholarships.

**Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)**

- Major in Physical Therapy (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/health-professions/physical-therapy/dpt)