Physical therapy is a dynamic profession with an established theoretical and scientific base and widespread clinical applications in the restoration, maintenance, and promotion of optimal physical function. Physical therapists are health professionals who help individuals maintain, restore, and improve movement, activity, and functioning, thereby enabling optimal performance and enhancing health, well-being, and quality of life. Physical therapists’ services prevent, minimize, or eliminate impairments of body functions and structures, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. Physical therapists diagnose and treat people of all ages, including newborns, children, and elderly individuals to improve mobility. Physical therapists provide care for people in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and nursing homes.

Physical therapists play a vital role in today’s health care environment and are recognized as essential providers of rehabilitation and habilitation, performance enhancement, and prevention and risk-reduction services. 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 provision of physical therapist services.

**Immunization Requirements**

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

**Background Check and Drug Screening**

As a condition for placement in most professional practice sites, 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 the 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.