

Physiotherapist

Get people moving again after injury, surgery and illness. A tough master's to get into, then steady work everywhere.

TYPICAL PAY

\$96,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$62k to \$117k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Private clinics, hospitals, rehab centres, sports teams

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Biology, chemistry, physics, math. You need high marks for the whole path.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
 Kinesiology, health science or biology are common. Programs look at your GPA in the last 2 years and want it high, usually 3.7 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- 3 MScPT (master of science in physiotherapy)** 2 years
 Two intense years with 1,000 or more hours of clinical placements across hospitals, private clinics and community care. Only about 15 programs in Canada.
- 4 CPTe (Canadian Physiotherapy Examination)** After graduation
 Since 2026 there is one national exam, run by CAPR (the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators). It has a written section and an oral, scenario-based section with a single pass mark. It replaced the old PCE (physiotherapy competency exam) and the separate provinc...
- 5 Register with your provincial college** A few weeks
 For example the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario. Then you can use the title physiotherapist.

Pros and cons

- + Very high demand in every province
- + Done in 6 years, no residency
- + Patients get visibly better; you see results
- Admission is one of the hardest in health care
- Physically hard on your own back and hands
- Private clinics pay per patient, so quiet days cost you

Good to know

No referral needed

In every province you can book a physiotherapist directly without seeing a doctor first.

It used to be a bachelor's degree

Physiotherapy was a 4-year undergraduate degree in Canada until the 2000s. Every English-language program has since moved to a 2-year master's on top of a bachelor's.

Optional boosts

Manual therapy fellowship, FCAMPT (Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physiotherapy). Sport physiotherapy diploma. Pelvic health. Acupuncture and dry needling.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Physiotherapists, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Canadian Physiotherapy Association

Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (runs the Canadian Physiotherapy Examination)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/physiotherapist>



Scan for the full clicker