

2021 Edition

THE PHYSICAL THERAPY EARLY PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE GUIDE

Presented by the



**CALIFORNIA STUDENT
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

INTRODUCTION

An Early Professional PT or PTA is a clinician who is still in their first five years of practice. As many of our colleagues would say, you will experience substantial and rapid growth as a clinician when you initially start working in the profession.

This guide was created by a group of passionate physical therapy students and early professional physical therapists who want to see others succeed! This guide was tailored to students approaching graduation and to early professionals venturing out into their professional careers.

Here you will find the tools you need to successfully navigate the transition of becoming a new physical therapy professional. While this guide is not all-inclusive, we hope you will find these resources helpful in achieving your professional and clinical goals!

This guide contains over **200** direct links to external websites. Just click the images or underlined text!



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: GETTING LICENSED

LICENSURE ROADMAP

You're in your last term of school or you just graduated from your PT or PTA program... What are the next steps in becoming a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in California? We've got you covered with your required "To-Do's" and helpful links below!

Your Education Program will create a FSBPT account for you and send you log-in info

Prepare to apply to PTBC 30 days prior to application submission

[Check out PTBC's Guide for the application process](#)

Your Program will validate your graduation which will allow you to register for the NPTE and CA Law Exam

The FSBPT will then grant an Authorization to Test (ATT) Letter which enables you to schedule the date and location of your NPTE and the CA Law Exam

Submit your application to PTBC through BreEZe

Register for the NPTE and CA Law Exam on the FSBPT website

[Check continuously updated Dates and Deadlines for the NPTE](#)

PTBC will then grant you PTLA or POTALA status prior to you taking the NPTE

Take the NPTE and CA Law Exam (on separate dates)

The FSBPT will provide your score report online for viewing and will send your score to PTBC

Terms to Know

- **The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT):** Organizes the national examination that licenses PT's and PTA's and the CA Jurisprudence (Law) examination.
- **National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE)**
 - PT: 250 questions taken in a 5-hour period. You may take it 3 times in a 12-month period.
 - PTA: 200 questions taken in a 4-hour period. You may take it 3 times in a 12-month period.
- **CA Law Exam:** Tests applicants' knowledge of laws and regulations related to physical therapy practice in California. It is 50 questions taken in a 1-hour period. [Check out the CA Law Exam Reference Guide](#)
- **PT Board of CA (PTBC):** The PTBC is THE source for licensure requirements and licensure renewal.
- **PT/A Licensure Applicant (PTLA/POTALA):** PTBC will grant you this status prior to taking the NPTE which, depending on your employer, will allow you to practice contingent on you passing the NPTE.

PTBC will issue your license within 45 days of fulfilling any FSBPT deficiencies...CONGRATULATIONS YOU ARE A LICENSED PT OR PTA!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties

Physical therapy specialization involves gaining deeper knowledge, skill base, and experience in a particular area of practice. The current specialties (as of 2020) are listed below. The ABPTS is the organization that oversees the certification and re-certification processes.



Why become a Certified Specialist?

Enjoy an increased sense of personal achievement and self-confidence, open doors to professional growth like new job opportunities, leadership, and service. Earn a credential that reflects advanced specialist practice to patients, physicians, and payers.

Cardiovascular and Pulmonary

Clinical Electrophysiology

Geriatrics

Neurology

Oncology

Orthopaedics

Pediatrics

Sports

Women's Health

Wound Management

Staying Specialized

Specialist certification lasts for 10 years and will need to be recertified through the Maintenance of Specialist Certification (MOSC) program.

PTA Advanced Proficiency Pathways

This program provides advanced knowledge and training for Physical Therapy Assistants in chosen areas of physical therapy and requirements can be completed through the APTA.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: RESIDENCIES & FELLOWSHIPS



American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education

The ABPTRFE provides accreditation for residency and fellowship programs. Residency and fellowship programs provide a deeper breadth of training for physical therapists.

Why Residency?

Residencies provide training for physical therapists within defined areas of practice. Residency-trained clinicians are also eligible to sit for their respective specialist certification examinations.

Why Fellowship?

Fellowships provide advanced training within a defined area of subspecialty practice. You must have completed a residency or hold an ABPTS specialist certification.

Cardiovascular and Pulmonary

Clinical Electrophysiology

Geriatrics

Neurology

Oncology

Orthopaedics

Pediatrics

Sports

Women's Health

Wound Management

Critical Care

Hand Therapy

Movement System

Neonatology

Orthopaedic Manual PT

Performing Arts

Spine

Sports Division 1

Upper Extremity Athlete

Directory of Programs

There are a multitude of residency and fellowship programs and new ones are continuously being accredited. Find the program that best fits you.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: MENTORSHIP

Mentorship will play a huge role in your development as a clinician and a professional as you gain more experience.

Where to look for mentorship:

- Residency/Fellowship
- Employer
- DPT/PTA Program faculty
- A colleague you know personally or through social media/a contact

APTA Mentorship Programs

Several sections of the APTA offer mentorship programs for students and/or early professionals:

- [Academy of Ortho PT](#)
- [Academy of Neuro PT](#)
- [Academy of Sports PT](#)
- [Academy of Pediatric PT](#)
- [Academy of Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Management](#)

Helpful articles to learn more about mentorship:

- [Finding the Right Mentorship Program for a New Grad PT](#)
- [How to Find a Great Physical Therapy Mentor](#)

Early Professional and Student Special Interest Groups

- [Academy of Pelvic Health PT](#)
- [Academy of Pediatric PT](#)
- [Academy of Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Management](#)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: CONTINUING EDUCATION

PT's and PTA's are required to keep track of required continuing education hours. This ensures that we stay up to date with the profession.

How Often Do I Need to Renew my PT/PTA License?

You need to renew our license with the PT Board of California every 2 years and this deadline is counted from the date your license is awarded. It is easy to renew, either online or through the mail.

When Do I Submit my Con-Ed Hours?

You only need to provide documentation of your hours if requested from the PT Board. They recommend keeping records for at least 5 years after completing the course or activity.

How Many Hours Are Required?

If you in the first 13-24 months of your license:

Renewal Payment Was Submitted to the PTBC	Basic Life Support Hours	Ethics, Laws and Regulations Hours	Other Hours of Coursework Needed*	Total Hours Required
On or Before the License Expiration Date	4 Hours	2 Hours	9 Hours	15 Hours
After the License Expiration Date	4 Hours	2 Hours	24 Hours	30 Hours

*Other as used here means continuing competency activity from a traditional or alternate pathway pursuant to Section 1399.94 of the California Code of Regulations.

If you are past the first licensure renewal period (everyone else):

Renewal Payment Was Submitted to the PTBC	Basic Life Support Hrs	Ethics, Laws & Reg. Hrs	Other Hours of Coursework Needed*	Total Hours Required
Before OR After the Expiration Date	4 Hours	2 Hours	24 Hours	30 Hours

*Other as used here means continuing competency activity from a traditional or alternate pathway pursuant to Section 1399.94 of the California Code of Regulations.

Interested in finding alternative pathways to obtaining Continuing Competency Credit? The [CA Code of Regulations](#) has a list of other ways you can get your hours.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: CONTINUING EDUCATION

There are various ways to find con-ed courses. Check out some of our favorite resources for getting your CEU's!



APTA Learning Center:

APTA-sponsored online courses you can easily watch from the comfort of home

Section-Sponsored Independent Study:

Several of APTA's Sections offer courses through independent study and study. These may be available via online access or via printed material.



CPTA Sponsored Courses:

CPTA provides a list of continuing education courses. APTA/CPTA members can attend these courses or events at a discounted price.

CPTA Pre-Recorded Webinars:

CPTA provides pre-recordings of past continuing education events to watch at your convenience. CEUs may not apply for pre-recorded webinars.



MEDBRIDGE

Medbridge:

Medbridge provides a 12-month subscription to over 1,200 accredited continuing education and live webinars. It also provides access to a robust home exercise program builder with many patient education resources. CPTA is partnered with Medbridge and provides a discounted price for subscriptions.

Other places to find CEU's:

- Local resources such as local clinics or hospital systems
- Groups such as the Institute of Clinical Excellence and Evidence in Motion provide more training and even certification programs
- You could even consider getting further certifications to advance your practice

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: STAYING CURRENT

More podcasts to check out:

[Healthy Wealthy
and Smart](#)

[PTonIce](#)

[The Ask Mike
Reinold Show](#)

[Therapy Insiders](#)

[Evidence in
Motion](#)

[Move Forward
Radio](#)

Physical Therapy Blogs:

Sports/Ortho

Business/Marketing

Pelvic Health

[Mike Reinold](#)

[UpDoc Media](#)

[Pelvic Guru](#)

[Running Physio](#)

[WebPT](#)

[Julie Wiebe](#)

[Fitness Pain Free](#)

[Clinicient](#)

Various Topics

[Nicole Surdyka](#)

Travel PT

[Physio Network](#)

[The Prehab Guys](#)

[WanderlustPTs](#)

[Physiospot](#)

[The Manual
Therapist](#)

[PT Adventures](#)

[The DPT Diaries](#)

NETWORKING AND LEADERSHIP: PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

World Physiotherapy is the global body representing 125 member organizations (including APTA) and over 660,000 physical therapists.



**World
Physiotherapy**

World Physiotherapy Subgroups

The Subgroups represent international organizations that have specific areas of interest, promote the advancement of the profession, and facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge

World Physiotherapy Networks

The Networks facilitates the exchange of experience and ideas between individual clinicians

World PT Day

World PT Day occurs every year on September 8. World Physiotherapy provides a toolkit every year to help spread awareness and to promote the profession

World Physiotherapy Congress

Every 2 years the global community comes together to network, connect, and exchange ideas to promote and advance the profession of physical therapy

NETWORKING AND LEADERSHIP: PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

18 special-interest sections

100,000+ members

51 State Chapters

PTA Caucus



House of Delegates

Volunteer groups and councils

#ChoosePT Campaign

Student Assembly

Explore the value of being an APTA member:

Professional Development

Career Resources

Patient-Care Resources

Financial Literacy and Support

Advocacy

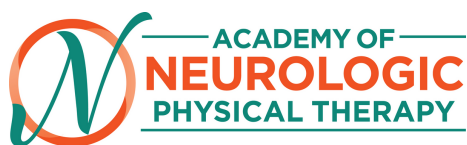
Networking

Discount Programs

NETWORKING AND LEADERSHIP: PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

APTA Sections and Academies

Each section provides an opportunity for networking, leadership, patient-care resources, and continued education for specific topics in physical therapy. You can become a member for an annual fee that varies per section.



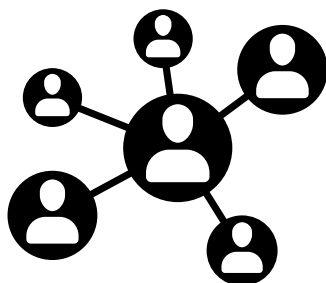
NETWORKING AND LEADERSHIP: PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



CPTA is the California chapter of the APTA and provides resources for and advocates on behalf of its members



Education



Membership



Leadership



Professional
Affairs

Districts & Special Interest Groups

CPTA has 12 local districts (grouped by counties) and several Special Interest Groups to further connect with like-minded individuals

- Golden Gate
- Greater Los Angeles
- Inland Counties
- Long Beach/South Bay
- Northeast
- Orange County
- Redwood Empire
- San Diego
- San Gabriel Valley
- San Joaquin Valley
- San Jose
- Tricounties
- CA Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy SIG
- Pediatric SIG
- Private Practice SIG
- Student SIG

NETWORKING AND LEADERSHIP: PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES



Conferences are a great opportunity to expand your knowledge, explore your interests, and to network with fellow students and professionals:

APTA Conferences

- Combined Sections Meeting (CSM)
- NEXT Conference & Exposition
- National Student Conclave

CPTA Conferences

- CPTA Annual Conference
- California Student Conclave

Section Conferences

While not listed here, many of the APTA sections will also host more specialized conferences related to their area of special interest. We recommend exploring the section websites for further education and networking opportunities.

Other Interesting Conferences

- World Physiotherapy Congress
- San Diego Pain Summit
- American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy (AAOMPT) Conference



ADVOCACY: FOR OUR PATIENTS AND PROFESSION



We are able to shape policies and regulations related to physical therapy and healthcare through grassroots, lobbying, and legislative advocacy efforts. It is easy to get involved in advocacy! Find starter resources for getting involved below.

[Guide to Effective Grassroots](#)

This guide is provided by the CPTA to assist physical therapists interested in organizing grassroots campaigns to advocate for PT in their local communities. It provides details on how to find your local legislators, the best approach to contacting legislators both in-person and by email/phone, and tips for hosting fundraising events.

[How to advocate in your first year of PT school](#)

This article is a resource for students just beginning their PT/PTA program to get acquainted with advocacy. It explains the importance of advocacy for both the profession and our patients, and ways to become an advocate as a student.

[Perspectives of an Advocacy Veteran](#)

Eva Norman, chair of the Physical Therapy Political Action Committee, answers questions about her experience as a champion for physical therapy and how simple it can be to get involved with advocacy.

[Professional Affairs for Physical Therapy](#)

Learn more about critical issues in physical therapy involving payment issues, practice, and advocacy. This resource page from the CPTA is a great place to become familiar with the issues that will impact you as a clinician.

ADVOCACY: CALIFORNIA RESOURCES



CPTA Advocacy Center: The CPTA Advocacy Center allows students and clinicians in California to become involved with state and grassroots advocacy. This resource provides links to the current bills in the California Legislation, a list of the California State Assembly and Senate districts, a Key Contact List, and the Guide to Effective Grassroots.

CAL-PT-PAC: The California Physical Therapy Political Action Committee supports California Legislators who advocate for the physical therapy profession. The CAL-PT-PAC provides legislators with the financial means to discuss current bills in the California Legislature through donations from the CPTA members, partnerships, and other donors.



CPTA Legislative Day: CPTA Legislative Day provides an opportunity to learn about bills in the state legislature that may impact the physical therapy profession and to meet with legislatures and their staff in the Capitol. This event is a way for students and clinicians to become more active in state and grassroots advocacy.

Look Up CA Bills: The CA Legislative Information website allows users to search for current and past bills, publications, and California law. This website is a resource for students and clinicians to learn more about CA legislation related to the physical therapy profession.



ADVOCACY: NATIONAL RESOURCES



APTA Public Policy Priorities:

This document details APTA national policy policies and solutions to meet these goals and is updated bi-annually.

APTA Advocacy Center:

The APTA Advocacy Center allows members, nonmembers, and the public to contact their legislators regarding critical issues for the profession.

APTA Advocacy Network:

The APTA Advocacy Network is a free resource by which APTA members can receive special legislative updates and action alerts. Joining is as simple as just filling out a sign-up form!

PT Political Action Committee:

The PT-PAC supports the national legislators who champion physical therapy issues; their support and advocacy are crucial to patients and our profession.



ADVOCACY: FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

[CA Senate and Assemblyperson Directory](#)

When advocating for your profession, it is helpful to know who represents you as a constituent. This link quickly and easily provides you with your State Senator and State Assembly Member per CA District. There are 40 Senate Districts and 80 Assembly Districts.



[US House of Representatives Directory](#)

Here you can find a list of every US House Representative categorized by state and district. This list also details special committee assignments.



[US Senate Directory](#)

It is important to stay updated on your federal representation. This link provides current contact information for all United States Senators.



FINANCIAL RESOURCES: APTA FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS CENTER



American Physical
Therapy Association
In-House Financial Resources

APTA Financial Solutions Center:

An online resource that offers APTA members opportunities to improve their financial education and literacy, to refinance student loans, and to find a certified financial planner.

APTA Financial Education Platform (Enrich):

A platform that provides APTA members with the resources to learn more about finances through videos, webinars, interactive worksheets, and articles.

APTA Financial Management Features, Articles, & Podcasts:

A series of articles for learning more about financial management -find links to the Financial Solutions Center, Financial Strategies for Students and New Graduates, and a link to Scholarships and Awards for students.

APTA Education: Prospective Student Frequently Asked Questions:

An informational PDF with frequently asked Q&A and other resources on topics such as Applying for Loans, Loan Repayment, and questions students can ask PT/A programs.

American Physical
Therapy Association
External Financial Resources

Laurel Road: Student Loan Refinancing for APTA Members:

Exclusive benefit for APTA members! Laurel Road is a lending platform to refinance federal and private student loans. APTA Members get a 0.25% rate discount.



Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards:

Search for a local Certified Financial Planner to help you identify and conquer your financial goals.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES: EARLY CAREER DUES DISCOUNT PROGRAM

American Physical
Therapy Association
Early Career Dues
Discount Program



The **Early Career Dues Discount Program** allows clinicians to transition from student to licensed physical therapist membership in APTA with less financial burden during the first 4 years after graduation.

To take advantage of this program offered through the APTA, students must have an active student membership before graduation and maintain a continuous membership post-graduation.

For more information, check out their [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#).

**First Year
Postgraduation**

50% off national and California chapter dues*

Plus receive a **FREE** registration to APTA's NEXT Conference & Exposition.

Limited-Time Pilot Opportunity

Second Year Postgraduation	Third Year Postgraduation	Fourth Year Postgraduation
40% off national and California chapter dues (savings of up to \$216)*	30% off national and California chapter dues (savings of up to \$162)*	20% off national and California chapter dues (savings of up to \$108)*

*Plus receive additional discounts from participating sections.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES: SCHOLARSHIPS

Mary McMillan Scholarship Award

This award recognizes students who exhibit superior scholastic ability and potential for future professional contribution. PT/PTA students must be nominated by faculty in their academic program and be in the final year of their graduate program to be eligible for this award. The award is \$5,000 to each physical therapist student recipient and \$3,000 to each physical therapist assistant student recipient.

APTA Honors and Awards Program

The APTA Honors & Awards program recognizes outstanding achievements by members in the following categories: overall accomplishment, education, practice and service, publications, research, and academic excellence. Therapists are awarded based on contributions to physical therapy practice within academia, research, and service to the community.

A central graphic featuring a yellow sunburst with a red border, set against a blue ribbon background. The text "American Physical Therapy Association Scholarships" is written in red within the sunburst.

American Physical Therapy Association Scholarships

Minority Scholarship Award

This award, provided through the minority scholarship fund of the APTA, recognizes both students and faculty members who have demonstrated significant contributions to minority communities beyond the requirements of their academic program. The Minority Scholarship Award recognizes students within their final year of an accredited physical therapy graduate education and faculty members pursuing post-professional doctoral degrees for their professional character and academic excellence. Faculty Development Scholarship awardees receive a monetary award of \$5,000, student physical therapist awardees receive \$5,000, and student physical therapist assistant awardees receive \$3,000.

Outstanding PT and PTA Student Awards

The APTA offers a \$1000 scholarship to PT students and \$500 to PTA students based on their exceptional overall accomplishments and contributions to the APTA, the Student Assembly, and the physical therapy profession. Students must currently be enrolled in their final year of an accredited or developing physical therapist or physical therapist assistant education program and be a current APTA member to qualify. Elected officers of the Student Assembly Board of Directors and Nominating Committee are not eligible for this award.

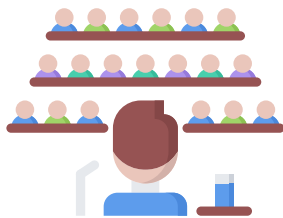
FINANCIAL RESOURCES: SCHOLARSHIPS

California Physical Therapy Association Scholarships



CPTA Research Grant

The CAL-PT-FUND awards up to \$20,000 in grant funding for relevant research to advance evidence based practice and build a cadre of practitioner-scholars. The Principal Investigator or the Project Mentor must be a member of the California Physical Therapy Association, and the research study must relate to physical therapy to be eligible for this grant. Additionally, all proposals must fall into one of these five categories: Clinical Validation, Health Services Research, Educational Research, Translational Research, or Basic Research.



California Student Conclave Scholarship

These scholarships are given to students to enable them to attend the California Student Conclave conference. Funding for these scholarships comes from donations by PT and PTA Professionals, CPTA Districts, PT and PTA Programs, and businesses who purchase Scholarships on behalf of students.

External Scholarships & Awards

Franklin D. Boyce Health Scholarship

This award supports a broad range of professional health occupations, including physical therapy, by awarding scholarships for attendance at institutions of higher learning. To be eligible for this award, applicants must attend or express an interest in attending college as a full-time or part-time undergraduate, or graduate student in a health-related field, submit a completed online application with all required documents, demonstrate financial need, and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Additional Private Scholarship Resources

The APTA Financial Solutions Center offers additional financial resources for PT/PTAs and students to reduce student loan debt. The APTA Financial Solutions center also offers a free financial education program through Enrich with a customizable online financial education platform including videos, articles, webinars, and more to create a personalized experience in financial and debt education. This link includes information on the APTA Student Loan Refinancing Program.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES: LOANS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



The Ins and Outs of Tuition Reimbursement and Loan Forgiveness:

This APTA article from April 17, 2017, talks about the APTA Financial Solutions Center online resources. It discusses the APTA Financial Education Programs, powered by Enrich, and the APTA Student Loan Refinancing Program provided by Darien Rowayton Bank (DRB).

4 Big Student Loan Repayment Mistakes Grad Students and Post Professional Candidates Make:

This APTA article from September 10, 2019, goes into detail about the four big student loan repayment mistakes of graduate students and post-professional candidates:

- 1) Borrowing while paying off old loans
- 2) Not paying down private student loans first
- 3) Paying down your loans when you potentially qualify for public service loan forgiveness
- 4) Not setting up an emergency fund account.

FitBUX PT Community:

FitBUX is an online website that provides PT's, PTA's, and SPT's resources regarding how to manage finances before, during, and after PT or PTA school. Some of the topics include PT student loans, PT salaries, PT podcasts and blogs, PT jobs, and other useful PT resources.



There are numerous resources and online programs to assist with budgeting and managing your personal finances. Click the links below for several top rated financial applications.



FINANCIAL RESOURCES: LOAN FORGIVENESS/REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of
the AMERICAN MIND®

Public Service Loan Forgiveness: The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Help Tool can determine whether a person works for a qualifying employer for the PSLF or Temporary Expanded PSLF (TEPSLF) programs, suggest actions a person can take to become eligible and guide a person through the submission process. The tool is for all borrowers who are interested in PSLF or TEPSLF.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

Veterans Affairs: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration website provides information regarding repayment and reimbursements. The three programs discussed on the website include the Education Debt Reduction Program, Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, and the Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) through working with VA.



HRSA Faculty Loan Repayment Program: The Health Resources and Service Administration provides information about a Faculty Loan Repayment Program that repays loans for individuals interested in pursuing a career as a faculty member at a health professions school. HRSA also provides information about the application process. Those who apply and get accepted through the FLRP can receive up to \$40,000 in loan repayment assistance and funding to offset the tax burden.



NHSC Loan Repayment Program: The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program dedicates a total of \$15 million for awards to clinicians working at Indian Health Service facilities, Tribally-Operated 638 Health Programs, and Urban Indian Health Programs. Additionally, the Indian Health Service (IHS) Loan Repayment Program repays IHS clinicians up to \$40,000 for their eligible professional education loans in exchange for an initial 2-year service commitment to practice in health facilities serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

CAREER RESOURCES: FINDING YOUR FIRST JOB

MONSTER

USAJOBS

 ZipRecruiter®

Linked in

**Click a link to
start your job
search now!**

The LIST
LIVE TRAVEL JOBS

glassdoor

indeed

PTJobs.com

CAREER RESOURCES: FINDING YOUR FIRST JOB

Many websites post job listings, including the APTA and CPTA. See the links below for the association provided career postings.

- [APTA Career Center](#)
- [CPTA Career Center](#)

Tips for Starting a Practice from the APTA:

Are you interested in opening a practice? The APTA has provided resources to help guide you.



Physical Therapy is a dynamic and multifaceted profession.

In addition to direct patient care, there are many non-clinical career paths you can explore. Check out The Non-Clinical PT for expert guidance and information.



The **Non-Clinical** PT

CAREER RESOURCES: RESUME AND CURRICULUM VITAE

Creating a great resume and curriculum vitae (CV) can make or break your job application. There are many resources available to help you develop these documents.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Curriculum Vitae (CV):

A detailed record of your accomplishments, skills, education, job experience, and certifications, to name a few. A CV has no page limit.



Resume:

A concise snapshot of your education, skills, and related work experience. Tailor your resume to each specific job and limit it to 1-2 pages.

[CV vs Resume](#)

[ResumeGenius](#)

[APTA Resume Writing Tips](#)

[Physical Therapy CVs, Resumes, and Cover Letters](#)

CAREER RESOURCES: INTERVIEWING

What to Expect in a Typical Physical Therapy Job Interview

Congratulations! You've applied for your dream physical therapy job; you're eager to shine in your interview and prove that you're the best candidate for the job. The best thing you can do to ensure you nail your PT interview is to prepare in advance and know what to expect.

[CLICK HERE](#)

15 Questions To Ask During Your Physical Therapy Job Interview!

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the Physical Therapy job market is experiencing significant growth, to the tune of 25%. That means more therapy job opportunities and more therapy job interviews.

Here's the thing about job interviews: it doesn't matter if you're a new Physical Therapist or if you've been in the clinic for 15+ years. A successful interview will result in a good hire and the right fit for the clinic and therapist.

An unsuccessful interview can result in miscommunication, poorly set expectations, and even resentment down the road. Let's avoid this, shall we?

[CLICK HERE](#)

How to Interview For a Physical Therapy Job!

Learning how to interview for a physical therapy job can help you land the career of a lifetime and develop your communication skills.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Physical Therapy Interview Questions

[CLICK HERE](#)



CAREER RESOURCES: NEGOTIATIONS & SALARY

STATISTICS MEDIAN INCOME OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS



\$92,000

2016 APTA Report of the Western Pacific States (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA)

[APTA Physical Therapist Median Income Report](#)



Eighty-four percent of people who ask for a higher salary while interviewing get a positive response. For one in every five salary negotiations, the pay increase is between **11%** and **20%**. In other words, a Physical Therapist Assistant offered \$50,000 can expect to make an additional \$134,000 over ten years with a successfully negotiated salary.

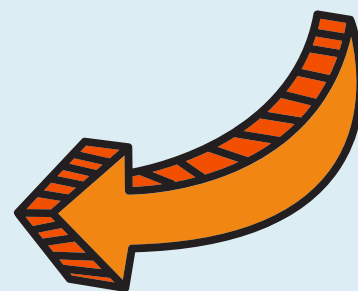
Read more on [How To Make More Money as a Physical Therapist \(or PTA\): PT Salary Negotiation 101](#)

MORE APTA RESOURCES

[HOW TO TALK ABOUT SALARY IN A JOB INTERVIEW?](#)

[DEFINING SALARY EXPECTATIONS](#)

[NEGOTIATING SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS](#)



CAREER RESOURCES: AVOIDING BURNOUT

What is burnout?

Burnout is a combination of exhaustion, discouragement, and stress that can leave clinicians feeling detached from work. As an early professional, it's paramount to know how to recognize and address burnout quickly.

Signs of burnout

- Dreading going to work
- Feeling like you can't meet your own or your company's expectations
- Frustration towards patients or coworkers
- Constantly feeling overwhelmed, overworked, or undervalued

What can you do?

- Address your feelings with your supervisor
- Prioritize self-care, avoid working over breaks, and take vacation days
- Consider changing practice settings
- Seek mentorship and community through group involvement
- Set SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely)

Read more here:

 [9 Signs You're a Burned-Out PT \(and What to Do About It\)](#)

 [Beating Burnout](#)

 [10 Tips to Avoid Burnout](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

MATTERS

