General Areas of Service:

Physical therapists work to help injured or ill people improve movement and manage pain. Most of their work involves working to rehabilitate people with muscle, nerve, joint, and bone diseases or injuries. In addition, they help patients learn to use artificial limbs, braces, crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs. They are employed by hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, private offices and clinics.

Professional Training:

To practice physical therapy one must complete a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree and pass licensure examinations. Andrews and Loma Linda Universities are the denominational schools that offer DPT degrees. Entry into a DPT program usually requires completion of both pre-requisite course work and completion of a bachelor’s degree in any major. There are however a few schools (Andrews Univ. is one) that will accept students following three years of undergraduate college study.

Job Outlook:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), “[e]mployment of physical therapists is expected to grow 34 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.” The BLS reports that job growth is expected due to the aging of the baby boomer generation and increased numbers of people with health insurance. Physical therapists will play an important role in “[a]ssisting] patients with rehabilitation and treatment of any chronic conditions or injuries.” (See [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov))

Earnings:

In their May 2016 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for physical therapists as $85,400 with the lowest 10 percent earning less than $58,190 and the highest 10 percent earning more than $122,130 (see [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)). Salaries will be somewhat dependent on geographic location and type of employment desired.
Entry requirements vary according to the professional school. The chart below details the suggested path a student may take to complete the requirements for entry into the Physical Therapy Program at Loma Linda University. **Classes that are offered with multiple sections are listed in each quarter they are available.** Cognates, general studies courses & electives should be taken to complete 96 credit hours for admission into Loma Linda University’s Physical Therapy program.

It is the students’ responsibility to contact the school of their choice & to meet the requirements for that school.  
See the Undergraduate Bulletin for complete requirements.

Loma Linda University requires a Bachelor's degree for acceptance into their Physical Therapy program in addition to the following courses:

### Autumn
- BIOL 121  Anatomy & Physiology ....................................... 4
- PHYS 211  General Physics (PHYS 214 Lab) ................................ 4
- CHEM 141  General Chemistry (CHEM 144 Lab) .......................... 4
- PSYC 130  General Psychology ................................................ 4
- SPCH 101  Fundamentals of Speech Communication ............. 4

### Winter
- BIOL 122  Anatomy & Physiology ........................................ 4
- PHYS 212  General Physics (PHYS 215 Lab) ........................... 4
- CHEM 142  General Chemistry (CHEM 145 Lab) ....................... 4
- PSYC 130  General Psychology ................................................ 4
- SPCH 101  Fundamentals of Speech Communication ............. 4

### Spring
- BIOL 123  Anatomy & Physiology ........................................ 4
- PHYS 213  General Physics (PHYS 216 Lab) ........................... 4
- CHEM 143  General Chemistry (CHEM 146 Lab) ....................... 4
- PSYC 130  General Psychology ................................................ 4
- SPCH 101  Fundamentals of Speech Communication ............. 4

**Work Experience: A documented minimum of 80 hours of work/observation experience (20 hours must be in an inpatient setting and 20 hours in an outpatient setting) in a physical therapy department is required.**

Loma Linda University also requires:
- A documented minimum of 80 hours of work/observation experience in a physical therapy department, or community service before acceptance.
- Mathematics or two years of high school math with a grade of C or better.

**C- grades will not be accepted for transfer credit at LLU. Admission is competitive so a 3.20 GPA or above is highly recommended.**