

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Chair: Dr. Sambit Mohapatra (smohapatra@shsu.edu)

Contact: 936-202-5091

Mission

The Department of Physical Therapy is committed to creating a student-centric environment that fosters academic excellence and encourages discovery. We aim to transform lives through innovative education, hands-on learning, and collaborative practice. By prioritizing professional development and community engagement, we empower our students to become compassionate, skilled professionals who make a meaningful impact in the field of physical therapy and the communities they serve.

Academic Programs

Please visit the current graduate catalog (<https://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2025-2026/graduate-and-professional/college-departments/health-sciences/physical-therapy/>) for more details.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program are prepared for diverse career paths across multiple settings and specialty areas:

Clinical Practice Settings

- **Acute Care Hospitals:** Inpatient rehabilitation, ICU, emergency departments
- **Outpatient Clinics:** Private practice, hospital-based outpatient, specialty clinics
- **Skilled Nursing Facilities:** Long-term care, transitional care units
- **Home Health Services:** In-home patient care, telehealth physical therapy
- **School-Based Practice:** Special education services, pediatric school settings
- **Industrial/Occupational Health:** Workplace injury prevention, ergonomics, return-to-work programs
- **Sports Medicine Facilities:** Professional sports teams, collegiate athletics, sports performance centers
- **Wellness and Fitness Centers:** Corporate wellness, community fitness programs
- **Research Institutions:** Clinical research, academic medical centers
- **Government and Military:** Veterans Affairs hospitals, military treatment facilities
- **International Healthcare:** Global health initiatives, medical missions

ABPTS Board-Certified Specialty Areas

The American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) recognizes 10 specialized areas where physical therapists can achieve board certification:

1. **Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy (CCS)**
 - Cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary rehabilitation, intensive care
2. **Clinical Electrophysiology (ECS)**
 - Electrodiagnosis, nerve conduction studies, EMG testing
3. **Geriatric Physical Therapy (GCS)**
 - Aging-related conditions, fall prevention, long-term care
4. **Neurologic Physical Therapy (NCS)**
 - Stroke rehabilitation, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, movement disorders
5. **Orthopedic Physical Therapy (OCS)**
 - Musculoskeletal injuries, post-surgical rehabilitation, manual therapy
6. **Pediatric Physical Therapy (PCS)**
 - Developmental delays, congenital conditions, early intervention
7. **Sports Physical Therapy (SCS)**
 - Athletic injury rehabilitation, sports performance enhancement, return-to-sport protocols
8. **Women's Health Physical Therapy (WCS)**
 - Pelvic health, prenatal/postpartum care, women's health conditions
9. **Wound Management (WMS)** - The latest addition to ABPTS specialties
 - Acute, chronic, and non-healing wound care and treatment
10. **Oncology Physical Therapy (OCS)**
 - Cancer rehabilitation, lymphedema management, survivorship care

Advanced Career Pathways

- **Academic Faculty:** University teaching positions, clinical education coordination
- **Clinical Research:** Principal investigator, research coordinator, clinical trials
- **Healthcare Administration:** Rehabilitation directors, department management
- **Consulting:** Healthcare consulting, expert witness testimony
- **Policy and Advocacy:** Professional association leadership, healthcare policy development
- **Entrepreneurship:** Private practice ownership, innovative healthcare solutions
- **Technology Integration:** Telehealth development, digital health platforms
- **Global Health:** International development, humanitarian missions

Leadership and Professional Development

- Professional association leadership roles
- Clinical mentorship and preceptorship
- Continuing education and conference speaking
- Professional writing and publication
- Quality improvement and patient safety initiatives
- Interprofessional collaboration and team leadership

Scholarships

The SHSU Graduate School (<https://www.shsu.edu/academics/graduate-professional-school/>) provides opportunities for interested students pursuing their graduate degree to receive scholarships and funding for course work.

These opportunities are listed below:

- Financial Aid for Graduate Students
- The General Graduate School Scholarship Application
- Graduate A.S.P.I.R.E. (Academic Success Program in Research Empowerment) Program
- Graduate School R.O.A.D. to PhD program

College of Health Sciences

- Cady/Huskey-Health Scholarship: \$2,000
- COHS Bridge Scholarship: \$2,000
- Crowley/Gilbert Family Scholarship: \$1,000
- William (Al) and Elizabeth Rampmeier Endowed Scholarship: \$1,000

National Physical Therapy Scholarships

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Scholarships:

- **APTA Student Scholarships:** \$5,000 for DPT students and \$3,000 for PTA students (APTA membership required)
- **APTA Academy Scholarships:** Various specialty academy scholarships available through specific practice areas

Foundation for Physical Therapy Research:

- **Doctoral Scholarships:** Up to \$45,000 in total awards, including \$7,500 for coursework phase and \$15,000 for candidacy phase of academic research doctoral studies

Professional Organization Scholarships:

- **APTA Pelvic Health Scholarships:** Multiple awards available annually in partnership with specialty organizations

Private and Foundation Scholarships:

- **Rizing Tide Crest Scholarship:** Annual awards for undergraduate students entering PT school or PTAs entering bridge programs
- **Shape Plus Health & Fitness Scholarship:** \$1,500 for students pursuing health or fitness-related fields

Texas-Specific Opportunities

Texas Physical Therapy Association (TPTA) Scholarships:

- Annual scholarships for TPTA student members
- Specialty awards for students demonstrating leadership and community service
- Regional chapter scholarships available throughout Texas

Texas State Funding:

- Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)
- Texas Public Educational Grant (TPEG)
- Various state-sponsored healthcare professional scholarships

For more information on available scholarships, visit SHSU Scholarships or contact the Department of Physical Therapy directly.