What does a Physical Therapist do?
Physical therapists (PTs) review the doctor's referral and examine the patient's medical history, evaluate his/her physical condition and develop a treatment plan for recovery. PTs use a wide range of treatments from hot and cold packs to ultrasound and electrical stimulation to reduce pain and improve function. PTs work in hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers and home health care programs.
In Washington, the median yearly salary for physical therapists is $77,123.

How do I prepare for a major in Physical Therapy? What Washington universities offer this major?
Three Washington universities offer a physical therapy program: University of Washington-Seattle (UW), Eastern Washington University (EWU) and the University of Puget Sound (UPS). The PT program is a graduate (doctoral) program and therefore, admission to the program requires a baccalaureate degree in any field plus prerequisite courses. Contact the university that you are interested in attending for additional admission information. Admission to any physical therapy program is highly competitive.

Grade Point Average (GPA)
To be admitted to the UPS program, students must have achieved at least a 3.0 GPA in undergraduate work and earn grades of 3.0 or more in each prerequisite.

The UW program requires a 3.0 cumulative GPA on all college-level courses and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in prerequisite courses.

For admission to the EWU program, students must attain a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in prerequisite courses.
Listing of required prerequisite courses shared by all three WA programs:

- BUSN 210 or MATH& 146
- BIOL & 241 and BIOL & 242
- CHEM& 121 and CHEM& 131 (UPS and UW will accept this series)
  or
  CHEM& 161, CHEM& 162 and CHEM&163 (Eastern requires the whole series. UPS can also accept this series)
- General Physics series—Highline currently does not offer this series. You might want to check with other community colleges to see if they offer the general physics sequence.
  UW requires two general physics courses. However, UW will also accept Highline's PHYSICS 201, 202 and 203 series. The UW advises the completion of the entire sequence (three classes).
  Eastern requires three quarters of general physics or PHYSICS 201, 202 and 203.
  UPS requires HCC's PHYSICS 201, PHYSICS 202 and 203. UPS will also accept the general physics series as long as there are labs involved).

Additional prerequisite course list:

- UW requires two additional biology courses from this list: BIOL& 211, BIOL& 212, BIOL& 213. However, the PT program recommends students to take the WHOLE series to be more prepared for the program.
- Eastern Washington University requires two behavioral science courses from psychology, sociology or anthropology. UW requires a psychology course plus another course in psychology, sociology, or anthropology.
- UPS requires one of the following psych courses: PSYC& 100, PSYC& 200, PSYCH 202, PSYCH 205, PSYC & 220
- Eastern Washington University also requires an upper division (300 level or above) physiology course and another upper division biology course that can only be completed at a four-year college or university.

Where can I get more information on this career?

- University of Washington-Seattle  www.washington.edu
- Eastern Washington University  www.ewu.edu
- University of Puget Sound  www.ups.edu
- American Physical Therapy Association  http://www.apta.org/

How do I get assigned a pre-physical therapy faculty adviser to help me with my educational planning?

To request a faculty adviser, go to: http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php or drop in at the Educational Planning and Advising Center (EPAC) in Building 6.

For our hours of operation, go to: http://edplanning.highline.edu/contact.php