

# Classification and Qualification STANDARDS

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## Physical Therapy Series

Class Title	Class Code	Date Revised	FLSA
Physical Therapist I	7980	02-01-2010	Non-Exempt
Physical Therapist II	7981	02-01-2010	Non-Exempt

*Classification Standard Reformatted: 03-01-2014*

### OVERVIEW:

The Physical Therapy Series is comprised of two classifications providing professional physical therapy services with increasing levels of operational and administrative responsibilities. Upon referral from a physician or similar practitioner, incumbents assess patient needs, develop treatment goals and plans, and implement the appropriate treatment program using the appropriate physical therapy techniques, methods, and procedures.

**Physical Therapist I** – Under general supervision and upon referral from a physician or similar practitioner, works independently in performing the full range of physical therapy services. Assesses patient needs, develops treatment goals and plans, and implements the appropriate treatment program utilizing a variety of professional physical therapy techniques, methods, and procedures. May provide lead work direction to support staff in the physical therapy department.

**Physical Therapist II** – Incumbents have broader and higher level administrative and operational responsibility for the physical therapy department. Administrative and operational responsibilities include developing and coordinating diverse and complex physical therapy programs; providing the full range of lead work direction to other professionals and support staff; developing and monitoring the department budget; monitoring medical records and progress of patients using the physical therapy services; and may be responsible for developing treatment plans for more complex physical therapy cases.

The primary distinction between the Physical Therapist I and Physical Therapist II is the scope of administrative and operational responsibilities. Physical Therapists are distinguished from Athletic Trainers in that incumbents do not focus their services solely on student athletes and typically are not involved in regularly attending team practices and events.

### TYPICAL ACTIVITIES:

The duties listed below are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to this classification.

Physical Therapists typically perform duties that include some or all of the following: work independently in accordance with medical orders and responsible for patient evaluation, devising a therapy program and evaluating results; and make independent decisions regarding the selection of techniques, methods and procedures to obtain optimal results from treatments administered and alert to patient crises requiring notification of a physician.

### PHYSICAL THERAPIST I

The Physical Therapist I performs initial evaluation and assessment of patient problems; administers standard diagnostic and prognostic examination of muscle, nerve, joint, and functional ability; develops a treatment plan

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including treatment objectives and programs based on the assessment results; conducts physical therapy treatment utilizing the full range of accepted physical therapy techniques and practice standards; designs and constructs, or direct construction of, specialized testing and treatment equipment; instructs patients regarding exercises which are to be continued at home and interpret to them the significance of physical therapy services; instructs patients in walking, standing, balance, use of crutches or cane, and in caring of braces and artificial limbs; provides for implementation of proper therapy treatment program and periodic re-evaluation of program; evaluates patient's response and progress and discusses with the appropriate physician; maintains appropriate medical records of treatment plans, treatments given, and progress notes; cares for and maintains equipment and treatment rooms and keeps inventory and requisition supplies used for therapy; may work with Athletic Trainers in providing support to student athletes; and assist in department coordination and daily operations, including monitoring budget and providing work direction to support staff.

## **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

### ***Knowledge:***

Thorough knowledge of the theories, principles and methods of physical therapy; physical effects resulting from various types of physical therapy treatments; skeletal anatomy and the basic pathology involved in diseases or injuries resulting in physical and mental disorders; operation of various therapeutic devices and machines; and state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of physical therapy and patient confidentiality. General knowledge of the construction and use of therapeutic appliances and equipment suitable for home use and injuries encountered in athletic programs.

### ***Abilities:***

Ability to effectively administer various types of physical therapy; teach patients the fundamentals of self-care and other suitable activities; interpret physical therapy treatments and teach others the treatments which must be continued at home; use applicable automated systems to maintain records and prepare reports and case histories; analyze situations accurately and promptly seek emergency support when needed; maintain patient confidentiality as required under applicable state and federal laws and regulations; maintain effective working relationships with practitioners and other health center support staff and be sensitive to and communicate effectively with diverse patients.

### ***Education and Experience:***

Graduate of a professional physical therapy degree program of an accredited postsecondary institution or other institutions or programs approved by the Physical Therapy Board of California.

### ***License and Certifications:***

Possess and maintain a valid license as a Registered Physical Therapist issued by the Physical Therapy Board of California.

## **PHYSICAL THERAPIST II**

The Physical Therapist II oversees administrative functions of the physical therapy department including developing and monitoring the department budget, and maintaining and monitoring medical records and progress of patients using the physical therapy services; coordinates the daily operations of the physical therapy department, including developing and coordinating diverse and complex physical therapy programs to meet student health center needs, and providing lead work direction to other physical therapy professionals and/or support staff including orienting, training, and providing input to employee performance evaluations; represents the department on management planning issues at the student health center meetings; responsible for recommending revisions of procedures for departmental scheduling, filing, and equipment use, in order to increase effectiveness and productivity; performs a wide variety of therapy treatments where maximum skill is required for assessment and evaluation of diverse therapy needs; treats more complex cases and conducts actual treatment programs using various modalities; may be assigned some responsibility for orthopedic clinic activities related to patient appointments, follow-up, and scheduling.

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## **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

### ***Knowledge:***

In addition to those of the Physical Therapist I, possess comprehensive knowledge of theories, principles, and methods of physical therapy; physical effects resulting from various types of physical therapy treatments, and skeletal anatomy and the pathology involved in diseases or injuries resulting in physical and mental disorders. Working knowledge of student health center administrative processes and procedures related to human resources and budgets.

### ***Abilities:***

In addition to those of the Physical Therapist I, ability to coordinate and administer a physical therapy program within the student health center; develop a therapy treatment program and administer various types of physical therapy treatments; interpret physical therapy treatments and teach others the treatments which must be continued at home; provide lead work direction to other professionals and support staff; plan and organize work within the department; plan and integrate departmental activities with other health center activities; compile or review and evaluate reports and case histories; analyze situations accurately and promptly seek emergency support when needed; communicate well with others; recognize and correct poor or unproductive methods of instruction; develop new or modify the type of treatment to meet the needs of patients; evaluate and test procedures; and develop manuals and procedural instructions for the therapy department.

### ***Education and Experience:***

In addition to those of the Physical Therapist I, three to four years of progressively responsible professional physical therapy experience, including at least one year in a lead capacity with some responsibility for program administration, as well as additional experience related to orthopedics, sports medicine and rehabilitation.

### ***License and Certifications:***

Possess and maintain a valid license as a Registered Physical Therapist issued by the Physical Therapy Board of California.