AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION PROFILE

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) seeks to improve the health and quality of life of individuals in society by advancing physical therapist practice, education, and research, and by increasing the awareness and understanding of physical therapy’s role in the nation’s health care system.

APTA is a voluntary individual membership professional organization representing more than 100,000 member physical therapists (PTs), physical therapist assistants (PTAs), and students of physical therapy.

Physical therapy is a dynamic profession based in the promotion of optimal physical function and movement. Physical therapists play vital roles in today’s health care environment and are recognized as essential providers of rehabilitation and habilitation, performance enhancement, and prevention and risk-reduction services. Guided by a code of ethics and committed to quality outcomes, physical therapists also play important roles both in developing standards for physical therapist practice and in developing health care policy to ensure the availability and accessibility of physical therapist services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOUNDED</th>
<th>HEADQUARTERS</th>
<th>OPERATING BUDGET</th>
<th>NONPROFIT STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Alexandria, Virginia</td>
<td>$46.5 million in 2018</td>
<td>501(c)(6)</td>
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</tbody>
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STAFF

175, led by the CEO and 5 executive vice presidents

GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE

The association follows a federated model that includes independently incorporated components (state chapters, special-interest sections, assemblies, and councils).

- **15-member Board of Directors** comprises 6 officers and 9 directors who serve 3-year terms.
- **402 voting state chapter delegates** and **40 nonvoting delegates from other constituencies** comprise the policy-making House of Delegates.
- **51 chapters** represent each state and Washington, DC (all APTA members are assigned to a chapter).
- **18 special-interest sections** (membership in 1 or more sections is optional).

MEMBERSHIP

Of more than **100,000** members:

- 63% are physical therapists
- 7% are physical therapist assistants
- 30% are physical therapist or physical therapist assistant students
The Board of Directors’ annually updated Strategic Plan provides a roadmap to decisions and actions over the next 3 to 5 years to move the association toward the vision. The plan is divided into 3 areas of transformation:

**TRANSFORM SOCIETY**
Barriers to movement will be reduced at population, community, workplace, home, and individual levels.

**TRANSFORM THE PROFESSION**
Best practices in education will lead to physical therapist practice marked by value and associated with use of evidence, best practice principles, and outcomes research.

**TRANSFORM THE ASSOCIATION**
APTA will be a relevant organization that is entrepreneurial, employing disciplined agility to achieve its priorities.

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**THE PHYSICAL THERAPY PROFESSION**

**PHYSICAL THERAPISTS:**
There are more than 202,000 licensed physical therapists nationwide, with approximately 63 physical therapists per 100,000 people.

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS:**
There are more than 112,000 licensed physical therapist assistants nationwide working under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist, with approximately 34 physical therapist assistants per 100,000 people.

**STUDENTS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY:**
There are more than 240 accredited physical therapist student programs, with more than 32,000 students enrolled in 2017-18. Programs are typically 3 years in length, with graduates receiving a doctor of physical therapy degree. There are more than 360 accredited physical therapist assistant student programs, with more than 12,000 students enrolled in 2017-18. Programs are typically 2 years in length, with graduates receiving a physical therapist assistant associate’s degree.

**CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS:**
More than 22,000 physical therapists have received American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties certification in 1 of 8 areas: cardiovascular and pulmonary; clinical electrophysiology; geriatrics; neurology; orthopaedics; pediatrics; sports; and women’s health. Oncology specialization will be available in 2019.

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**WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA**
APTA’s official social media accounts have more than 130,000 followers.

APTA.org
Facebook: /AmericanPhysicalTherapyAssociation
Twitter: @APTTweets
Instagram: @aptapics

**CONSUMER INFORMATION**
APTA’s official consumer information website serves more than 3 million unique visitors annually.

MoveForwardPT.com
Facebook: /MoveForwardPT
Twitter: @MoveForwardPT
Pinterest: /MoveForwardPT