

New York State Department of Civil Service
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Tentative Classification Standard

Occ. Code 5710100

Graduate Physical Therapist Assistant, Grade 11	5710100
Physical Therapist Assistant, Grade 14	5710200
Graduate Physical Therapist, Grade 18	5710300
Physical Therapist, Grade 20	5710400
Physical Therapist Supervisor 1, Grade 22	5710500
Physical Therapist Supervisor 2, Grade 25	5710600

Brief Description of Class Series

Positions in this series are licensed health care practitioners who assist in, provide, and/or supervise the delivery of physical therapy treatment programs and services to individuals* in accordance with Article 136 of the Education Law to assist individuals restore, maintain, and improve physical movement and function, and limit or prevent disabilities resulting from disease or injury.

Positions are classified at various State agencies.

*Individual refers to a person who is being treated or cared for, and is used in place of patient, client, or other nomenclature specific to an agency.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Graduate Physical Therapist Assistant: entry level; eligible for certification to practice as a physical therapist assistant in New York State; under close supervision, provides a variety of physical therapy support and treatment services to assigned individuals.

Physical Therapist Assistant: full performance level; possesses a certification to practice as a physical therapist assistant in New York State; under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist, independently provides a variety of physical therapy support and treatment services to assigned individuals; and may provide clinical supervision and training to Graduate Physical Therapist Assistants and direct care staff.

Graduate Physical Therapist: entry level; eligible for a limited permit to practice physical therapy in New York State; under the close supervision of a Physical Therapist or higher-level clinician, provides a variety of physical therapy treatment services to assigned individuals.

Physical Therapist: full performance level; possesses a license as a physical therapist in New York State; under the general direction of a higher-level physical therapist or clinician, independently provides a variety of physical therapy treatment services to individuals; and may provide clinical supervision and training to Graduate Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants.

Physical Therapist Supervisor 1: supervisory level; oversees a small to medium-sized physical therapy program or department; provides administrative and clinical supervision to lower-level physical therapists and physical therapist assistants; plans, develops, implements, and evaluates physical therapy programs and services; and may function as the assistant to a Physical Therapist Supervisor 2.

Physical Therapist Supervisor 2: supervisory level; oversees a large physical therapy program or department; provides administrative and clinical supervision to lower-level physical therapists and physical therapist assistants; and plans, develops, implements, and evaluates physical therapy programs and services.

Illustrative Duties

Graduate Physical Therapist Assistant

Under close supervision, assists in the delivery of physical therapy treatment programs and services to individuals.

- Administers a variety of selected physical therapies, such as ultraviolet or infrared rays, massage, hydrotherapy, and muscle exercises.
- Instructs individuals and groups on simple physical therapies and the use of assistive devices, which may include exercise and other therapeutic activities directed at restoring specific body functions.
- Observes and reports individuals' progress, response, and behavior; and may recommend modifications to treatment plans based on observations.
- Maintains individual records and documentation in accordance with program standards and requirements.
- Assists in the development and implementation of physical therapy treatment plans, including goals and outcomes.
- Assembles, cleans, and maintains physical therapy equipment for individual use.

May coordinate physical therapy activities with other health care providers as necessary; monitor supply inventories; and schedule individual appointments and procedures.

Physical Therapist Assistant

Independently performs the duties described above; and administers the full range of physical therapy treatment services to individuals as delegated by a licensed physical therapist.

May supervise and train Graduate Physical Therapist Assistants and direct care staff.

Graduate Physical Therapist

Under the close supervision of a higher-level physical therapist, provides a variety of physical therapy treatment programs and services to assigned individuals.

- Obtains and reviews individuals' information, including health histories.
- Examines and evaluates individuals' condition, including physical and neurological status; and performs and interprets selected tests and measurements to assess individuals' potential and existing movement-related disorders.
- Develops and implements individual physical therapy treatment plans, including treatment goals and anticipated outcomes.
- Selects, administers, and monitors therapeutic treatment modalities, which may include heat, cold, light, air, water, sound, electricity, massage, mobilization, and therapeutic exercise with or without assistive devices.
- Conducts and supervises individual and group physical therapy activities and programs to assist individuals in attaining therapeutic goals; and provides instruction and training to individuals in activities of daily living.
- Observes and records individuals' progress, response, and behavior in accordance with program standards; and modifies treatment plans, interventions, and goals as needed.

Serves as a member of an interdisciplinary treatment team; attends individual case reviews and team meetings as the physical therapy representative; and coordinates physical therapy activities with those of other disciplines or therapy programs.

Participates in the development and implementation of physical therapy policies and procedures.

Physical Therapist

In addition to performing the duties described above, independently administers physical therapy treatment programs and services to individuals with more severe or

acute physical disabilities, such as fractures, amputations, hemiplegia, peripheral nerve injuries, or other forms of paralysis.

May supervise and train Graduate Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants, and direct care staff.

Physical Therapist Supervisor 1 and 2

In addition to performing the duties described above, performs the full range of supervisory duties for subordinate physical therapy staff; and plans, develops, implements, and evaluates physical therapy treatment programs and services.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduate Physical Therapist Assistant

Open Competitive: eligible for certification to practice as a physical therapist assistant in New York State.

Physical Therapist Assistant

Open Competitive: possession of a certification and current registration to practice as a physical therapist assistant in New York State.

Graduate Physical Therapist

Open Competitive: eligible for a limited permit to practice physical therapy in New York State.

Physical Therapist

Open Competitive: possession of a license and current registration as a physical therapist in New York State.

Physical Therapist Supervisor 1

Promotion: possession of a license and current registration as a physical therapist in New York State, and one year of permanent service as a Physical Therapist.

Open Competitive: possession of a license and current registration as a physical therapist in New York State, and three years of post-licensure physical therapy experience.

Physical Therapist Supervisor 2

Promotion: possession of a license and current registration as a physical therapist in New York State, and one year of permanent service as a Physical Therapist Supervisor 1.

Open Competitive: possession of a license and current registration as a physical therapist in New York State, and four years of post-licensure physical therapy experience, one year of which must have been at a supervisory level.

Note: Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all of the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those which were required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum qualification requirements for appointment or examination.

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