Help people improve movement and relieve pain.
When people are recovering from injury or disease, a physical therapist evaluates and directs the recovery process to make them stronger and help them manage pain and regain use of an affected limb. Physical therapists play a critical role in the delivery of comprehensive healthcare in today’s society.

Students must have an undergraduate degree to apply to UWL's physical therapy graduate program. The program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, is committed to educating students to enter the profession as generalists who can meet the healthcare needs across multiple settings, such as hospitals, schools, outpatient clinics and private practice. Graduates are prepared to assume other professional roles, including consultation, education, research, administration, and direction and supervision of personnel. The program is designed to ensure that graduates will be able to adapt their training to meet the demands of the healthcare communities they serve. Clinical fieldwork experiences are an integral part of the program.

Admission requirements
Admission is competitive. The level of skills and responsibility necessary for practice as a physical therapist requires the program to accept applicants who have a strong academic background, along with excellent interpersonal skills and professionalism. Each year, 45 students are selected into UWL's program based on their grade point averages (prerequisite and aggregate), GRE scores, clinical experience, written essays, references and asynchronous interviews. Students applying to the program must already have an undergraduate degree. Select students who are biology or physics undergraduate majors at UWL will be eligible for early application under the dual degree agreement. For the applicant to be considered, all required application materials must be submitted to the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) by the program Nov. 1 deadline. However, the UWL Admissions Committee will begin reviewing applications after Aug. 15 when the admissions cycle opens. See admission requirements at www.uwlax.edu/grad/physical-therapy/.

Physical therapy jobs
Physical therapists may work in acute care, rehabilitation, community health, industry, sports medicine, research, school, or administrative settings in locations, such as hospitals, private practice, specialty clinics, public and private schools, rehabilitation centers and industrial clinics.

Employment trends in physical therapy are extremely encouraging. All UWL PT graduates have found employment within months of graduation and many consider multiple offers. This “in demand” employment forecast is fueled by several trends:
- As the “baby boom” generation ages, more physical therapists will be required to treat patients who are affected with arthritis, stroke, heart disease and other prolonged-care conditions common to older people.
- As a consequence of society’s increasing participation in sports and fitness activities, more physical therapists will be needed in the healthcare system to treat and help prevent knee, leg, back, shoulder and other musculoskeletal injuries.
- Healthcare consumers are increasingly able to access a physical therapist directly without first obtaining a physician’s referral.

Professional development after graduation
- Clinical specialization and board certification
- Clinical residencies
- Fellowships or other clinical certifications
- Healthcare administration
- Additional graduate study in rehabilitation science, physical therapy, basic life sciences, behavioral sciences, kinesiology, biomechanics, exercise physiology and others

Career opportunities
- Clinical physical therapist
- Administrator/clinical manager in healthcare organizations
- Private practice owner
- Director of fitness and wellness programs
- Consultant
- College or university faculty member
- Researcher and author
What distinguishes UWL's Physical Therapy program?

- **High exam pass rate**
  UWL pass rates on national licensure exams are well above national averages.

- **Research opportunities**
  Students have the opportunity to partner with faculty to perform research and often present their research findings at state and national physical therapy meetings.

- **Clinical internships are incorporated**
  Students are awarded a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) following completion of 109 credits over 34 months. Students integrate their didactic study with 42 weeks of clinical internships during the curriculum, which prepares them to sit for their state licensure examinations. UWL's program has established an impressive collection of clinical internships in cities concentrated in the Midwest and spanning the entire U.S.

- **Reputable faculty**
  All physical therapy faculty are doctorally prepared and several are board certified clinical specialists through the American Physical Therapy Association or hold other clinical specializations. Faculty members are licensed physical therapists and/or experts with specialty training in the following areas: biomechanics, cardiopulmonary, geriatrics, neuromuscular rehabilitation, musculoskeletal, integumentary, pediatrics, sports, ethics, health administration and health and wellness. The faculty are committed to the achievement of professional excellence and are dedicated to the development of clinical and academic scholarship of each student enrolled in the program.

- **Stellar students**
  It is through the combined efforts of a resourceful, motivated and productive faculty and a conscientious and aspiring student body that the goals of physical therapy education may be achieved. The faculty, students and graduates of the program will strive to generate lasting and significant advances in the sciences, education and practice of the physical therapy profession.

- **State-of-the-art technology**
  The Health Science Center, a six-floor consortial facility, is home to the state-of-the-art technology and learning resources used by PT students. It supports inter-professional education of a variety of health professions and collaborative, clinically-focused research in biomechanics, human physiology, microbiology and rehabilitative services.

- **Curriculum**
  The program promotes the inclusion of professional behaviors into the curriculum as a graded requirement for all academic courses and all clinical courses. Curricular content is centered on evidence-based practice patterns.

- **Volunteering and service learning**
  Volunteer service is also done locally to support causes related to hunger, Special Olympics, health and fitness. Students also enjoy international service learning trips.

- **Profession is in demand**
  Graduates enter a very strong employment market upon becoming licensed.

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**Physical Therapy**

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