

Pre-Physical Therapy

Interested in becoming a physical therapist? Learn about the prerequisites for admissions to physical therapy school.

Physical Therapy programs are
2-4 years in length



Required Courses

1 year Biological Sciences	BIO 012/012L and BIO 013/013L
1 year Inorganic Chemistry	CHEM 001/003 and CHEM 002/004
1 semester Anatomy and Physiology	BIO 013/013L and BIO 129/129L
1 year Physics	PHY 011/011L and PHY 012/012L
1 semester Mathematics	MATH 050
1 semester English	First Year Seminar and an English writing course

*Often required: Organic Chemistry, Exercise Physiology, Psychology, Microbiology, Statistics, and upper level Biology

The 411 on Physical Therapy Programs

Physical therapists use physical methods to assess, diagnose, and treat injury, disability, or disease. Physical therapists are generally excellent communicators and work with patients of all ages to help them recover from and/or manage a wide variety of physical challenges.

Students interested in physical therapy can pursue a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy or a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT).

Physical therapy schools place great importance on in-depth knowledge of the field and the work of therapists. Admissions committees prefer to see applicants who have spent significant hours of hands-on patient contact. This experience should not be limited to one setting, providing knowledge of a variety of circumstances, with a range of patients and problems.

Most programs require students to complete the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). The GRE measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills.

To apply, students must complete the centralized application PTACAS. Prior to the application process, students should research the required prerequisite coursework and application requirements and deadlines for each school of interest.



For additional resources on physical therapy visit:

- American Physical Therapy Association – <http://www.apta.org>
- Physical Therapy Centralized Application Services – <http://ptcas.org>
- Graduate Record Examinations – <http://www.GRE.com>
- Explore Health Careers – <http://www.explorehealthcareers.org>