



Pre-Health Professions Program

Physical Therapy (DPT) Professional Program Admissions

Physical therapists (aka. physiotherapists) are highly trained and licensed allied medical health professional tasked with rehabilitating physical damage and promoting the mobility, physical function and quality of life of their patients. Physical therapists perform examinations, diagnose physical issues, and use therapeutic physical and mechanical interventions in patient care and treatment. While many physical therapists work in clinical practice as part of a medical team, many chose to practice in specialty physiotherapy areas such as cardiovascular & pulmonary, geriatric, orthopedic, pediatric, athletic and palliative, to name just a few.

Physical therapists must obtain a graduate professional degree (DPT – Doctor of Physical Therapy) from an accredited school or college of physical therapy/rehabilitative medicine and pass a state licensure exam prior to practicing. Physical therapists are also required to complete varying hours of continuing education (CEU) prior to renewing their licensure credentials (e.g. KY – 30 hours CEU credits).

Admission requirements or recommendations to most graduate physical therapy programs (DPT) include the following:

- Bachelors degree from an accredited College/University (any major)
- Appropriate pre-requisite coursework
- GPA 3.0 or higher (accepted students usually have GPAs 3.4-3.7)
- Satisfactory GRE scores (Graduate Record Exam)
- College academic transcripts
- PT shadowing/observation experience (some require; some recommended)
- Recommendations (1-2 physical therapists, professor(s)).

Application to graduate physical therapy programs occurs primarily through the centralized application service PTCAS – Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service.



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Pre-Physical Therapy (DPT) Admissions Pre-requisites*

<i>General Requirement</i>	<i>Recommended BC Courses</i>
Anatomy & Physiology* (+lab) (2 terms)	BIO101/102: Anatomy & Physiology I & II OR BIO 220 & BIO 323: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy; Principles of Physiology
Biology* (+lab) (0-2 terms)	BIO 110: Modern Biology BIO 113: Experimental Zoology OR BIO 332: Mammalogy
Chemistry (+lab) (2 terms)	CHM 131: Accelerated General Chemistry CHM 221: Organic Chemistry I
Physics (+ lab)	PHY 217: General Physics I w/ Algebra PHY 218: General Physics II w/ Algebra
Behavioral Sciences (1-3 terms)	PSY 100: General Psychology PSY 209: Social Psychology PSY 212: Behavioral Neuroscience PSY 214: Ethology CFS 130: Lifespan Human Development SOC 100: Sociology in Everyday Life SOC220: Cultural Anthropology
Statistics (1 term)	ECO 250: Applied Statistics
*Some schools require just two terms Anatomy and Physiology to meet their Biology requirement. Others require an A & P series AND one year of Biology.	

Required / Recommended by Some DPT Programs

Mathematics	MAT 115: College Algebra with Modeling
English Composition (2 terms)	Satisfied by BC General Education Courses - GSTR 110 & GSTR 210
Exercise Physiology (1-2 terms)	HHP 335: Integ Biomech & Exercise Physiology I HHP 340: Integ Biomech & Exercise Physiology II
Communication (1 term)	COM 206: Interpersonal Communication COM 207: Intercultural Communication



The following courses are some that you might want to consider adding to your academic preparation for a graduate program in Physical Therapy. They are not specifically required for admission, but may provide useful foundational background.

<i>Subject/Course</i>	<i>Suggested BC Course Options</i>
Communication	COM 206: Interpersonal Communication COM 207: Intercultural Communication
Ethics	PHI 214: Approaches to Ethics
Medical Terminology	(online)
Human Performance	HHP 260: Care & Prevention of Athletic Injury HHP 280: Adapted Physical Education HHP 315: Motor Behavior Across Lifespan HHP 360: Advanced Athletic Training
Neuroscience	BIO 325: Neurobiology
Nutrition	CFS 221: Fundamentals of Nutrition
Psychology	PSY 215: Health Psychology
Health	HLT 210: Health in Appalachia HLT 215: Significant Issues in Health
Physical Education	See HHP 200-level skills courses

For a summary of specific program pre-requisites for DPT Education Graduate Programs, please go to the *American Physical Therapy Association Centralized Application Service* web site - <http://www.ptcas.org/ProgramPrereqs/>



Physical Therapy Professional Societies & Links

American Physical Therapy Association (APPA)

<https://www.apta.org/>

Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS)

www.ptcas.org/home.aspx

PTCAS Fee Waiver

www.ptcas.org/FeeWaiver

World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT)

www.wcpt.org/

Kentucky Physical Therapy Association (KPTA)

www.kpta.org/