Pre-Physical Therapy Students

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 a strong academic transcript and 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.

**Application Process**: Most programs require students to complete the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). The GRE measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills. The application process begins with PTCAS, a centralized application utilized by the majority of PT programs. Prior to the application process, students should research the required prerequisite coursework, residential restrictions, application requirements, and deadlines for each school of interest.

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<th>Prerequisite Coursework</th>
<th>Drake Course</th>
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| Biological Sciences          | BIO 012: General/Pre-Professional Biology I and Lab (Fall)  
BIO 013: General/Pre-Professional Biology II and Lab (Spring) |
| Inorganic Chemistry          | CHEM 001/003: General Chemistry I and Lab (Fall)  
CHEM 002/004: General Chemistry II and Lab (Spring)     |
| Composition                  | First Year Seminar (Fall)                         
Written Communication AOI (Fall, Spring)                  |
| Mathematics                  | MATH 050: Calculus I (Spring, Fall)               |
| Organic Chemistry            | CHEM 097/098: Organic Chemistry I and Lab (Fall) |
| Physics                      | PHY 011: Physics I and Lab (Fall)                 
PHY 012: Physics II and Lab (Spring)                      |
| Anatomy & Physiology         | HSCI 125: Health Sciences Physiology and Lab (Spring)  
HSCI 141: Human Anatomy (Spring)                          |
| Recommended Courses (mostly General Elective & Professional Elective) | HSCI 140: Patient Assessment (F)  
HSCI 149: Intro to Sports Med (J)  
BIO 133: Kinesiology and Lab  
BIO 134: Exercise Physiology (F)  
BIO 095: Microbiology (S)  
HSCI 145: Health Coaching (F)  
STAT 060: Stats for Life Sci (F, S)  
Psychology Electives  
Social Science Electives  
Business Electives |

**ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOOL RESOURCES**
Graduate Record Examinations – [http://www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)