

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 will pursue 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.

	Prerequisite Coursework	Drake Course
FR	Biological Sciences	BIO 012: General/Pre-Professional Biology I & Lab (Fall) BIO 013: General/Pre-Professional Biology II & Lab (Spring)
	Inorganic Chemistry	CHEM 001/003: General Chemistry I & Lab (Fall) CHEM 002/004: General Chemistry II & Lab (Spring)
	Composition	First Year Seminar (Fall) Written Communication AOI (Fall, Spring)
SO	Mathematics	MATH 050: Calculus I (Spring, Fall)
SO or JR	Physics	PHY 011: Physics I and Lab (Fall) PHY 012: Physics II and Lab (Spring)
	Anatomy & Physiology	HSCI 125: Medical Physiology & Lab (Spring) HSCI 141: Human Anatomy & Lab (Fall)
JR or SR	Recommended Courses (mostly General Elective & Professional Elective)	HSCI 140: Patient Assessment (F) HSCI 145: Health Coaching (F) HSCI 148: Exercise/Test/Pre (S, J) STAT 060: Stats for Life Sci (F, S) HSCI 149: Intro to Sports Med (J) Psychology Electives BIO 133: Kinesiology and Lab (F) Social Science Electives BIO 134: Exercise Physiology (F) Business Electives BIO 095: Microbiology (S)

ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOOL RESOURCES

American Physical Therapy Association – <http://www.apta.org>
Physical Therapy Centralized Application Services – <http://www.ptcas.org/home.aspx>
Graduate Record Examination – <http://www.ets.org/gre>