

PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

***RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY**

Biology	☐ BIOL 2051 - General Biology: Organismal Diversity ☐ BIOL 2052 - General Biology: Cell Structure and Function ☐ BIOL 3101 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I ☐ BIOL 3102 - Human Anatomy & Physiology II
Chemistry	☐ CHEM 1110 - General Chemistry I ☐ CHEM 1120 - General Chemistry II
Physics	☐ Physics 1511 - General Physics I ☐ Physics 1512 - General Physics II
Math	☐ STAT 1772 - Statistical Methods ☐ Varies by program: MATH 1140 - Precalculus, OR ☐ Math 1420 - Calculus I
Social Sciences	☐ PSYCH 1001 - Introduction to Psychology ☐ PSYCH 2202 - Developmental Psychology, OR ☐ PSYCH 3403 - Abnormal Psychology
English	☐ ENGL 1005 - College Writing & Research
Suggested Electives	☐ PH 2160 - Medical Terminology ☐ KINES 3151 - Biomechanics ☐ KINES 3153 - Exercise Physiology ☐ Advanced Biology Course (Univ of Iowa) ☐ Suggested: BIOL 3140 - Genetics, BIOL 3151 - General Microbiology, BIOL 4128 - Cell Biology, OR BIOL 4150 - Immunology

****The courses above are recommendations. Students are responsible for reviewing the requirements of the program(s) they plan to apply for to ensure they are meeting that program's specific requirements.***

UNI Resources

- Pre-Health Advising website: advising.uni.edu/pre-health
- Pre-Health Tracker: Virtual tool intended to organize all relevant information in one place!

Suggested Science Course Sequencing

Fall BIOL 2051 or BIOL 2052 - General Biology OD or CSF CHEM 1110 - General Chemistry I	Spring BIOL 2051 or BIOL 2052 - General Biology OD or CSF CHEM 1120 - General Chemistry II
Fall BIOL 3101 - Anatomy & Physiology I	Spring BIOL 3102 - Anatomy & Physiology II
Fall Physics 1511 - General Physics I	Spring Physics 1512 - General Physics II

General Notes

- All grades are factored into GPAs. All repeated coursework is averaged.
- The minimum cumulative GPA required to apply is 3.0. A minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended in all prerequisite courses with no grade below a “C.”
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) may be required.

Observation Hours & Experiential Learning

Applicants must observe physical therapists in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings, although the minimum number of hours varies by [program](#). (The more hours, the better!) By observing a therapist, students gain a better understanding of the profession, including the various job settings and the populations served. These hours may be paid or volunteer; some students find paid, part-time work as a physical therapy aide.

In addition to observing, students are encouraged to be service-minded; that is, by getting involved with a related service organization in the community. Working with a faculty member as part of a research team is also highly encouraged.

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

The GRE is a standardized, multiple-choice exam taken at a testing center. The exam consists of three parts: analytical writing, verbal reasoning, and quantitative reasoning. You will receive a score for each part. Not all programs require the GRE; click [here](#) for a list of programs and exam deadlines. Students electing to take the exam typically do so several months before applying for admission. Students should allow adequate time to study and prepare for the exam. For more information on the GRE, visit <https://www.ets.org/gre.html>.

Application Process

A centralized application service is available through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service ([PTCAS](#)). It is to the applicant's benefit to apply as soon as possible after PTCAS opens in mid-June. Unless taking a gap year, most students apply early in their senior year. Students may begin applying after PTCAS opens in mid-June.

Letters of Recommendation

Students will typically gather three letters of recommendation: (1) physical therapist, (2) faculty member, and (3) either a second physical therapist or faculty member. The letters should address the applicant's ability to handle rigorous coursework and to work with others in a healthcare setting.