

# PHYSICAL THERAPY -- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

## RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Schools Referenced           | Clarke University—Dubuque, IA<br>Creighton University--Omaha, NE<br>Des Moines University--Des Moines, IA<br>University of Iowa--Iowa City, IA<br>St. Ambrose University--Davenport, IA<br>Allen College – Waterloo, IA  |
| Notes                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Most programs require completion of a baccalaureate degree.</li> <li>➤ Institutions require a minimum cumulative GPA and minimum GPA in prerequisite courses of 3.0 to 3.2 for application to the program. <b>2022 mean GPA at Iowa=3.76</b></li> <li>➤ Prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better, C- is not acceptable</li> <li>➤ Graduate Record Exam (GRE) required; <a href="http://www.ets.org/gre/">http://www.ets.org/gre/</a></li> <li>➤ Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service, <a href="http://ptcas.org">ptcas.org</a></li> <li>➤ PTCAS factors in all grades of repeated coursework</li> </ul> |
| Biology                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ General Biology: Organismal Diversity--BIOL2051</li> <li>_____ General Biology: Cell Structure and Function--BIOL2052</li> <li>_____ Genetics or Higher Level Course – BIOL 3140</li> <li>_____ Anatomy &amp; Physiology I--BIOL3101</li> <li>_____ Anatomy &amp; Physiology II--BIOL3102</li> </ul>  |
| Chemistry                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ General Chemistry I--CHEM1110</li> <li>_____ General Chemistry II--CHEM1120</li> </ul>  |
| Physics                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ General Physics I--PHYSICS1511</li> <li>_____ General Physics II--PHYSICS1512</li> </ul>  |
| Mathematics                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ Statistics--STAT1772</li> <li>_____ Trigonometry—MATH 1130 OR Pre-Calculus-MATH 1140 OR Calculus I-MATH 1420</li> </ul>   |
| Psychology                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ Introduction to Psychology—PSYCH1001</li> <li>_____ Developmental Psychology—PSYCH2202</li> <li>_____ Abnormal Psychology—PSYCH3403</li> </ul>  |
| Terminology                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ Medical Terminology--PH2160</li> </ul>  |
| Observation Hours            | Observation of physical therapists in various work settings such as outpatient and inpatient care, acute care, neurological rehabilitation and orthopedics. 50-100 hours minimum. May also contribute through volunteering and direct patient care (CNA, Respite Care, Camps, etc)   |
| Recommended Elective Courses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ Introduction to Neurology – PSYCH3104</li> <li>_____ Vertebrate Anatomy--BIOL3106</li> <li>_____ Neurobiology—BIOL4116</li> <li>_____ Biomechanics—KINES 3151</li> <li>_____ Physiology of Exercise—KINES 3153</li> <li>_____ Anatomy and Physiology of Human Movement - KINES 2050</li> <li>_____ Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries—AT1018</li> </ul>   |

# Physical Therapist

[http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/Career/70/Physical\\_Therapist#Tab=Overview](http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/Career/70/Physical_Therapist#Tab=Overview)

## Overview

Physical therapists provide services that help restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients with injuries or disease. Physical therapists work closely with patients and clients to restore, maintain, and promote their overall fitness and wellness for healthier and more active lifestyles. Patients may include accident victims and individuals with disabling conditions such as low back pain, fractures, head injuries, arthritis, heart disease, and cerebral palsy.

They take the patient's/client's history and conduct a systems review, and perform tests and measures such as strength, range of motion, balance and coordination, posture, muscle performance, respiration, and motor function, to identify potential and existing problems. Based on the examination and the physical therapist's evaluative judgment, physical therapists determine a patient diagnosis, prognosis, and plan of care that describes evidence-based treatment strategies and the anticipated functional outcomes. Finally, as a part of the plan of care, physical therapists determine the patient's ability to be independent and reintegrate into the community or workplace after injury or illness.

## Working Conditions

Physical therapists practice in a variety of settings including hospitals, outpatient clinics, private offices, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and skilled nursing facilities. Most full-time physical therapists work a 40-hour week, which may include some evenings and weekends.

This position can be physically demanding, because physical therapists often have to stoop, kneel, crouch, lift, and stand for long periods. In addition, physical therapists move heavy equipment and lift patients or help them turn, stand, or walk.

Average Starting Salary: \$80,000

Job Outlook: Excellent