

Physical Therapy Information

CAREER DESCRIPTION

Physical therapists (PTs) work closely with patients to help restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent disabilities. Patients may include accident victims and individuals with disabling conditions. A PT works to help their patients reintegrate into the community or workplace by implementing a treatment strategy catered to an individual patient's needs.

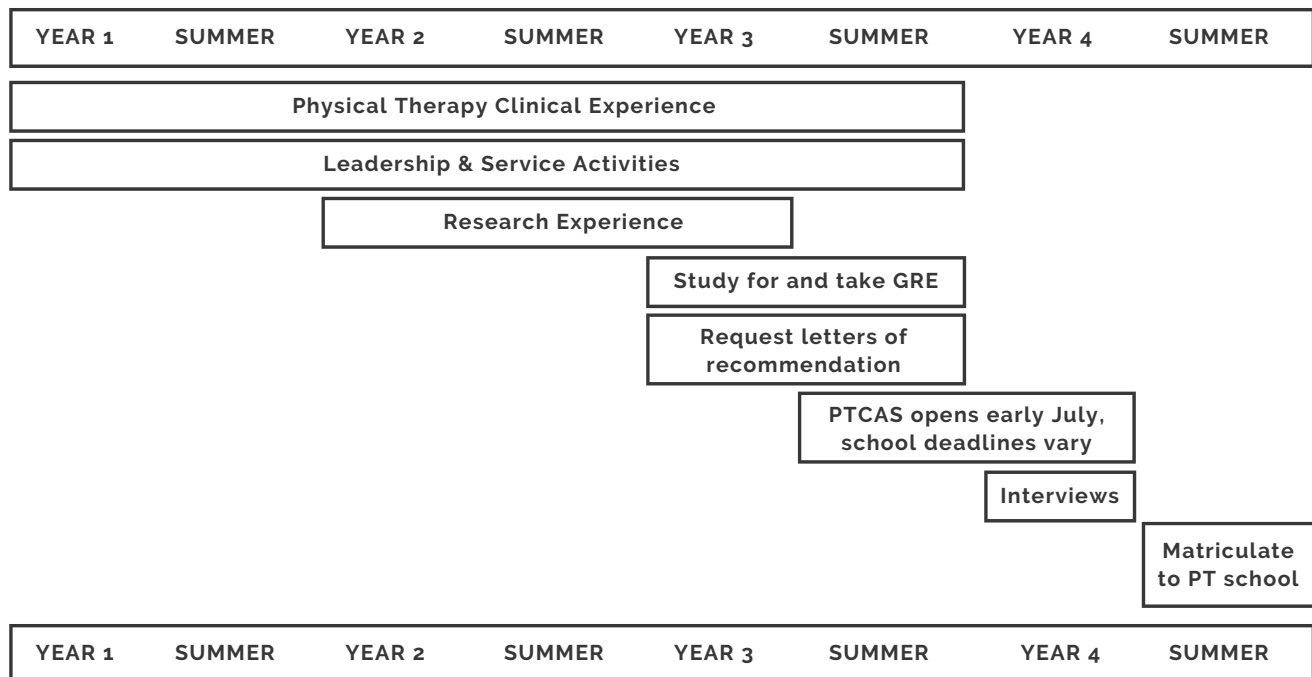
ACADEMIC FACTORS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOOL ADMISSION

- **Major:** Students interested in attending a physical therapy program may choose any major while at BYU. We recommend that you choose a major you like, and then incorporate the prerequisite courses into your schedule.
- **GPA:** Both your cumulative GPA and science GPA are an important part of your application.
- **Test:** Your GRE score is an important part of your application and is used for PT admissions.

NON-ACADEMIC FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOOL ADMISSION

- **Rolling Admissions:** PTCAS, the centralized application service for PT schools, opens in July. Due to rolling admissions it is very important to submit your PT school application as close to the opening date as possible. Often students who are otherwise qualified are not accepted simply because they applied too late.
- **Clinical Experience:** Clinical experience with a PT is vital when applying to a PT program. You should become acquainted with a few PTs and shadow, volunteer, or work to gain some firsthand experience in what PTs do on a daily basis. To be competitive, try to obtain at least 250 total shadowing hours in at least two different settings.
- **Community Service:** Emphasis on service varies; service activities should demonstrate consistent and long term commitment to helping others, but do not need to be physical therapy related. Community service completed on a mission can be a starting point, but engagement in your own community is seen as more valuable and should demonstrate a current pattern of service.
- **Leadership:** Most students are able to accrue leadership experience over the years as they are involved in working, service, and extracurricular activities.
- **Research:** Experience participating in hypothesis-based research always looks good on your application and is strongly recommended.

GENERAL TIMELINE



SAMPLE PREREQUISITE CLASSES

*Remember, the list below is a sample and may not be adequate for every school. Consult with your selected schools for actual requirements and better accuracy. Pay close attention to lab requirements and specific credit hours required.

BIOLOGY

CELL 120: Science of Biology	3.0 hrs
OR	
MMBIO 121 & 122: General Biology (only take MMBio 122 if need lab credit) (BIO 130, if required by your major)	3.0/1.0 hrs
MMBIO 240/241: Molecular Biology (take this class + lab if you need additional biology course)	3.0/1.0 hrs
CELL 220: Human Anatomy & Lab	4.0 hrs
CELL 305: Human Physiology (or CELL 362 if required by major)	4.0 hrs
CELL 363: Adv Physiology Lab (If needed)	1.0 hrs
EXSC 463: Exercise Physiology	3.0 hrs

CHEMISTRY

CHEM 105: General College Chemistry I	4.0 hrs
CHEM 106 & 107: General College Chemistry II	3.0, 1.0 hrs

PHYSICS

PHSCS 105 & 107: General Physics I & Lab	3.0, 1.0 hrs
PHSCS 106 & 108: General Physics II & Lab (PHSCS 121, 123, if required by your major)	3.0, 1.0 hrs
*For students taking PHSCS 121 and 123, we recommend PHSCS 220 help you prepare for the MCAT, but the material can also be studied on your own.	

STATISTICS

STAT 121: Principle of Statistics	3.0 hrs
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MATHEMATICS

MATH 111: Trigonometry	2.0 hrs
OR	
MATH 112: Calculus	4.0 hrs

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCH 111: General Psychology <small>*Some schools require additional psychology classes</small>	3.0 hrs
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