

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 150 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

Year 1	Summer	Year 2	Summer	Year 3	Summer	Year 4	Summer
Physical Therapy Clinical Experience							Matriculate to PT school
Leadership & Service Activities							
Research Experience			Study for and take GRE				
			Request letters of recommendation				
					PTCAS opens early July, school deadlines vary		
						Interviews	
Year 1	Summer	Year 2	Summer	Year 3	Summer	Year 4	Summer

Sample Prerequisites

*Remember, this list 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.

Psychology

PSYCH 111 General Psychology 3 credits
*Some schools require additional psychology classes

Statistics

STAT 121 Principles of Statistics 3 credits

Biology

PDBIO 120 Science of Biology 3 credits
MMBIO 121&122 General Biology & Lab 3 credits, 1 credit

Anatomy & Physiology

PDBIO 220 Human Anatomy with Lab 4 credits
PDBIO 305 Human Physiology 4 credits
PDBIO 363 Advanced Physiology Lab 1 credit
EXSC 463 Exercise Physiology 3 credits

General or Inorganic Chemistry

CHEM 105 General College Chemistry 4 credits
CHEM 106 & 107 General College Chemistry & Lab 3 credits, 1 credit

Physics

PHSCS 105 & 107 General Physics I & Lab 3 credits, 1 credit
PHSCS 106 & 108 General Physics II & Lab 3 credits, 1 credit
or PHSCS 121/123 (calculus-based)

Mathematics

MATH 111 Trigonometry 2 credits
OR
MATH 112 Calculus 4 credits