

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. The average salary for physical therapists is \$86,850 (bls.gov).

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. Also, choose a major that can be your contingency plan if you do not get accepted to PT school or later choose not to go.
- **GPA:** Both your cumulative GPA and science GPA are an important part of your application. In the 2016-2017 application cycle, the mean overall GPA of BYU students accepted to PT schools was 3.43 and the mean science GPA was 3.19.
- **GRE Scores:** In the 2016-2017 application cycle, the average GRE score of BYU students accepted to PT schools was 156 (Verbal Reasoning), 155 (Quantitative Reasoning), and 4 (Analytical Writing).

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
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*Some schools require additional psychology classes

Statistics

STAT 121	Principles of Statistics	3 credits
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Biology

PDBIO 120	Science of Biology	3 credits
MMBIO 121/122	General Biology & Lab	3 credits

Anatomy & Physiology

PDBIO 220	Human Anatomy with Lab	3 credits
<i>(**may not fulfill all requirements as it is only 3 credits instead of 4)</i>		
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	General College Chemistry	3 credits
CHEM 107	General College Chemistry Lab	1 credit

Physics

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

Mathematics

MATH 111	Trigonometry	2 credits
<i>OR</i>		
MATH 112	Calculus	4 credits

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 solely due to the fact that there were no more available seats because the student 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, but it is recommended to have a history of service, approximately 50+ hours per year. Service activities should demonstrate consistent and long term commitment to helping others, but do not need to be physical therapy related. Community service (teaching English classes, humanitarian service projects, etc.) completed on a mission is a good 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							
Leadership & Service Activities							
Research Experience				Study for and take GRE			
				Request letters of recommendation			
					PTCAS opens early July, school deadlines vary		
						Interviews	
							Matriculate to PT school
Year 1	Summer	Year 2	Summer	Year 3	Summer	Year 4	Summer