



PHYSICAL THERAPY

Required Courses (The requirements are **highly** variable from school to school. The following courses are a *sample* of what are typical requirements. **Before applying to your chosen school, check the requirements**)

1 year of General Biology	Bio 225/225L/221/221L
1 year of General Chemistry	Chem 151/151L/152/152L
1 year of General Physics	Phys 136/137L/137/137L
1 year of Human Anatomy & Physiology ¹	Bio 122/123
1 year of Psychology ²	
1 semester of Statistics	
1 year of English	USD GE Requirement

¹ Several schools require Human Anatomy, and/or Human Physiology which is a combined course with a lab component, offered over two semesters. Other schools may require Microbiology, Neuroanatomy, Neurophysiology, Calculus, Computer Science, and Communications. Also, many schools require CPR certification.

The best advice is:

Consult the *Directory of Physical Therapy Education Programs* for the requirements at specific schools.

And: http://www.ptcas.org/PTCASCrPrereq2010_11_forApplicants.pdf

² Most schools require that one semester of Developmental Psychology (Psychology 314) and Abnormal Psychology (Psychology 355) be taken, although it may vary depending on the school.

Specialized Examinations: Most schools require the Graduate Record Examination for admission to the doctoral program in Physical Therapy.

Experience: All schools require some exposure to physical therapy either as a paid employee or as a volunteer. Some of them specify a minimum number of hours required (anywhere from 40 to more than 100.) In a competitive field such as Physical Therapy, there is no such thing as too much volunteer exposure!

Earnings: Median annual earnings of physical therapists are \$68,000. The middle 50 percent earned between \$55,030 and \$78,080. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$46,510, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$94,810.

WEB Resources: <http://www.apta.org> American Physical Therapy Association