

## Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)

<b>Degree</b>	<p>D.P.T. Doctor of Physical Therapy</p> <p>Physical therapists, sometimes referred to as simply PTs, are healthcare professionals who diagnose and treat individuals of all ages, from newborns to the very oldest, who have medical problems or other health-related conditions, illnesses, or injuries that limits their abilities to move and perform functional activities as well as they would like in their daily lives. Physical therapists examine each individual and develop a plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. In addition, PTs work with individuals to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles. (<a href="http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos080.htm">http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos080.htm</a>)</p>
<b>Prerequisite Courses</b>	<p>The following are UF courses required for most PT schools. Requirements vary from school to school, so it is your responsibility to check requirements of individual programs:</p> <p><b>General Chemistry:</b> CHM2045/L <b>and</b> CHM2046/L or CHM2051;OR CHM2047/L (CHM2054L may be substituted for CHM2045L and CHM2046L)</p> <p><b>General Biology:</b> BSC2010/L <b>and</b> BSC2011/L (BSC2044L may be substituted for BSC2010L and BSC2011L)</p> <p><b>Physics:</b> PHY2053/L or PHY2048/L or PHY2060 <b>and</b> PHY2054/L or PHY2049/L or PHY2061 (PHY2064L may substitute for the other Physics labs)</p> <p><b>English:</b> Two semesters of any English department course. Examples are ENC1101, ENC1102, ENC3254, LIT2110)</p> <p><b>Anatomy and Physiology:</b> APK2100C and APK2105C</p> <p><b>Statistics:</b> STA2023</p> <p><b>Psychology:</b> PSY2012 and one upper-division psychology course</p> <p><b>Health and Medical Terminology (recommended):</b> HSC3537</p>

<p><b>Major</b></p>	<p>You may choose ANY major and go on to PT school.</p> <p>PT schools do not have a preference for any particular major. Choose a major based on your own personal interests and strengths. It doesn't need to be a science major- majors in the social sciences or humanities are just fine as long as you take the prerequisite courses. We recommend that non-science majors take a few additional science courses beyond the prerequisites.</p>
<p><b>Application Services</b></p>	<p><b>PTCAS:</b> Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service</p>
<p><b>Admissions Test</b></p>	<p>GRE General Test: Graduate Record Exam</p> <p>The GRE is comprised of the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Verbal Reasoning</li> <li>-Quantitative Reasoning</li> <li>-Analytical Writing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Timing of Application</b></p>	<p>Applications are due in the fall of the year before your intended matriculation, but specific deadlines vary from school to school. Some schools may participate in an early decision option; see each school's website for information.</p>
<p><b>Reference Guide for School</b></p>	<p>You will find links to all the physical therapy schools in the United States, with their specific requirements and other valuable information, at the <b>American Physical Therapy Association</b> website.</p>

<p><b>Selection</b></p>	
<p><b>Number of schools to apply to</b></p>	<p>Most students apply to 4-6 schools.</p> <p>For guidance on choosing schools, watch our workshop on Choosing Schools, use the references above, and visit individual school websites.</p>
<p><b>Letters of Recommendation</b></p>	<p>We recommend 3-4 individual letters for most programs (this varies by school, check individual school requirements):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Two character letters (usually from a non-relative, practicing Physical Therapist whom you have worked with)</li> <li>-One to two letters from science professors who have taught you in a lecture course</li> </ul>
<p><b>Personal Attributes and Experiences</b></p>	<p>Many PT programs require a minimum number of PT observation hours in a variety of PT settings. Please see individual program websites for requirements. In addition to PT observation, students should engage in extracurricular activities that develop and demonstrate the personal attributes that are valued in physical therapists. Students are encouraged to participate in meaningful health-related volunteering, shadowing, community service, research, and leadership experiences that will help them gain an understanding of the profession and their future patients. See our Prepare section to learn more.</p>
<p><b>Florida Programs</b></p>	<p>The programs in Florida are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Florida A&amp;M University</b></li> <li>• <b>Florida Gulf Coast</b></li> <li>• <b>Florida International University</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nova Southeastern University</b></li><li>• <b>University of Central Florida</b></li><li>• <b>University of Florida</b></li><li>• <b>University of Miami</b></li><li>• <b>University of North Florida</b></li><li>• <b>University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences</b></li><li>• <b>University of South Florida</b></li></ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>American Physical Therapy Association</b></li><li>• <b>Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS)</b></li></ul>