

Physical Therapy Frequently Asked Questions

I am interested in learning more about physical therapy, where should I start?

Helpful website resources include the American Physical Therapy Association (703) 684-2782
<http://www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents/>, <http://www.apta.org/YouCanBeMe/>

You can also look at the Bureau of Labor and Statistics: Occupational Outlook for Physical Therapists <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm>

It is also very helpful to shadow a physical therapist to see if the job responsibilities will be the best fit for your career goals. You can call local hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, etc. Here are a few local websites that identify volunteer opportunities:

<http://www.physicaltherapyfirst.com/volunteers/>

<http://www.inbalancephysicaltherapy.com/> ,

<http://www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp>

<http://www.mwph.org/volunteer>

<http://www.umrehabortho.org/programs/rehabilitation/services>

<http://www.kennedykrieger.org/patient-care/patient-care-programs/outpatient-programs/physical-therapy-clinic>

<http://www.medstarnrh.org/our-services/physical-therapy/#q={>

<http://www.lifefitnesspt.com/> ,

<http://www.sportstherapyoftowson.com/>,

<http://www.lifestrengthpt.com/contact>

What major should I choose? All physical therapy programs require a student to complete a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university. There is no “right” major. The specific major can be anything of your choosing. Student should choose a major that they are interested in and have aptitude in because they are more likely to perform well. Some common majors include: exercise science, athletic training, biology, health science and psychology.

What are the academic requirements to get accepted into a PT school? Most PT schools will require a cumulative undergraduate GPA minimum of a 3.0. However to be competitive your GPA should be at least a 3.4 or higher. They will also look at your prerequisite GPA and the GPA from your science coursework. The completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. You will also be required to complete volunteer or paid clinical experience in physical therapy (100 hours minimum). You will need strong letters of recommendation from licensed physical therapists and academic professors.

Most PT schools will require one to two semesters of biology with lab, human anatomy & physiology I and II with lab, general physics I and II with lab, general chemistry I and II with lab, statistics and a psychology course. Other prerequisites will vary depending on the prerequisite requirements of the individual school you are applying to.

- ❖ The physical therapy program is a science driven profession, you need to make sure that you have a strong aptitude for the sciences. How well you performed in the science courses will be looked at strongly. The science courses are a strong predictor of your academic performance since they provide the foundation needed to successfully complete the program.

What is PTCAS? The [Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service](#) allows PT applicants to use a single web-based application and one set of admission materials to apply to multiple PT programs. Many PT schools require you to apply using this method. However, please make sure you check with the specific program you are applying to ensure you are following their specific admission requirements.