

Physical Therapy

What is physical therapy? A physical therapist works with patients, using a variety of treatment techniques, to restore function, decrease pain, and help recovery after an injury or surgery, as well as educate the client.

More details? For more detailed information, including salaries and job prospects, visit the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov/Healthcare

Does UWW have a PT program? While UWW does not have a PT training program, we can and have prepared students for entry into accredited PT schools, while still having wider skills and a college degree that can act as a backup plan.

Can UWW help me prepare for an accredited PT school? Absolutely! We offer all the courses required for entry into PT programs. We also prepare our students with a broad background, so that they have a great skill set, in case they decide to pursue other careers after completing their undergraduate degree.

What do I need to apply for admission to an accredited PT school?

- 1. Undergraduate degree (BS or BA):** Most applicants will have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university before entering into PT training. The specific type of degree does not seem to matter, as long as you meet the other requirements. Currently, many people are applying for admission into these programs, so the schools can be very selective. Many applicants will be applying for a second or third time, having worked on improving their applications.
- 2. Major and minor:** Many applicants will have majored in areas such as Biology or Health and Human Performance; however, PT programs are more focused on the following requirements.
- 3. Coursework related to PT:** PT schools are insistent on applicants having completed and done well in several courses related to PT:

Requirement	Length/Credits (minimum)	UWW courses which meet the requirements
General biology	1 year / 8-10 credits	BIO 141 AND BIO 142
General chemistry	1 year / 8-10 credits	CHEM 102 AND CHEM 104
General physics	1 year / 8-10 credits	PHYSICS 140 AND PHYSICS 141
<i>Calculus-based physics (PHYSICS 180 AND PHYSICS 181) is acceptable but not required</i>		
Statistics	1 course / 3 credits	BIO 303 OR PSYCH 215 OR MATH 230 OR MATH 231
Anatomy and physiology	1 course in each, or a two semester sequence	BIO 361 & BIO 362
Biomechanics	1 course recommended or required	PEPROF 371
Exercise physiology	1 course recommended or required	PEPROF 471
General psychology	1 course recommended or required	PSYCH 211

4. **Other coursework:** Humanities and social science (minimum 3 courses each) which can be part of a student's plan to meet the General Education requirements. Suggested courses include additional psychology courses, or courses in economics, political science, anthropology, or sociology are acceptable.
5. **Overall academic record:** An applicant needs to have a good overall GPA, a good science GPA, and a very good GPA in the courses related to PT listed in the table. However, different schools have different GPA requirements. Be sure to start looking at the PT schools you are considering to see what those GPA expectations are and what you need to do to be competitive.
6. **Entrance exam:** Most PT schools ask students to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
7. **Extracurricular activities:** Applicants are expected to have participated in extracurricular activities. This is one indicator that you are able to work with other people, and even that you have taken on responsibility and leadership.
8. **'Experience of the field':** Students are expected to have direct experience with patient care. This can be met through a combination of clinical practice (volunteer work, internships) and shadowing experience. In the area of physical therapy, this requirement may have a substantial time commitment (50 to 100 hours, or more), so students are advised to begin this early. Clinical experience documentation must be submitted in some applications.
9. **Other jobs and experiences:** All health schools are looking for applicants who have a depth of experience. This can be demonstrated by many things: competency in a foreign language, working to pay for school, participating in organized athletics, caring for a sick family member, etc. These other experiences contribute to who you are, and they also show something of your ability to persevere and succeed.

What happens then? After your professional education in PT school, you would receive a masters (MS) or doctoral (DPT) degree. You would also need to take the appropriate licensure exams. The school you attend will help you prepare.

Professional organization: Most physical therapists belong to the American Physical Therapy Association www.apta.org; this organization is an excellent source of information for everyone with questions about PT.

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Training in this area: (WI, MN, IL, IA)

WISCONSIN

Carroll University (Waukesha, WI)

DPT program <http://www.carrollu.edu/gradprograms/physicaltherapy/default.asp>

Concordia University Wisconsin (Mequon, WI)

DPT program <https://www.cuw.edu/Programs/dpt>

Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI)

DPT program <http://www.marquette.edu/physical-therapy/index.shtml>

University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse (LaCrosse, WI)

DPT program <http://uwlax.edu/pt>

University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, WI)

DPT program <http://ortho.wisc.edu/Home/DoctorOfPhysicalTherapy.aspx>

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)

DPT program http://www4.uwm.edu/chs/academics/kinesiology/physical_therapy_doctoral

MINNESOTA

College of St Scholastica (Duluth, MN)

DPT program <http://www.css.edu/Graduate/Masters-Doctoral-and-Professional-Programs/Areas-of-Study/Doctor-of-Physical-Therapy.html>

Mayo School of Health Sciences (Rochester, MN)

DPT program <http://www.mayo.edu/mshs/careers/physical-therapy/physical-therapy-doctoral-program-minnesota>

St Catherine University (Minneapolis, MN)

DPT program <https://www2.stkate.edu/dpt/home>

University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN)

DPT program <http://www.physther.umn.edu>

ILLINOIS

Bradley University (Peoria, IL)

DPT program <http://www.bradley.edu/academic/departments/physicaltherapy>

Governors State University (University Park, IL)

DPT program

http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Health_and_Human_Services/Department_of_Physical_Therapy/Doctor_of_Physical_Therapy_Program/Doctor_of_Physical_Therapy_Program_Degree_Requirements

Midwestern University (Downers Grove, IL)

DPT program <http://www.midwestern.edu/programs-and-admission/il-physical-therapy.html>

Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL)

DPT program http://www.chhs.niu.edu/physical_therapy/dpt/index.shtml

Northwestern University (Chicago, IL)

DPT program <http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/pthms>

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (North Chicago, IL)

DPT program <http://www.rosalindfranklin.edu/Degreeprograms/PhysicalTherapy.aspx>

The University of Illinois at Chicago (Chicago, IL)

DPT program <http://www.ahs.uic.edu/pt>

IOWA

Clarke University (Dubuque, IA)

DPT program <http://www.clarke.edu/page.aspx?id=2820>

Des Moines University - Osteopathic Medical Center (Des Moines, IA)

DPT program <http://www.dmu.edu/pt>

St Ambrose University (Davenport, IA)

DPT program http://www.sau.edu/Academic_Programs/Doctor_of_Physical_Therapy.html

The University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA)

DPT program <http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/pt>