

Pre-Physical Therapy Requirements

Introduction: This information is based on the general requirements of most (>50%) PT programs across the nation. It will be up to each student to research schools of interest and to finalize any remaining requirements.

- PT programs do not require any particular major. Students should select a major based on academic strengths and interests.
- Each student should develop an academic plan based on: the core PT program requirements, requirements needed for their major, and requirements for graduation.
- A draft of the academic plan needs to be reviewed with the student's advisor from his/her major.
- PT programs may require a very specific number of volunteering/observation hours under a trained PT in both an in-patient or out-patient setting. Check programs for more information.

Required by MOST PT Programs

Chemistry: 2 Semesters

General Chemistry I: CHEM 1031 + CHEM 1033
General Chemistry II: CHEM 1032 + CHEM 1034

Biology: 1-2 Semesters

Biology I: BIOL 1011 (or BIOL 1111)
Biology II: BIOL 1012 (or BIOL 2112)

Statistics: 1 Semester (prerequisites are required for some of the courses listed below)

MATH 1013, MATH 1044, PSY 1003, SOC 1167, BIOL 3312, PSY 1167

Anatomy & Physiology: 2 Semesters

KINS 1223 (or BIOL 2233)
KINS 1224 (or BIOL 3334)

Physics: 2 Semesters

Physics requirement dictated by major.

Physics I: PHYS 1021 (or 1061 or 2021)
Physics II: PHYS 1022 (or 1062 or 2022)

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 1-3 Semesters

Refer to schools of interest if any additional courses are required.

Introduction to Sociology: SOC 1176 (or 1576)
Foundations of Psychopathology: PSY 2201
Foundations of Developmental Psych: PSY 2301

Required by SOME PT Programs

Math: 1-2 Semesters

Math requirements vary greatly. Some schools recommend at or above College Algebra or Precalc.
College Algebra: MATH 1021
Precalculus: MATH 1022

Medical Terminology: 1 Semester

Medical Terminology: HIM 1101

English: 1-2 Semesters

Analytical Reading & Writing: ENG 0802
Intellectual Heritage I: IH 0851
Intellectual Heritage II: IH 0852

Additional Electives:

Check schools of interest for any additional courses needed.

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Sample Timeline

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
Year 1	Chemistry I	Chemistry II Psychology	<i>PT Observation</i> <i>Community Service</i>
Year 2	Biology I Anatomy & Physiology I Statistics	Biology II Anatomy & Physiology II	<i>Continue Volunteering</i>
Year 3	Physics I Psych/Soc Elective <i>GRE Prep</i>	Physics II Psych/Soc Elective <i>GRE Prep</i>	GRE Exam Around May/June Apply to PT programs in July <i>Secondary Applications</i>
Year 4	Any Additional Requirements <i>PT Interviews</i>	Any Additional Requirements <i>PT Interviews</i>	<i>Take a break before starting PT!</i>

This timeline is an example of how you may wish to take courses *in a perfect world*. Timing of these courses may change due to placement exams or major requirements. In addition to these courses, each student will fit in any classes required by their major. Develop an academic plan based on the sequence above that is tailored to your needs so that you and your advisor can discuss your plan.

Visit Temple's bulletin to view the availability and prerequisites of each course: www.temple.edu/courses

ePortfolio

ePortfolio is a tool that will help students stay organized for a professional school application. Through the ePortfolio process, students will set up a 'mock application' that includes GPAs and professional development experiences. **ePortfolio drafts are due to PPHS June 30th two years before students plan to enter professional school.** Competitive students who complete the ePortfolio are considered for an interview by the Pre-Health Evaluation Committee. Interviewed students will be offered a committee letter of recommendation and may have additional letters sent from PPHS to professional schools as they apply.

The circle to the right represents four areas that are important for admission to professional school. As you embark on your journey to physical therapy programs, think about ways to enhance each of these four sections.



Applying to PT Programs

Application Process: A centralized application service is available through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) which is administered by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Applications are submitted one year before students expect to enter a PT program and are available for submission at the end of June. Schools view applicants on a rolling basis – apply early when the application opens!

Undergraduate Major: There is no preferred major for physical therapy. Students should select a major that they find interesting and consider a strength.

GPA: PT programs will consider a number of different GPAs including a student's overall, math/science, and prerequisite GPA. Math/science GPA is calculated using scores from any course taken in the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math. A Prerequisite GPA includes any course taken as a prerequisite for PT admission. View PTCAS for more information on these different types of GPAs. **GPAs of 3.4 or above are preferred. GPAs below 3.0 will need to consider Post-Baccalaureate coursework / programs before applying.**

Graduate Record Examination (GRE): Most PT programs require that students complete the GRE which is administered through the Education Testing Service (ETS). This test is often taken the same summer in which the student applies to professional school (one year before walking through the doors of a PT program). Remember, take time to prepare for the exam. Check with schools of interest for preferred percentile scores. Most schools prefer above 50th percentile composite and/or for each section.

Professional Development: PT programs will first review your numbers (overall GPA, Math/Science GPA, GRE scores). If these are in a competitive range, they will then assess your extracurricular and volunteer experiences. Many schools have a minimum number of hours that they will prefer that you have observed directly under a PT or PTs. Schools may also request that observation is split between an in-patient and out-patient setting. Research schools of interest to determine what requirements to aim for.

Letters of Recommendation: Letters for PT programs will be sent directly through PTCAS at the time a student applies. Schools generally like to see 2-3 letters of recommendation. Look into schools of interest for more specifics on what types of letters might be preferred.

Additional Resources:

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA): www.apta.org