

2009-10

**Pre-Physical Therapy
Education at the
University of Oregon**

Prepared by:

**The Office of Academic Advising
364 Oregon Hall (346-3211)**

What is Physical Therapy?

Physical therapy involves patient evaluation, treatment and prevention. A physical therapist's service aims at preventing the onset and/or slowing the progression of conditions resulting from injury, disease, and other causes. Once the patient is evaluated, the therapist designs a treatment program that may include exercise, manual techniques, the use of ultrasound or electrotherapy and patient education. An important step of physical therapy involves teaching the patient better ways to move or perform particular tasks to prevent additional injury.

Where do physical therapists practice?

Physical therapists practice in hospitals, but the majority practice in clinics or offices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing, extended care or subacute facilities, homes or schools, hospices, and sports medicine clinics. There are a variety of specialties such as community health, orthopedics, pediatrics, sports medicine, neurology, oncology, geriatrics and cardio-pulmonary physical therapy.

What is the job outlook for PTs?

Employment for physical therapists is growing much faster than the average for all occupations. It is an extremely good time to consider the profession. The median salary was \$66,200 in 2006 depending upon experience, degree of education, geographic location and practice setting. The current trend is for the physical therapist to be more of an independent practitioner. Most states allow patients to refer directly to physical therapists themselves.

What are the education requirements?

To practice physical therapy, one must have a master's degree or a doctorate, and then pass a licensing exam. Both master's and doctorate levels of education are accredited by CAPTE using the Evaluation Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for the preparation of physical therapists. The institution determines the degree to be offered. A master's is a two year program and a doctorate is a three to four year program, including one year of clinical experience.

What are the academic admission requirements?

In 2007 the average GPA for students admitted to PT programs

was 3.44. Academic prerequisites generally include biology (excluding botany), human anatomy and physiology, chemistry and physics, statistics and psychology. Most schools also require humanities, English and social sciences. Entrance requirements vary by school. Contact each of the programs you are interested in applying for to ensure that you are fulfilling their entrance requirements. The following represents a four year program that includes prerequisites for MOST programs. Contact the physical therapist advisor to discuss what best fits your academic situation. Schools look favorably upon letters of recommendation from physical therapists the student has worked under, along with letters from science faculty.

Are there additional requirements?

Most schools require students to submit GRE scores. Programs also require applicants to obtain volunteer or paid experience under the supervision of one or more physical therapy professionals. Most schools stress the importance of working in an inpatient setting. Pacific University, for example, requires applicants to have 100 hours of experience in a variety of settings with a broad diversity of therapeutic interventions.

How to apply?

By 2010, about 50% of schools will participate in the PTCAS application service (www.pcas.org). Contact non-participating schools for applications. Check closely for individual school application deadlines.

More information can be found at the American Physical Therapy Association.

www.apta.org

Related field: Chiropractic Medicine (see Lori for more info)

www.chirocolleges.org

ADVISOR: Lori Manson, 346-3211

The University of Oregon is an equal opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

*This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request.
(541) 346-3211.*

Pre-Physical Therapy

Sample Program for Common Prerequisites

Freshman Year

Fall Term

CH 221 (4) & 227 (2)

MATH 111 (4)

WR 121 (4)

Winter Term

CH 222 (4) & 228 (2)

MATH 112¹ (4)

WR 122/123 (4)

BI 211 (4)

Spring Term

CH 223 (4) & 229 (2)

MATH 243 (4)

A & L² (4)

BI 212 (4)

Sophomore Year

BI 214 (4)

ANAT 311 (3)

ANAT 314 (2)

HPHY 313 (3)

HPHY 316 (2)

PSY 201 (4)⁴

ANAT 312 (3)

ANAT 315 (2)

HPHY 314 (3)

HPHY 317 (2)

BI 330 & 331⁵ (5)

PSY 202 or 300 level⁴ (4)

Recommended: —Arts & letters and social science group-satisfying courses^{2,3}
—Major department requirements

Junior Year

PHYS 201 (4)

PHYS 204 (lab) (2)

PSY 376⁴ (4)

PHYS 202 (4)

PHYS 205 (lab) (2)

SOC 204³ (4)

PHYS 203 (4)

PHYS 206 (lab) (2)

Recommended: —Any remaining arts & letters and social sciences group-satisfying courses^{2,3}
—Major department requirements

Senior Year

HPHY 409 (1)

HYPHY 409 (1)

HYPHY 409 (1)

Recommended: — Completion of all university and major department requirements

1. Math courses taken beyond MATH 112 are determined by your major department.
2. Recommended Arts and Letters courses include humanities, religion, music, English, philosophy, fine arts, or foreign language.
3. Recommended Social Sciences courses include history, economics, sociology, anthropology, and political science.
4. Check individual PT programs requirements on psychology. Pacific requires nine (9) quarter hours for admissions.
5. Some schools look for upper division work in the biological sciences. Check individual programs for requirements.