Physical Therapy School Admission

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The following courses meet admission requirements for most PT schools, though individual school requirements vary considerably. We recommend consulting with schools that interest you regarding additional requirements. Take all required courses during the fall and/or spring semesters at URI (not summer or on-line).

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<tr>
<th>CHEMISTRY</th>
<th>PHYSICS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Two semesters with lab are required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CHM 103 Introductory Chemistry &amp; 105 Lab (3+1 credits)</td>
<td>• PHY 111 &amp; 185 lab (3+1 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CHM 124 Introduction to Organic Chemistry &amp; 124 Lab (3+1 credits)</td>
<td>• PHY 112 &amp; 186 lab (3+1 credits)</td>
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Science majors: take any combination of chemistry courses required for your major (e.g. CHM 101/102 & 112/114, CHM191 & 192 for chemistry majors).

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<th>STATISTICS &amp; MATH</th>
<th>SOCIAL SCIENCES</th>
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<td>One semester of statistics is required. Some schools also require one semester of calculus:</td>
<td>At least one semester of Psychology. Additional psychology coursework may be required by some schools.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• STA 307, 308, 409, or 411</td>
<td>• PSY 113, 232, 254, or 255</td>
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<td>And</td>
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<td>• MTH 103 or higher. NOTE: For the URI PT program take MTH 111 or higher</td>
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<th>BIOLOGY</th>
<th>ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY</th>
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<td>Two semesters with lab are required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• BIO 101 Principles of Biology I &amp; 103 Lab (3+1 credits)</td>
<td>• BIO 220 &amp; 221 Lab (3+1 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• BIO 102 Principles of Biology II &amp; 104 Lab (3+1 credits)</td>
<td>• BIO 222 &amp; 223 Lab (3+1 credits)</td>
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<td>(BIO121 + BIO 242 &amp; 244 Lab also satisfy this requirement)</td>
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Other Academic Considerations

Major. “Pre-Health/Pre-PT” is not a major at URI, and PT schools do not require or prefer any particular major. Students from any major can pursue the pre-PT curriculum in conjunction with their major and general education requirements.

Test scores. Most PT programs require the GRE. The mean score of admitted PT applicants is around the 50-55th percentile.

Course Load. Take a reasonable course schedule each semester that you can successfully manage.

Grades. Schools will expect a minimum GPA of around 3.0 with all required courses completed with a C or better. Successful applicants generally achieve a GPA around 3.6.
EXPERIENTIAL EXPECTATIONS

Work, Volunteering, and/or Observing in a Physical Therapy Setting

Successful applicants to physical therapy school will have gained significant experience in the field. Most PT schools require applicants to have 100-200 hours of verifiable work experience in a physical therapy clinical setting, and/or PT observation/shadowing hours. You will verify these hours through a portal in PTCAS. Be sure that the PTs who supervise you are willing to verify in writing the hours you have spent working with and/or observing them. For more information got to:

http://www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents/Admissions/PTProcess/

Professionalism & Core Values

The PT profession has seven core values that define professional behavior in the application process, PT education, and professional practice:

- Accountability
- Altruism
- Compassion/Caring

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Professional Duty

- Social Responsibility

For more information go to:

http://www.ptcas.org/Professionalism/

The PT Core Values are consistent with those of other health professions. In planning your pre-PT activities, consider how you will develop and demonstrate the Core Values; the following chart gives examples of different types of activities that can help you do this as you build a variety of other skills and attributes that physical therapy admissions committees are looking for. The chart is intended as a guide, not a checklist:

CULTURAL COMPETENCE

As the population of the United States becomes increasingly diverse, physical therapists must be able to interact with patients with varied cultural norms as well as a broad range of experiences. Common activities include (but are not limited to):

- Courses or research that focus on minority groups, cross-cultural issues, or social equity/inequality.
- Courses or research on cross-cultural issues in health care or health care inequality.

- Providing direct service through activities such as teaching and tutoring.
- Learning a language other than English.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND COMMUNICATION

Effective PT’s develop trusting partnerships with their patients, who they may see multiple times over a relatively short period of time as compared to other health professions. Common activities include (but are not limited to):

- Working as a course or laboratory teaching assistant.
- Tutoring.
- Mentoring.

- Serving as a Resident Assistant or other peer leadership position.
- Admissions tour guide.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ALTRUISM

Physical Therapy is an intensive service profession. Moreover, PTs advocate for the health and wellness needs of society; they provide leadership in the community; and they understand how local and global issues impact society and the delivery of physical therapy. Common activities include (but are not limited to):

- Serving as an officer in a student club or organization.
- Initiating significant group projects within a class or organization.
- Serving as captain of a varsity or club sports team.
- Promotion to a leadership position on a paid job.
- Taking courses or regular reading about health policy issues.

- Participating in community service projects.
- Volunteer teaching or tutoring in the community.
- Assisting individuals with disabilities.
- Volunteering or working for a nonprofit organization domestically or abroad.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Like all the health professions, physical therapy is based on science and constant assimilation of new knowledge into clinical practice. Activities that require an evidence-based approach to problem solving and a commitment to continually expanding professional knowledge are key to long-term success in the profession. Common activities include (but are not limited to):

- Laboratory “bench” research.
- Clinical research.
- Quantitative or qualitative public health research.

- Scholarship in disciplines not related to medicine or science.
- A thesis project.

Updated July 2019