

### 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 all schools will accept online courses.

##### ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

Two semesters with lab are required:

- BIO 220 & 221 Lab (3+1 cr.)
- BIO 222 & 223 Lab (3+1 cr.)

##### BIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

Two semesters with lab are required:

- BIO 101 or 110 Principles of Biology I & 103 Lab (3+1 cr.)
- CMB 201 or 211 Microbiology (4 cr., includes lab).

NOTE: many PT schools prefer courses that are not plant or animal biology; this is why we recommend CMB 201/211 instead of BIO 102-104.

##### PHYSICS

Two semesters with lab required.

- PHY 111 & 185 lab (3+1 cr.)
- PHY 112 & 186 lab (3+1 cr.)

Two of the three course sequence may be substituted: PHY 203-204-205 and accompanying labs

##### STATISTICS & MATH

One semester of statistics is required. Some schools also require one semester of pre-calculus or calculus:

- STA 307, 308, 409, or 411

And

- MTH 103 or higher.

##### CHEMISTRY

Two semesters with lab are required. Possible combinations:

- CHM 103 & CHM 105 Lab (3+1 cr.) and CHM 124 & 126 Lab (3+1 cr.)
- CHM 101 & CHM 102 Lab (3+1 cr.) and CHM 112 & 114 (3+1 cr.)
- CHM 191 & CHM 192 (5 cr. each)

##### SOCIAL SCIENCES

At least one semester of Psychology. **Additional psychology coursework may be required by some schools.**

- PSY 113, 232, 254, or 255

NOTE: the URI PT program requires PSY 113 and one other course at a higher level

#### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED COURSES

Some PT programs may require the following:

- *Exercise Physiology with lab.* At URI, take BIO/KIN 300 & 301 Lab (3+1 credits)
- *College Writing.* At URI, take WRT 104, 106, or any course with the B1 general education outcome (“Write Effectively”).

#### 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.** Many PT programs require the GRE. The mean score of admitted PT applicants is around the 50-55<sup>th</sup> 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 go 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
- Collaboration
- Compassion and Caring
- Duty
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Social Responsibility

For more information go to:

<https://www.apta.org/siteassets/pdfs/policies/core-values-endorsement.pdf>

You can develop skills and abilities related to the core values through a wide variety of work and activities. Pre-PT students (and pre-health students in general) have participated in the following activities. We have broken these up into categories that roughly correspond to the Core Values and to what admission committees are looking for.

**Note that this chart is intended to provide some examples and is not a checklist:**

#### PT/HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE (COMPASSION AND CARING, DUTY, ACCOUNTABILITY)

- PT shadowing-multiple settings
- Internship for credit in a PT setting
- Physical therapy aid and/or tech-multiple settings
- Research assistant-undergraduate, any department or lab
- Regular exercise (for personal wellness)
- Occupational therapy tech

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE (ALTRUISM, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY)

- Camp counselor
- Refugee resettlement volunteer
- Best Buddies volunteer
- Women's shelter volunteer
- Crisis counselor with text line
- Food bank/pantry volunteer
- Habitat for Humanity
- Homeless shelter volunteer

#### LEADERSHIP AND/OR CAMPUS ACTIVITIES (COLLABORATION, EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY)

- Teaching assistant, KIN/BIO 300 (note: many other opportunities to be a TA are available)
- Kinesiology Club member
- Pre-PT Club officer and/or member
- Pre-health ambassador
- Resident assistant in URI residence halls
- Delta Epsilon Mu officer and/or member
- Varsity athletics
- Club sports

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES TO CONSIDER—ACADEMIC OR EXTRACURRICULAR

- Honors program, including an honors project
- Orientation leader
- Peer tutoring, Academic Enhancement Center
- Cross-cultural, e.g., study abroad, courses or research related to culture and health or other cultures in general, learning a foreign language, Seeds of Success, Women in STEM