

WHAT IS PHYSICAL THERAPY?

Physical therapy is a dynamic profession with an established theoretical and scientific base and widespread clinical applications in the restoration, maintenance, and promotion of optimal physical function. Physical therapists:

- Diagnose and manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional abilities.
- Restore, maintain, and promote not only optimal physical function but optimal wellness and fitness and optimal quality of life as it relates to movement and health.
- Prevent the onset, symptoms, and progression of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities that may result from diseases, disorders, conditions, or injuries.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Physical therapists (PTs) are health care professionals who diagnose and treat individuals of all ages, from newborns to the very oldest, who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives.

PTs examine each individual and develop a plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. In addition, PTs work with individuals to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.

Physical therapists provide care for people in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and nursing homes. State licensure is required in each state in which a physical therapist practices.

EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY RANGES

Career opportunities in physical therapy may include clinical practice, management, education, consultation, and research, or some combination of these areas. The U.S. Department of Labor projects a continuing increase in available jobs for physical therapists. Physical therapists' salaries compare favorably with those in other professions requiring similar preparation. Salaries vary depending upon one's experience, geographical location and position. A recent graduate can expect to earn from \$60,000 - \$80,000. Experienced physical therapists, therapists in supervisory positions, and self-employed physical therapists earn more than \$ 80,000 per year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of Tennessee's Department of Physical Therapy is located within the College of Health Professions. The program is designed as a "4 + 3" program that leads to the Doctor of Physical Therapy

degree. Students complete four years of pre-professional course work at UT, Knoxville, and then complete three years of professional education on the campus of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Candidates are required to have a baccalaureate degree prior to admission. Students are admitted to the physical therapy program in the fall of each year.

Clinical internship sites are located in Memphis, throughout Tennessee, and in surrounding states. Due to the limited number of clinical sites in Memphis and other urban areas, students should anticipate the financial impact of traveling and living out of town for the majority of their clinical internships. The intent of the clinical internships is to provide the student with a broad exposure to physical therapy practice in a variety of settings and geographic locations. Most students do not complete all clinical internship experiences in any one geographic location.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration for admission, applicants must fulfill the requirements listed below. Meeting the minimum requirements does NOT assure admission to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. Priority is given to residents of Tennessee. Applicants whose native language is not English must submit results of the TOEFL (a score of at least 550 on the paper-based exam or a score of at least 213 on the computer-based exam).

Applicants must complete a baccalaureate degree, which includes the prerequisite courses, prior to enrollment. The following 19 semester credit hours of prerequisite courses must be completed and reported on official transcripts before an application for admission will be considered: Biology including laboratory (4 hours), Chemistry I including laboratory (4 hours), Physics I including laboratory (4 hours), Anatomy and Physiology I including laboratory (4 hours), and Psychology (3 hours). Core science courses must be taken face-to-face; no online course will count toward your pre-requisites.

Pre-requisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. If a required course is repeated, both grades are calculated into the cumulative GPA.

Credit hours earned for non-theory courses in physical education, music, and military science are not accepted in fulfillment of prerequisite hours or as elective hours. Virtual, online, AP and CLEP courses are not accepted for Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy and Physiology.

Applicants must take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). A competitive score on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE is required. A combined score of 300 or greater is considered competitive.

One hundred hours of observation/work experience is required for interested applicants with two or more types of clinical sites required. Forms for documenting observation and/or work experience in the field of physical therapy can be found on the PTCAS website. Time spent in a variety of settings (hospital, outpatient, pediatric) is preferred. Experience in an athletic training facility is not acceptable unless the athletic trainer is also a physical therapist.

Recommendations from university science professors are important considerations in the selection process. A personal interview and an approved Criminal Background Check (CBC) are required for admission.

For additional information, visit the webpage for the Office of Registrar at catalog.uthsc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=16&poiid=1141

**ADMISSIONS STATISTICS – ENTERING CLASS
FALL 2016**

Total Applicants	542
Average GPA.....	3.49
Average SMPGPA.....	3.58
Average GRE score	308
Class Size	60

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Students wishing to apply to the physical therapy program at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and complete an undergraduate degree from the College of Arts and Sciences should consult the curriculum outlined below. The following pre-physical therapy curriculum includes the specified courses required for admission to the program in Memphis. Students wishing to prepare for professional training at institutions other than The University of Tennessee Health Science Center should consult the catalogs of those institutions to determine the specific preparation required for admission.

The following is a suggested sequence of courses. The College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Guide and Advising Handbook contains course options for foreign language, non-US history, social sciences, arts and humanities, global challenges, and connections. All students pursuing a degree from UT must complete UT's general education requirements.

Based on 2017/2018 Curriculum

FRESHMAN	CREDIT HOURS
English 101-102 or equivalent.....	6
Biology 150 (see Note 1)	3
Biology 160, 159.....	3, 2
Chemistry 120-130	8
Mathematics (see Note 2)	6-7
Communicating Orally	3
	31-32

SOPHOMORE

Biochemistry & Cellular & Molecular Biology 230.....	5
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology 240	4
Physics 221-222	8
Foreign Language (Intermediate Level Sequence - see Note 3)	6
Connections (see Note 6)	3
Non-US History.....	6
	32

JUNIOR

Arts & Humanities (see Note 4).....	6
Social Sciences (see Note 5)	3
Psychology 110 (see Note 5).....	3
Connections (see Note 6)	9
Psychology Elective	3
Statistics 201, Math 115, or Psychology 385 (see Note 2)	3
Communicating through Writing Course	3
Global Challenges (if Biology 150 not taken)	0-3
Electives (see Note 7)	0-9
	30-33

SENIOR

Completion of major program and BA/BS requirements

TOTAL: 120 hours minimum

- Note 1: Pre-physical therapy students who are not majoring in a biological science may substitute Biology 101 and 102 for Biology 150.
- Note 2: Math placement depends on high school courses and grades, ACT scores, and BA/BS requirements. Math 130 or any calculus course is a prerequisite to Physics. Math 125 is a pre-requisite for Statistics 201. Students should consult the undergraduate catalog for a complete list of mathematics courses that satisfy the University General Education Quantitative Reasoning requirement.
- Note 3: This requirement assumes a student has had enough language background in high school to begin an intermediate language sequence at UTK.
- Note 4: Students must complete two courses from different disciplines. At least one course must be chosen from List A (Literature and Philosophical and Religious Thought).
- Note 5: Students must complete a minimum of two courses representing two departments. Psychology 110 is considered a social science.
- Note 6: Students will satisfy the Connections requirement by completing one of the following: a minor or second major, nine hours through a study abroad program, or nine hours from a Connections package.
- Note 7: One year of U.S. history must have been completed in high school or college prior to graduation from the physical therapy program.

STUDENTS IN OTHER COLLEGES

Students who are pursuing degrees in other UT colleges, i.e., Engineering, Architecture, Communications, etc., do not have to fulfill Foundations and Perspectives requirements in the College of Arts and Sciences, but are required to complete the University's General Education Requirement and the following minimum courses with a grade of C or better for admission to the physical therapy program:

	CREDIT HOURS
Biology 150.....	3
Biology 160, 159.....	3, 2
Chemistry 120-130	8
Mathematics 130 or any calculus course.....	3-4
Physics 221-222	8
Biochemistry & Cellular & Molecular Biology 230.....	5
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology 240	4
Psychology 110	3
Psychology Elective	3
Math 115, Statistics 201 or Psychology 385	3

PROGRAM PLANNING

The importance of program planning for the pre-physical therapy student cannot be overstressed. It is essential for these students to develop their programs creatively in order to present a well-rounded background. Because admission to all physical therapy programs is competitive, students should consider completing the prerequisites for more than one physical therapy program. In addition, students should select an undergraduate degree, which will provide an alternative in the event that admission to a physical therapy program is not achieved.

Advisors are available in Arts and Sciences Advising Services, 313 Ayres Hall, to help students plan programs with maximum flexibility; however, in the final analysis, it is the student's responsibility to determine the program which will best satisfy his or her particular needs.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION

Recommendations from university professors who have taught you as a UT student are important considerations in the selection process for the physical therapy program at the UT Health Science Center. Be sure that you have become well acquainted with your professors prior to requesting the evaluations. Two letters of recommendation are required and must be submitted electronically via PTCAS. Mailed letters are not accepted. One letter must be from a licensed physical therapist with whom you have volunteered, worked or observed, and one from a professor for whom you have completed a course, or an academic advisor.

RESIDENCY POLICY FOR UTHSC

UT Health Science Center is a state-supported institution and by legislative intent is required to consider all qualified Tennesseans prior to considering out-of-state applicants. The non-resident applicant who is the son or daughter of an alumnus of UT Health Science Center and is otherwise qualified competitively is considered in state for admission purposes only.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST CENTRALIZED APPLICATION SERVICE (PTCAS)

The UT Department of Physical Therapy utilizes the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) to process applications for admission (www.ptcas.org). PTCAS is a service of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). PTCAS allows applicants to use a single application and one set of materials to apply to multiple PT programs. PTCAS requires pre-professional evaluations, official transcripts from all schools attended, and a projected plan for completion of remaining required courses that includes date(s) and name(s) of institution(s) where the student plans to enroll. Typically, PTCAS applications open in July, and instructions are available in June. Students should allow a month for PTCAS to process their application once complete. Students applying to the UT Health Science Center in Memphis should plan to get all materials to PTCAS by October 1. Students considering other institutions should check the respective websites for pre-requisites and deadlines. In the 2016 cycle, the cost to apply to one program was \$140, and \$45 for each additional program. See PTCAS for current deadlines.

Applicants who accept a position in the program must declare the ability to fulfill the Technical Standards for Admission to the College of Health Professions, Physical Therapy Program.

SEMINAR FOR PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

During each fall semester, Arts and Sciences Advising Services offers a one credit hour course entitled "Introduction to Health Care Delivery." This one credit hour seminar course is taught in the Wood Auditorium of UT Medical Center. The course provides weekly seminars on topics such as managed care, family practice, ethical issues in medicine, malpractice, allied health programs, and many others. The course is listed in the timetable under Interdisciplinary Programs (INPG) 100. The course is open to any interested student.

ALPHA EPSILON DELTA (AED)

Alpha Epsilon Delta is a pre-health honor society that seeks to provide information and opportunities for students with an interest in the health professions. The Tennessee Beta Chapter of AED is active at The University of Tennessee. AED activities include information sessions on preparing to apply to professional schools, local speakers from the medical community, trips to Tennessee medical schools and health centers, and service activities. The schedule of meetings can be found on the AED website: aedutk.wixsite.com/aed-utk.

Requirements for membership include three terms of college (at least one at UTK), a cumulative GPA of 3.2, a science GPA of 3.2, and participation in AED sponsored events and meetings. Students interested in AED should first affiliate themselves with the organization as a pledge during the first semester of college attendance at UT. Applications for both pledge status and national membership are available in Arts and Sciences Advising Services, 313 Ayres Hall, and at the organizational website. A student who does not meet the criteria to become a national member may continue as a pledge.

Pre-health students wishing to receive notification of pre-health activities and AED events should send an e-mail to asadvising@utk.edu to request to be added to the pre-health distribution list.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM:

Dr. Shannon Hughes, Admissions Committee Chair
Department of Physical Therapy
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
930 Madison Avenue, Suite 647
Memphis, TN 38163
(901) 448-5888
ehughes9@uthsc.edu
www.uthsc.edu/health-professions/pt/

Arts and Sciences Advising Services
313 Ayres Hall
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-1335
(865) 974-4481
www.artsci.utk.edu/advising

American Physical Therapy Association
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
(800) 999-2782
www.apta.org

The information in this bulletin is subject to revision. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with a health professions advisor on a regular basis.

ADMISSIONS TO THE PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE; ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, AND COMPLETION OF THE PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DOES NOT ASSURE ADMISSION TO UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
EEO/TITLE IX/SECTION 504 STATEMENT

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

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