

PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY ADVISING SHEET

This sheet is designed to give a typical pre-physical therapy student a general understanding of the minimum course work generally required for acceptance to doctor of physical therapy schools. This document may not be equally suitable for all students and should be used solely as an initial guide since specific pre-requisite course requirements vary between physical therapy schools. This variation can include how these schools view credit awarded for AP/IB credit and courses taken online, as well as the types of courses and number of credit hours required in each subject. **Therefore, students are responsible for checking the specific admission prerequisites for each physical therapy school to which they apply.**

Physical Therapy School Prerequisite Courses: The requirements for PT programs vary considerably, so it is best to check each program you are interested in well in advance of applying. The PTCAS application service maintains a single spreadsheet that lists all prerequisite courses for all schools that use PTCAS – find this list on the web at <http://www.ptcas.org/ProgramPrereqs/>.

In general most programs require:

- Psychological Inquiry (SW250-PS)
- Genetics and Cellular and Molecular Biology (BI210 and BI220)*
- General Chemistry - two courses with labs (CH105 and CH106)
- Physics – two courses with lab (PH107 and PH108)
- Elementary Statistics (MA162)**
- Human Anatomy and Physiology with lab (BSHS 334 and BSHS335)*

*While many PT programs do not require two terms of biology, BI220 is a prerequisite for BSHS334

**Students should check with their schools of interest to determine if statistics courses offered within a major satisfy statistics requirements.

Other courses required by a significant number of schools:

- Medical Terminology (BSHS215)
- Calculus (MA106)
- Sociology or additional Psychology courses (often Developmental Psychology or Abnormal Psychology)

Other coursework that may be beneficial:

- Motor Learning (PE253)
- Human Anatomy and Physiology of Exercise (PE324)
- Kinesiology (PE323)
- Exercise Prescription (PE352), Motor Learning (PE253)

Pre-professional advising:

Pre-physical therapy students should contact the administrative assistant for pre-professional programs to ensure that they are included on the pre-PT email listserv. Pre-PT students are also encouraged to find more details on Butler's pre-health website at <https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/areas-of-interest/pre-physical-therapy/>.

Physical Therapy is a health profession widely applicable to many areas of health but focuses on the restoration, maintenance and promotion of physical function. Physical therapists work with all ages from infants to elderly in many kinds of clinical settings from homes, hospitals, schools, fitness facilities and more. Students interested in PT as a career typically major in exercise science, biology, kinesiology, or psychology but as long as the prerequisites are completed most majors would be acceptable. A Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree is required to practice as a PT across most of the United States. For more information see the [American Physical Therapy Association](https://www.apta.org/) (APTA) website at <https://www.apta.org/>

Applying to Physical Therapy School: A majority of physical therapy schools in the United States use a common application service, PTCAS. For more details, please consult the Butler pre-health website at <https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/areas-of-interest/pre-physical-therapy/>

Graduate Record Exam (GRE): Many, but not all, Physical Therapy doctoral programs require an applicant to take the [Graduate Record Exam](#) (GRE) general test. This exam is usually taken during the spring semester of the junior year.

Letters of Recommendation: Identify at least one science professor and at least one non-science professor that might be willing to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. PTCAS will often have you submit only one faculty letter of recommendation, but it is best to be prepared. Most PT schools will also require a letter of recommendation from a licensed physical therapist that has observed you professionally.

Shadowing documentation: Some physical therapy schools have tight specific requirements on the number of shadowing hours and the documentation of these hours. The following website, <http://aptaapps.apta.org/ptcas/observationhours.aspx>, is maintained by APTA and lists information on shadowing requirements and documentation at participating schools.

Personal statement: A personal statement is a well thought out explanation of why physical therapy is right for you based on the experiences that have led you to this conclusion. Experiences from your life, work, research, or shadowing that are pertinent to explaining your call to physical therapy need to be included as part of this statement. Journaling is a convenient way of keeping track of formative experiences and their impact on you as they occur.

Application timeline: Applications are submitted approximately one year prior to entrance into physical therapy school. Applications are built within and submitted to schools through the Physical Therapy Central Application Service (PTCAS). The first day applications are received by PT schools is generally the first business day in July.

Pre-health Advising:

Contact: Should you have more questions, please request to meet with one of the two current faculty pre-health advisors (<https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/advisors/>). The advisors are happy and excited to work with you to help ensure you become the best candidate possible for professional school.

Sophomore review: In the spring semester of the sophomore year, each pre-PT student will meet with one of the pre-health advisors for a review of their preparation to date. The student's coursework, overall GPA, volunteering and shadowing experiences, and other extra-curricular activities will be discussed.

Programing: Our programming goal is to provide general information and advice to students, while also providing individualized advising sessions. Programing for pre-physical therapy and pre-health professional students starts the first-week students are on campus and extends through their time at Butler and beyond. First-year programming includes an introduction of the advisors and what they do, along with information on what students can do to start building a competitive application. Second-year programming includes our Networking Night with local health professionals, which can lead to shadowing and other opportunities. Our third year programming focuses on helping students understand the application process and timeline. We support alumni up to five years after graduating from Butler.