

Health Professions Academic Preparation

PHYSICAL THERAPY

An undergraduate education provides students with the opportunity to grow personally and intellectually; allowing them the time and resources to discover a breadth of new ideas and topics as well as to build and to explore their own interests and passions in depth. Therefore, students should seek a broad education during their undergraduate years. There is no required major for entrance to physical therapy (PT) programs. **The following represents what UTSA courses can be taken to fulfill the core and program prerequisites for entry to the DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy) program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA).** Please note that all requirements are subject to approval by UTHSCSA and are subject to change. Further, because there is some variation in requirements for other physical therapy programs, students are advised to consult individual programs for their specific and most current information.

Required Areas of Study	UTSA Courses	Grade/Sem	Prerequisites/Corequisites
UTHSCSA Core Curriculum			
English (6 hrs lecture)	WRC 1013		
	WRC 1023		WRC 1013
U.S. History (6 hrs lecture) <i>NOTE: Any two of these three classes will fulfill the history requirement.</i>	HIS 1043, HIS 1053, or HIS 2053		
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Political Science (6 hrs lecture)	POL 1013		
	POL 1133 or POL 1213		
Algebra (3 hrs lecture) <i>NOTE: MAT 1023 can fulfill UTHSCSA math requirement, but MAT 1073 should be taken in preparation for other PT prerequisite courses at UTSA.</i>	MAT 1073 or higher		Satisfactory performance on placement exam
Visual/Performing Arts (3 hrs lecture)	Any ART, AHC, MUS, or THR course		
Humanities (3 hrs lecture)	Any HUM, PHI, or literature course		
Electives (13 hrs)	May <i>not</i> include developmental courses, work from technical institutions, or other coursework deemed inappropriate by the department.		
<i>Continued on reverse</i>			

Program Prerequisites			
Chemistry (6 hrs lecture; 2 hrs lab) <i>NOTE: Since the chemistry labs are worth two credit hours each at UTSA, taking just one general chemistry lab here will fulfill the two credit hour general chemistry lab requirement for the UTHSCSA DPT Program. However, because CHE 1122 is a prerequisite for CHE 1132, students are unable to take only CHE 1132, and will be advised to either take CHE 1122 or both general chemistry labs.</i>	¹ CHE 1103 or ² CHE 1143		¹ Passing grade on Chemistry Placement Exam or C or better in CHE 1073 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in MAT 1073; ² Grade of "B" or higher in MAT 1073 and CHE 1073 or score of 60% or higher on chemistry placement exam
	CHE 1122 Lab and CHE 1120 Lab Lecture		Completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 1103 or CHE 1143
	¹ CHE 1113 or ² CHE 1153		¹ CHE 1103; ² "C" or better in CHE 1143 or "B" or better in CHE 1103 with instructor consent for CHE 1153
	CHE 1132 Lab and CHE 1130 Lab Lecture		CHE 1122 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 1113 or CHE 1153
General Biology (6 hrs lecture; 2 hrs lab)	BIO 1404		MAT 1023 (not recommended for pre-PT students), MAT 1073 or higher; CHE 1073 or higher also recommended by UHPO
	BIO 1122 Lab		Completion of or concurrent enrollment in BIO 1404
	BIO 1413		BIO 1404
Anatomy (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab) <i>NOTES: Most institutions offer combined Anatomy and Physiology courses while UTSA offers them as separate courses. Therefore, the courses should be completed at the same institution.</i> <i>BIO 3123 was formerly BIO 2123; BIO 2083 was formerly AHS 2083; BIO 3132 was formerly BIO 2132; BIO 2091 was formerly AHS 2091.</i>	¹ BIO 3123 or ² BIO 2083		¹ BIO 1413; ² BIO 1404 and BIO 1122
	¹ BIO 3132 Lab or ² BIO 2091 Lab		¹ BIO 1413 and concurrent enrollment in BIO 3123 recommended; ² BIO 1404 and BIO 1122 with concurrent enrollment in BIO 2083 recommended
Physiology (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab) <i>NOTES: Please see above.</i> <i>BIO 2103 was formerly AHS 2103; BIO 2111 was formerly AHS 2111; BIO 3153 was formerly AHS 3463.</i>	¹ BIO 3413, ² BIO 2103 or ³ BIO 3153		¹ BIO 2313, MAT 1193, and STA 1403; ² BIO 1404; ³ BIO 1404 and 1122
	¹ BIO 3422 Lab or ² BIO 2111 Lab		¹ Completion of or concurrent enrollment in BIO 3413; ² BIO 1404 and BIO 1122 with concurrent enrollment in BIO 2103 recommended
<i>Continued on reverse</i>			

Physics (6 hrs lecture; 2 hrs lab)	¹ PHY 1603 or ² PHY 1943		¹ MAT 1023 (not recommended for pre-PT students) or MAT 1073; ² MAT 1193 or MAT 1214 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in MAT 1224 or STA 1403
	¹ PHY 1611 Lab or ² PHY 1951 Lab		¹ Completion of or concurrent enrollment in PHY 1603; ² Completion of or concurrent enrollment in PHY 1943
	¹ PHY 1623 or ² PHY 1963		¹ PHY 1603; ² PHY 1943 and MAT 1224 or STA 1403
	¹ PHY 1631 Lab or ² PHY 1971 Lab		¹ PHY 1611 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in PHY 1623; ² PHY 1951 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in PHY 1963
Statistics (3 hrs lecture)	¹ STA 1053, STA 1043, or ² PSY 2073		¹ Satisfactory score on placement exam (for STA 1053 and STA 1043); ² MAT 1023, MAT 1033, or MAT 1073 <i>and</i> one PSY course
Psychology (6 hrs lecture)	PSY 1013		
	PSY 2503		PSY 1013
Sociology (3 hrs lecture)	SOC 1013		
Speech (3 hrs lecture)	¹ COM 1053 or ² COM 2113		¹ WRC 1013; ² COM 1043, COM 1053, or consent of instructor
Medical Terminology (1-3 hrs lecture)	Not offered at UTSA <i>Can be taken at community college, online, or in continuing education department with certificate of completion.</i>		

Please also note that the previously listed UTSA courses and prerequisites are for students following the 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog. Students following another undergraduate catalog should consult an advisor with any questions about course numbering.

Foundation Courses: For students who are not prepared to go directly into the required courses, it will be necessary to enroll first in foundation courses, such as basic chemistry and an appropriate mathematics course. It may also be necessary to take the mathematics and chemistry placement tests to determine proficiency. For additional information, consult an advisor early in your studies.

Application Process: The application period for the DPT Program at UTHSCSA is from August 15 to November 1 for the following fall. Applicants must have a program prerequisite and science/math GPA of at least 3.0. Further information on their application process is available at:

http://shpwelcome.uthscsa.edu/pt/dpt_ac.asp and at <http://shpwelcome.uthscsa.edu>. We recommend that students also learn about the admissions processes for other PT programs. Some programs across the country will accept applications through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) online (www.ptcas.org). Students should consult other individual programs of interest for specific information about their application processes. Programs within Texas can be found online at www.texashotjobs.org, and others across the nation can be located on the website for the American Physical Therapy Association (www.apta.org).

GRE: The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is a standardized exam required for admission to the DPT Program at UTHSCSA and some other PT programs. At this time, UTHSCSA uses GRE scores for development purposes, not for making admission decisions. At other schools, GRE scores may be a larger factor for admission. Computer administrations of the GRE are available almost daily. The GRE measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills. An examinee can register for the GRE online, by phone, or by mail and are limited to taking the GRE General Test once per calendar month and no more than five times in any 12-month period. Complete registration details and other information about the GRE are available at: <http://www.ets.org>.

Community Service/Volunteering/Shadowing: An integral part of preparation for programs in physical therapy entails involvement in community service projects and volunteer work in a hospital or clinical setting. These activities serve to familiarize prospective physical therapists with the realities of everyday clinical practice as well as to underscore the role of physical therapists and healthcare in relation to broader community level concerns and issues. A list of volunteer opportunities is available on the UHPO website (www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.htm). We do not, however, have a list available for shadowing experiences. Students must exercise personal initiative and develop relationships that would allow them to have this direct contact with a physical therapist in everyday clinical practice. The UTHSCSA DPT program requires applicants to complete at least 50 hours of paid or volunteer experience under a licensed physical therapist. A documentation form must be filled out and can be downloaded at http://shpwelcome.uthscsa.edu/pt/pt_steps.asp. If applying to other programs, students should learn about whether or not specific documentation is required as well.

Letters of Evaluation: Letters of evaluation are an essential part of the application. Because selection committees depend heavily on these letters to gain insight into applicants' personal strengths, weaknesses, and accomplishments, students should be sure to request letters of evaluation from individuals, such as professors, work supervisors, and volunteer supervisors, who know them from various perspectives and know them well. Letters from family members or other individuals whom students know only on a personal level are inappropriate. The UTHSCSA DPT Program requires evaluators to complete a reference form; this is available online on their website. At least one reference must be from a licensed physical therapist. Students should be aware of any specific requirements for all schools to which they are applying.

Personal Statement: The UHPO staff will read and provide feedback to students regarding their personal statements given sufficient time, preferably two weeks prior to when comments are needed. We also recommend that students visit The Writing Center at www.utsa.edu/twc for further review.

Interviews: The UHPO can offer some advice as students prepare for interviews and, after interviews, would like to debrief with students about their impressions. The University Career Center also facilitates interview workshops and conducts mock interviews to provide students with feedback. For more information about their services, contact them at the Main Campus [UC 2.02.04 or (210) 458-4589] or Downtown Campus [BV 1.304 or (210) 458-2910].

Additional Information/Resources: The UHPO keeps and maintains resources that will be available to students in our office. These include books, journals, handouts, and other resources. Useful information about physical therapy as a profession and other PT programs can be found on the website of the American Physical Therapy Association (www.apta.org). The Welcome Center at the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions (www.shpwelcome.uthscsa.edu) is another source of information for students considering remaining in San Antonio. Students may visit the center to speak directly with representatives of the School of Health Professions and to obtain all pertinent information regarding the DPT program at UTHSCSA. Students can also make appointments by calling 210-567-8744 or sending an email to shpwelcome@uthscsa.edu.

KIN to Physical Therapy 3+3 Dual Degree Program: This is a joint program between The University of Texas at San Antonio and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) School of Health Professions. Although it may not be a good fit for all students, this program offers those with an interest in physical therapy the opportunity to receive early conditional acceptance to the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions and to earn both a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology with a Concentration in Athletic Medicine from UTSA and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from UTHSCSA within six years. Information Sessions are held monthly. All students interested in the program may attend one of these information sessions to learn more about the program and its requirements prior to scheduling an individual appointment with an advisor to discuss. For information on when the information sessions will be offered, please see the UHPO website, call us, or visit our office.

BIO to Physical Therapy 3+3 Dual Degree Program: This is a joint program between The University of Texas at San Antonio and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) School of Health Professions. Although it may not be a good fit for all students, this program offers those with an interest in occupational therapy the opportunity to receive early conditional acceptance to the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions and to earn both a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from UTSA and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from UTHSCSA within six years. Information Sessions are held monthly. All students interested in the program may attend one of these information sessions to learn more about the program and its requirements prior to scheduling an individual appointment with an advisor to discuss. For information on when the information sessions will be offered, please see the UHPO website, call us, or visit our office.

Health Professions Advising: The UHPO provides advising and support to students interested in pursuing careers in the health professions, including physical therapy. This consists of academic preparation assistance as well as information about health careers, application procedures, and entrance exams for undergraduates, postbaccalaureate students, non-degree seeking students, and alumni. Students are encouraged to seek advice and consult with the UHPO advising staff early in their college career. For more information about our appointment and walk-in schedules and our other services, please contact us:

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