Applying to Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Degree Programs

UTSA does not offer advanced degrees in physical therapy studies. However, students are able to take pre-requisite coursework while completing any major at UTSA. Students are encouraged to take coursework in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities to prepare for their physical therapy program. Students should choose a major of their interest and purposefully take coursework in preparation for their application to a DPT program.

A common timeline for students attending PT school is shown below:

This timeline is subject to change based on student competitiveness and readiness to apply.

Applicants use the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) to apply to the program of their choice. For students seeking the UT Health San Antonio’s (UTHSA) program, Application Deadlines: September 15, 2017, priority; October 2, 2017, Final deadline for July program entry in the following year.

Admission to DPT programs is increasingly competitive and is often determined on a holistic basis, including the following:

- Successful completion of pre-requisite coursework (with at least a ‘C’ or better.)
- Minimum grade point average:
  - Overall: 3.2 on a 4.0 scale
  - Science GPA: 3.2 on a 4.0 scale
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. (More information on the reverse of this page).
- Completion of Bachelor’s degree by June 1 of year of program entry.
- Completion of Medical Terminology course (online certification or through college/university)
- Minimum of 50 hours of observation, volunteer or employment under a licensed Physical Therapist.
- Two reference letters
- Supplemental Applications for PTCAS
- Highly qualified candidates are invited for interviews.

More information related to UTHSA admissions can be found on their website at: http://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/health-professions/doctor-physical-therapy-admissions

UT Health San Antonio Physical Therapy Pre-requisites

- BIO 1404: Biosciences I (new format, includes lab)
- BIO 1414: Biosciences II (new format, includes lab)
- BIO 2053 & BIO 2051: Anatomy & Physio I & Lab
- BIO 2063 & BIO 2061: Anatomy & Physio II & Lab

***Students who have taken other versions of Anatomy or Physiology should consult the UHPO for course options.

- CHE 1103 & CHE 1121: General Chemistry I & Lab
- CHE 1113 & CHE 1131: General Chemistry II & Lab
- PHY 1603 & PHY 1611: Algebra-based Physics I & Lab
- PHY 1623 & PHY 1631: Algebra-based Physics II & Lab
- STA 1053 OR STA 1403 OR PSY 2073: Statistics
- PSY 1013: Introduction to Psychology
- PSY 2503: Developmental Psychology
- SOC 1013: Introduction to Sociology or PSY 2533 Social Psychology
- COM 2113: Public Speaking

Other courses related to the health care field, which could benefit a pre-PT student include*:

- HTH 3303: Physical Activity and Health
- HTH 3543: Growth and Development
- HTH 4503: Human Disease and Epidemiology
- HTH 2413 or SOC 1043: Introduction to Public Health
- KIN 3313: Anatomy and Physiology for Kinesiology
- KIN 3303: Athletic Injuries and Training Procedures
- KIN 3433: Exercise Physiology
- KIN 3463: Musculoskeletal Anatomy
- KIN 4043: Therapeutic Modalities
- KIN 4143: Advanced Athletic Training
- KIN 4243: Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation
- KIN 4403: Motor Learning
- SOC 3213: Medical Sociology
- SPN 2513: Spanish for Health Careers
- PSY 4253: Psychology and Health

*Please note: some of these courses may have pre-requisites.
Health Professions Advising

Newly-admitted UTSA students are assigned an advisor (called a primary advisor) based on their major. For students pursuing Physical Therapy pre-requisites, this advisor will be assigned in one of UTSA’s Advising Centers but students will also meet with Health Professions Advisors to determine coursework and requirements related to their PT studies.

Students are encouraged to meet with a Health Professions Advisor throughout their tenure at UTSA.

When to meet with a Health Professions Advisor:
- Orientation
- At least once per academic year to discuss coursework, holistic admissions, GRE preparation, academic standing
- In the semester prior to application

What to expect from a Health Professions meeting:
- Major and Course selection
- Discussion of GPA competitiveness
- Testing and Application timeline
- Health Professions Pathways
- Holistic applicant assessment

Shadowing/Volunteering/On-Campus Involvement

Admission to physical therapy programs is becoming increasingly holistic. As such, students are strongly encouraged to participate in health care-related activities, community service and on-campus leadership experiences. Experience in these areas contributes to a students understanding of and commitment to physical therapy careers and facilitates personal development prior to the application process.

Ways to get involved:
- UHPO keeps a list of volunteer opportunities in the San Antonio area in our office and on our website, located here: http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html.
- UTSA student organizations participate in service and PT-related activities. Information about getting involved on-campus can be found on RowdyLink: https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/.
- Students are encouraged to volunteer or shadow physical therapists in various settings to gain an understanding of the profession.
- Pre-PT students are encouraged to apply for leadership roles in their community and/or on-campus to develop necessary communication and teamwork skills.
- Attend UTSA’s Health Professions Day, held each February, to meet with representatives from various PT schools.

PT Fast Facts and Helpful Websites

- There are 12 PT programs in the state of Texas. To learn more about these programs, you can visit their online site at www.texashotjobs.us.
- Additional information about Texas PT programs can be found on the Texas Physical Therapy Association website at www.tpta.org.
- Most PT programs accept no more than 45 students per year. However, some select even fewer students.
- The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) provides resources about the physical therapy profession and out-of-state PT programs via their website at www.apta.org.
- To learn more information about PT from current Physical Therapists, visit www.moveforwardpt.com.
- More information about the career of physical therapist can be found on www.explorehealthcareers.org.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Test

The GRE is one of the measures required by many DPT programs to determine a student’s academic ability in relation to graduate education.

Some general information about the GRE:
- Three sections:
  - Verbal Reasoning (Two 30 minute sections with 20 questions per section)
  - Quantitative Reasoning (Two 35 minute sections with 20 questions per section)
  - Analytical Writing (30 minutes)
- Scoring:
  - Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning: Scores range from 130-170
  - Analytical Writing: Scores range from 0-6 in half point increments

More information about the GRE can be found on the American Educational Testing Services website (http://www.ets.org/gre/).