



Physical Therapists (PTs) work in private offices, clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes. They help injured or ill patients improve movement and manage pain using exercises, manipulation of joints and muscles, and training in functional movement.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree is a **3-4 year graduate program** that students can apply to after completing the majority of prerequisite courses, taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), completing observation hours, and applying for admission through the Physical Therapy Central Application Service (PTCAS).

Applicants are generally required to have a bachelor's degree before matriculation to programs, but undergraduate major does not matter.

What do I need to do to apply?

- Complete the prerequisite courses (listed to the right) with a grade of "C" or better in each course
- Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0
- Take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- Complete at least 100 observation/experience hours (both inpatient and outpatient experience is helpful)

The American Physical Therapy Association also has an Accredited Program List, as well as more information about the field that can be helpful (www.apta.org).

Prerequisite Course	Credits
Biology (with lab).....	4-8
*General Chemistry (with lab).....	8
Anatomy and Physiology (with lab).....	8
Physics.....	8
Psychology.....	3
Abnormal Psychology/Human Behavior...	3-6

***The UMD Chemistry sequence requires two semesters of Organic Chemistry before students can take the second semester of General Chemistry. Some DPT programs may accept Organic Chemistry I in lieu of the second semester of General Chemistry, but students should contact programs directly to determine the most appropriate chemistry sequence.**

While these are some general prerequisite courses required for admission to PT programs, admission requirements can vary from institution to institution. Contact programs for most current requirements/prerequisites.

