Physical Therapy School Application Information

Interested in a career in physical therapy? The first place to start is by applying to physical therapy programs. Here you will find a list of physical therapy schools in alphabetical order by state. Each physical therapy program listed is accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association. Links will take you to each school's official web site. There are many physical therapy schools in the United States. Physical therapy programs vary by masters or doctorate degrees. When deciding on a physical therapy school, it is important to choose a program that is accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association.

NORTH CAROLINA PROGRAMS:

Duke University
Location: Durham, NC
Degree: Doctorate

Requirements for admission to the physical therapy program include:

- a baccalaureate degree
- completion of prerequisite courses
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Aptitude Test scores from within the last five years
- the filing of an ON LINE or written application (including essays and reference letters)
- upon invitation, a personal interview

To verify your academic record, you should request that official, sealed transcripts be sent to you from all of the colleges and universities that you attended since high school. If your school(s) will not send official sealed transcripts to students, please request that transcripts be sent to us directly using the address at the bottom of the screen and directed this mailing to "Admissions Secretary".

Prerequisite Coursework

The prerequisite coursework required for admission is listed in the table below, with comments to provide some additional guidance. All prerequisite coursework must be completed with a grade of C or better. We do not recognize courses with a Pass/Fail grade as fulfilling our prerequisites. Advanced placement courses may be accepted for prerequisite requirements if your undergraduate institution has accepted those same credits toward completion of your bachelor's degree. A baccalaureate degree in the natural sciences is not a requirement for admissions; however a background of coursework in the natural sciences is strongly recommended.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Study</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
<th>Course(s)/Topic</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Science</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>general or specialized biology</td>
<td>Recommend an introductory or survey-level course and/or special topic courses, such as embryology, developmental biology, histology, immunology, microbiology, or neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cell Biology or Molecular Biology</td>
<td>Recommend that course topics include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>• nucleic acids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• transcription &amp; translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• glycolysis &amp; oxidative metabolism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• organelle structure &amp; function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• cell motility &amp; contraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• intracellular signaling &amp; second messenger systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• electrical excitability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• inflammatory reactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• exocytosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Human or Vertebrate Physiology</td>
<td>Must be successfully completed within 5 years of application; recommend that course topics include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>• striated muscle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• cardiac muscle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• cardiovascular regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• respiration &amp; gas exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• hormonal control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• thermoregulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• acid-base homeostasis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Human or</td>
<td>Must be successfully completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Vertebrate Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vertebrate Anatomy

within 5 years of application; recommend that course focus on the musculoskeletal system and its neural control, including:

- muscle origins
- muscle insertions
- muscle actions
- innervation patterns

Courses based on human cadaver dissections or prosected human preparations are recommended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemistry</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>General Chemistry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Second semester of general chemistry or specialized chemistry</td>
<td>Specialized courses in organic chemistry or biochemistry are recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application materials are generally available year round and may be obtained by mail or electronically. To obtain an application by mail, follow the Request More Info link to the left.

To apply electronically, click on the online application link below and you will go to our online application site. From there, you will be able to complete and submit your application to our program. Also, you can print a reformatted, "printer-friendly" version of our application.

**ONLINE APPLICATION**

We strongly encourage all applicants to submit their applications via the online application process. However, if you would prefer to proceed with the paper version of the application, please download the two files below (simply click on each link) and return the completed forms to us as directed on each form. Please note that we require three letters of recommendation: two from professors/instructors who have taught you at the undergraduate level and one from a physical therapist with whom you have worked.

[Application (PDF)](#) | [Recommendation Form (PDF)](#)

The application fee is $75.
For early consideration, the application and all supporting documents should be received by the program no later than December 1st of the year preceding admission. Otherwise, our regular submission deadline is January 1st of the admission year. Applications received after the Jan. 1st deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis. Only students for full time study are accepted. State residence does not influence the admissions policies or tuition costs.

Please browse our DPT FAQs page for answers to frequently asked questions about our admissions process.

Application Process

The admissions process for the DPT program at Duke University is a competitive one, attracting high caliber students from across the country. Successful matriculates demonstrate the following characteristics:

- an excellent academic background and GRE scores
- uniformly outstanding and enthusiastic recommendations from two individuals in their undergraduate major field of study
- an excellent recommendation from a professional physical therapist
- an adequate exploration of the profession through volunteer and/or employment in a variety of clinical settings
- positive interviews with members of the faculty during a campus visit

The credentials of each applicant are carefully reviewed by the Admissions Committee and no applicant is automatically rejected because of one area of weakness in his or her application. The process used by the program is a competitive one, with those applicants having the strongest overall application being most successful. Qualified applicants must also be able to meet the physical requirements of the program’s Technical Standards, which are available upon request.

Cultural diversity within the profession of physical therapy is highly valued because physical therapists interact with patients and their families who are of various ages, races, religions, and ethnic backgrounds. The DPT program at Duke University is committed to recruiting and matriculating minority students for a career in physical therapy.

Tuition and Expenses

The tuition for the Duke University DPT curriculum is approved by the Board of Trustees and set at a level competitive with physical therapy programs of comparable quality and selectivity. Annual tuition increases are generally in the range of 5%. The 2003-2004 academic year tuition per credit has been set at $546/credit.

Tuition for the 126 units required in the program is billed to the student in three annual payments of 42 credits/year. Within each year of the program, 1/3 of the total tuition is billed in 3 equal payments for years one and two, and in 2 equal payments in year three.
One advantage of attending Duke University is that the cost of living in central North Carolina remains quite reasonable. For example, the university's Office of Financial Aid estimates that the cost of food and rent (including utilities) for a graduate student in Durham is approximately $10,000 for a 12-month period. If interested, estimated student budgets may be obtained upon request by contacting our admissions secretary (click on Request More Info link and request student budget).

Financial Aid

Qualified applicants may be eligible for federal educational loan programs or institution based loans. A small amount of need based scholarship awards is available for selected matriculated students. Financial aid information is available for all interested applicants by contacting the

Office of Financial Aid
Box 3067, Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC, 27710

Or visit the School of Medicine's Office of Financial Aid website (phone: 919-684-6649) for more information.

East Carolina University
Location: Greenville, NC
Degree: Doctorate

Admission Requirements and Sequence of Admissions Activities

Applications to the DPT program will be accepted during the fall semester of each year for enrollment in the program starting the following summer. (ECU no longer offers the MPT). Admission is competitive and limited to 30 students. At the time of application to the program, students must:

- be eligible for admission to the Graduate School. (Applicants must apply separately to both the DPT program and ECU Graduate School.)
- have satisfactory Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (must also take the WRITING portion of the GRE)
- provide evidence of exposure to the practice of physical therapy. Must be supervised by a licensed physical therapist. A minimum of 100 hours is encouraged.
- have two of the three letters of reference (from the ECU Graduate School application) be completed by licensed PTs who supervised the applicant's PT experience.
- present evidence that the required prerequisite course work will be completed and an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution conferred before the start of the program in the summer.
Required undergraduate prerequisite courses:

- General chemistry, 8 semester hours with lab (CHEM 1150,1151,1160,1161)
- General physics, 8 semester hours with lab (PHYS 1250,1251,1260,1261)
- Biology, 12 semester hours to include:
  - 8 hours of biology (BIOL 1100,1101,1200,1201) plus 1 semester of Human or Mammalian Physiology with lab OR 4 hours of biology (BIOL 1100, 1101) plus 2 semesters of Human Physiology & Anatomy with lab (BIOL 2140, 2141, 2150, 2151)
- College algebra or higher
- Statistics
- Psychology (6 semester hours)

*The above courses must be taken through their respective departments unless prior agreement has been made with the Department of Physical Therapy.*

**Prerequisite Course Numbers for Other North Carolina Universities**

**Sequence of Admissions Activities**

- Deadline date for receipt of applications is January 15th. Applicants are notified of their acceptance status in March and the program begins the 1st summer session in May.
- Applicants must apply separately to both the DPT program and Graduate School.
- A selected number of applicants will be required to be interviewed.

Admission preference is given to North Carolina residents. Admission requirements are subject to change without prior notice.

For more information regarding prerequisite courses, please contact Dr. Denis Brunt, bruntd@ecu.edu or the Pre-Health Advisor, Kathy Bernstein, bernsteink@ecu.edu.

**For application materials for the Graduate School, click here:**
ECU Graduate School.

**Information regarding application for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) must be obtained by contacting:**
Graduate Record Examination
Educational Testing Services
P.O. Box 6000
Princeton, NJ 08541-6000
609-771-7670
GRE Website
Elon University
Location: Elon, NC
Degree: Doctorate

Regular Admission
Submit all required application materials as early as possible prior to January enrollment. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis.

Early Decision
Students may apply and be considered for early decision admission up to 18 months prior to January enrollment. Completed early decision applications should include: Official college or university transcripts; prerequisite coursework to date (4 of the required 6 sciences must be completed); official Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) scores; two recommendations (one must be from a physical therapist); volunteer/work hours to date (may be in progress). Early decision applicants require a $1000 non refundable deposit at acceptance that is applied toward tuition. For applicants applying early decision, Elon should be student's first choice.

Admission Requirements
Completed applications must include:

- Evidence of an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or date when degree is expected
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 for undergraduate work
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and any graduate studies completed or taken
- Minimum combined verbal and quantitative score of 1000 (recommended verbal score of 400 or higher) along with a minimum analytical writing score of 3.0 on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) taken within the last five years
- Completion of prerequisite courses (see below) Grades of 'C' or better are required in each prerequisite course. However, a minimum overall science GPA of 2.8 is required. No prerequisite course may be taken on a "pass/no pass" or "credit/no credit" basis; all must be transferable to Elon University.
- Three letters of recommendation
  One letter should be written by a practicing physical therapist, and one should be from a science instructor qualified to evaluate the applicant's academic achievement and potential for success as a graduate student.
- Personal statement (instructions are enclosed with application)
- Completion of Work Experience Sheet recording applicant's knowledge of the physical therapy profession
  Minimum of 100 hours volunteer or work experience in a general health-care setting with at least 20 of these hours in a physical therapy acute inpatient care or hospital setting (may be in progress)
- TOEFL scores are required unless English is the student's native language or the language of instruction. A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 213
(computer-based) or 79 (Internet-based) is required. English translations of transcripts and explanations of grading systems are required.

Exceptions to these requirements may be considered under special circumstances.

**Prerequisite Courses**

- **6 Science Courses (3-credit hour course or higher with lab)**
  The applicant must have 6 natural and/or life science courses selected from the following: Biology, Chemistry, Human Anatomy/Physiology, Exercise Physiology, Kinesiology, Biomechanics, Pathology and/or Physics.

- **1 Psychology Course (3-credit hour course or higher)**
  It is preferred that this course is from the psychology department, but an upper level course from another department may be acceptable.

- Each natural and/or life science prerequisite course must have been successfully completed within 10 years prior to January enrollment.

---

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
Location: Chapel Hill, NC
Degree: Masters

The MPT program is designed for those individuals with an undergraduate degree in a field other than physical therapy. Applicants should have a sufficient knowledge of the physical therapy profession to make an informed career choice. Applicants are also encouraged to visit with and observe physical therapists in a variety of practice environments.

**Application Materials:**

**MPT Application** will become available online September 1st
deue: due November 27th

- Transcripts*
- 3 Letters of Recommendation*
- North Carolina Residency Form
- GRE scores (institution code # 5816, Department Code #0619)*

*Information about these criteria is found in the application, including all required forms.

1.

**Pre-requisites:**
Semester equivalents of the following are required to be considered for admission:
1. Introductory Statistics
2. Principles of Biology I with lab
3. Anatomy*
4. General Physics I with lab
5. General Physics II with lab
6. General Chemistry I with lab
7. General Psychology
8. Physiology*
9. Exercise Physiology**

*A semester four-hour course in anatomy/physiology will satisfy the pre-requisite requirements for anatomy and physiology.

** Applicants for admission Fall 2007 and Fall 2008 may substitute Human Growth & Development, Developmental Psychology, or Child Psychology for Exercise Physiology.

All pre-requisite courses are to be completed by the end of the Fall semester prior to Fall for which they are seeking enrollment. The Admissions Committee will consider exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis for extenuating circumstances. Applicants may request an extension for one pre-requisite by submitting a written petition outlining the extenuating circumstances and providing evidence that they are competitive candidates for admission to the Division Registrar at shauni_lowrance@med.unc.edu. Graduate Record Examination scores and three letters of recommendation must be submitted with the application. Personal interviews are required for applicants who reach the final stage of the admission process. Preference is given to applicants who are North Carolina residents, with a target enrollment of 85% North Carolinians.

**Recommended Courses:**
Applicants often ask about additional coursework that might help prepare them to be a physical therapist. Some beneficial areas of study would be: Biology, Histology, Human Anatomy, Immunology, Biomechanics, Motor Learning, Business Administration, Pathology, Computer Science, Psychology, Conversational Spanish, Sociology, Genetics, Exercise Physiology, Public Health

**Matriculation Requirements:**
Students must have graduated from an accredited four-year program and must have completed all of the pre-requisite courses prior to the end of the fall semester that precedes fall semester enrollment in the program.

**Consideration for Admission:**
Admissions decisions are substantially influenced by the applicant's ability to demonstrate personal characteristics considered consistent with the expectations of professional behavior and the delivery of patient/client centered services. To be successful, applicants also must demonstrate the ability to be successful in the academic and clinical program. Exposure to the diversity of the profession is important in enabling applicants to make informed decisions about physical therapy as a career choice and to provide the applicant with meaningful information for the written application materials and during the interview process. The applicant should get a thorough exposure to the physical therapy profession. Sometimes applicants will choose to only visit a local
hospital. While the physical therapy department may be an excellent one, it may not represent the diversity that actually exists in the profession. In addition, the applicant may wish to visit home health agencies, private practices, skilled nursing facilities, pediatric developmental centers, educational settings (schools), and sports medicine clinics.

**Transitional Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy**
The Transitional Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy (tDPT) program builds on the two years of the existing MPT program, with curricular enhancements and a case-based learning philosophy. The program combines distance learning and web-based instruction with mentored clinical practice educational experiences. Degree requirements include completion of 30 credits of approved course work beyond the professional entry-level degree. The curriculum is built around three interactive core components: A Clinical Foundation Core, a Clinical Practice Core and a Specialty Practice Core. Students will have the option of enrolling full-time for one year, or part-time for two years. *This is not an entry-level program.*

**Admissions Process**
Online applications for the Transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy (tDPT) program will become available **October 1, 2006**. Applications will be reviewed over the next five months in the order they are received until the class is full. No application will be accepted after February 19, 2007.

Preference will be given to applications from currently enrolled UNC-Chapel Hill MPT students if their applications are received by December 1, 2006.

Applicants who hold an entry-level Baccalaureate degree in physical therapy should apply for admissions beginning in **Summer 2007**. Applicants with an entry-level Master's degree in physical therapy should apply for Fall 2007.

**Admissions Requirements**
Applicants must show evidence of graduation from a master of physical therapy degree program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education. Applicants who graduated from an entry-level baccalaureate program in physical therapy will be required to complete an additional preparatory program to assure equivalency of their professional training before being considered for the DPT program. Applicants must demonstrate academic and clinical promise as evidence-based practitioners and must also demonstrate licensure, or eligibility for licensure, as a physical therapist in a United States jurisdiction in which the applicant plans to complete the DPT clinical requirements (see below).

**Admissions Documents to be Submitted**
- The DPT Application (available October 1)*
- Official transcripts of baccalaureate and professional physical therapy degree program*
Copy of physical therapy license from any US jurisdiction or application for licensure
Two recommendation letters*
TOEFL scores for all students for whom English is a second language*
North Carolina Residency Form

**Applicants with a Bachelor's of Science in Physical Therapy**
If your highest level of Physical Therapy training was obtained at the Bachelor's or undergraduate level, you will need to apply for admissions during the Summer Session I. Generalist Practice Review and Evidence Based Practice in Review are required refresher courses offered at the start of the program for those who only have a BS in PT. Please review the class listings under the Course Descriptions link for more information.

**Western Carolina University**
Location: Cullowhee, NC
Degree: Masters

*Applicants are expected to have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 for the last 60 hours of coursework.*

**Prerequisite courses:**

**BIOLOGY - 8 semester hours**
The anatomy and physiology requirement may be met by a one-semester course in anatomy (human) and one-semester course in human, or vertebrate, physiology. A two-semester sequence of combined human anatomy and physiology courses is also acceptable.

*For WCU students we recommend BIOL 291 – Human Anatomy (4 SH) AND BIOL 292 – Human Physiology (4 SH)*

The Physical Therapy Program admits up to 32 students per year with diverse backgrounds.

*Applications received before February 1 will be given priority consideration.*

**Applications must include:**

- Official college/university transcripts from all previous coursework
- General Test of GRE official scores
- Three letters of recommendation, including one from a physical therapist and one from a teacher qualified to evaluate undergraduate academic success and potential for graduate study
- An essay written on a topic specified each year
- Prerequisites for Application and Experience With the Profession of Physical Therapy form
- International Applicants: Citizens of other countries, whose degrees are not from U.S. institutions, must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), with a score of 550 or higher

Application forms are online here:

- Application for Enrollment
- Prerequisites and Essay for Admission
- Recommendation for Graduate Study

Or are available by mail from:

Research and Graduate Studies
109 Outreach Center
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723-9022
Telephone: 828-227-7398 or 1-800-369-9854 (within the USA only)
Email: higgins@email.wcu.edu

Winston-Salem State University
Location: Winston-Salem, NC
Degree: Masters

To be eligible for acceptance into the Physical Therapy program, the applicant must:
1) Complete a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
2) Attain acceptance as a full-time student into the university by the School of Graduate Studies and Research
3) Complete prerequisite courses equivalent to the following:
### Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychology (must include General Psychology and either Abnormal Psychology or Developmental Psychology)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics (must include topics on common statistical measures, probability, sampling, correlation, t-test, and analysis of variance)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Chemistry with Lab (2 courses)</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Physics with Lab (2 courses)</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Biology with Lab</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Level Biology (recommended courses include Human Physiology or Human Anatomy, Comparative Anatomy, or Exercise Physiology)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology (2 courses)</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***Pre-requisite courses must be completed within the last 10 years***

4) Attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
5) Submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test
6) Complete a minimum of 50 total observation hours in two physical therapy settings and submit the Verification of Observation forms
7) Complete and submit a Biographical Sketch
8) Complete a Course List
9) Demonstrate computer literacy, including the ability to use word processing, databases, spreadsheets and the internet
10) Submit proof of immunizations

### DEADLINES

Applicants to the Master of Physical Therapy program must submit a completed application packet by February 1 for May 2007 enrollment. Application materials should be sent directly to:
Graduate Admissions Office
Winston-Salem State University
C017 Anderson Center
Winston-Salem, NC 27110

The applicant is responsible for submitting all, fully completed application materials to the Office of Graduate Admissions by the February 1st deadline. A personal interview may be required for all competitive applicants.
CLINICAL EDUCATION

Clinical education experiences are critical components of the MPT curriculum, as they serve to integrate didactic knowledge with clinical skills. Students will spend at least 30 weeks in clinical internships during their 2.5-year tenure at Winston-Salem State University. Internships vary in length (4-9 weeks) and provide students with hands-on, supervised opportunities for patient care. Students must complete internships in three key areas of care: rehabilitation, outpatient orthopedics, and acute care. Students may also choose elective areas of clinical experience (pediatrics, burn, wound, geriatrics, aquatics, or administration).