

Pre-Physical Therapy Program CURRICULUM GUIDE SHEET

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It is most important that you work closely with your advisor!

Suggested Curriculum

1st Semester

Chemistry 1110/1111(Note 1)	4 hrs
Biology 1110/1111	4 hrs
English 1010	3 hrs
Mathematics 1710 (or 1730)	3-4 hrs
course from major	3 hrs

2nd Semester

Chemistry 1120/1121	4 hrs
Biology 1120/1121	4 hrs
English 1020	3 hrs
course from major	6 hrs

3rd Semester

Physics 2010/2011 (Note 2)	4 hrs
Biology 2010/2011	4 hrs
Psychology 1410	3 hrs
courses from major	6 hrs

4th Semester

Physics 2020/2021	4 hrs
Biology 2020/2021	4 hrs
Psychology 2300	3 hrs
courses from major	3-6 hrs

5th and subsequent Semesters

Math 1530 or PSY 3020	3 hrs	COMM 2200	3 hrs
CSCI 1150 or INFS 2200	3 hrs	Social Science Elective	3 hrs
English 2030 or 2020 or HUM 2610	3 hrs	Humanities /Fine Arts	6 hrs
HIST 2010/2020	6 hrs	courses for major requirements	
Courses from major	3 hrs	courses for minor requirements	

Note 1. Students with a weak background in chemistry should take Chemistry 1010/1011 before taking Chemistry 1110/1111.

Note 2. Students with a weak background in physics may want to take Physics 1300/1301 before taking Physics 2010/2011.

Note 3. Social science courses and electives should be chosen from MTSU general studies requirements and courses necessary to meet requirements of other PT programs. (The two courses for social science selected must be with different rubric prefixes ex: SOC, AAS,- PSY 1410 or 2300 will count for one)

Additional requirements for UT Chattanooga: MATH 1720, EXSC 4830, HLTH 3300 or certification in CPR/First Aid, HUM 2130, Ethics and the Professions (take on-line from UTC: Medical Ethics for the health Professions PHYT 305). Additional requirements for students not receiving a BS from MTSU: ENGL 3250, HIST 1110, HIST 1120, ANTH 2010, 2 PHED activities courses. Beginning 2010 Fall, UTC will require a B.S. degree.

Additional requirements for ETSU: EXSC 4830 and Human Anatomy and Physiology with Lab: These must be BIOL 2010/2020 taken only at MTSU.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THOSE PURSUING A PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY CURRICULUM

ANNOUNCEMENT: According to the American Physical Therapy Association: “Physical Therapists are health care professionals who evaluate and treat people with health problems resulting from injury or disease. They assess joint motion, muscle strength and endurance, function of heart and lungs, and performance of activities required in daily living, among other responsibilities. Treatment includes therapeutic exercise, cardiovascular endurance training, and training in activities of daily living.”

Advisor: You will be assigned a pre-physical therapy advisor even if you have another advisor for a four-year major. Maintain contact and see that PT advisor at least before registering each semester. Let your advisor know to which schools you wish to apply and consult with them about course selection and volunteer work. Let them know about your application process and whether it is successful or not.

Programs: Obtain curriculum guide sheets for the programs in Tennessee from the Pre-Professional office in DSB 241. A listing of PT programs in the US is available in DSB 241. If you wish to attend other programs, contact those institutions early in your work at MTSU. Information on pre-physical therapy is also found on the bulletin board outside DSB 241.

Competition: **Completion of all prerequisites does not guarantee admission to PT school.** Competition to enter PT school is almost as stiff as that for medical school. There are 3 - 5 qualified applicants for every slot.

What The Schools Are Looking For: PT schools are looking for four basic things: good grades (**at least a GPA of 3.2 - 3.4 to be minimally competitive**) including good grades in the sciences (no C's), knowledge of PT as a career (volunteer work), maturity, and excellent interpersonal skills (recommendations and the interview). They also check to see that you meet all their requirements. At the time of application, the student should have completed certain prerequisites identified by a particular school.

Volunteer Work: Volunteer work with a physical therapist is required by each school. Sometime after your first semester of course work, set up volunteer work. Experiences gained during volunteer work will enable the students to make sure physical therapy is the proper career field for them and help them do better in their interview. Applicant's understanding of the profession will be considered in the writing sample and/or interview. Work should be obtained in 2 to 3 different types of patient care, such as a physical therapy clinic, a hospital, a nursing home, and a home health service. The number of hours required vary according to the PT school, but 75 - 120 volunteer hours is appropriate. The purpose is for you to learn as much as possible about the career of PT and about as many different types of patients as possible. Talk to the PT's and ask them about their career. Read up on PT. Become knowledgeable about the career and do everything possible to better prepare yourself for this career. Each applicant is expected to have thoroughly investigated the scope and profession of physical therapy. Also, develop a rapport with the physical therapists since some of the schools require evaluations or recommendations from them.

The Application: Application deadlines vary (some schools start in January, May, or August/September). It is recommended that the student complete most of the courses required by the PT schools before he/she begins the application process in the fall of the senior year. In all cases, the students should have completed at least one course of each two-course science sequence prior the making applications. Make sure that your application is complete — call the PT school to check on this. Make your transcript requests at least a month in advance of the deadline because it takes several weeks for them to be sent.

Preprofessional Advisory Committee: UT-Memphis requires an interview and recommendation by the MTSU Preprofessional Advisory Committee (see the coordinator in DSB 241 to make an appointment in the Fall Semester of your fourth year). The MTSU interview involves getting evaluations from your science professors. Get to know them so that they will be better able to evaluate you. Although required only by UT-Memphis, all students should schedule the interview as practice for the interview to Physical Therapy School. Contact the coordinator in DSB 241 to schedule the MTSU interview (which includes obtaining recommendations from five science professors).

Professional School Interview: The interview is extremely important; it may count 25 - 40% or more. Prepare for the professional school interview. Read books on interview skills, practice interviewing (the Pre-Professional Advisory Committee can help here - - see the Coordinator in DSB 241 to set up an interview in the Fall Semester of your third year), etc. Know why you want to be a PT (more than just to “help people”). Dress appropriately. They are looking for maturity, goals, problem solving skills, critical thinking skills, interpersonal skills, knowledge of PT, and a well-rounded personality that interacts well with others.

Repeated Courses: A “D” in a required course must be repeated. Schools differ on whether a “C” in a required course should be repeated. Some schools replace the second grade with the first (UT-C: up to 3 courses). Some schools average the two together (UT-M) so that you need to make an “A” the second time. UT-M recommends that instead of repeating a course that a 3000 or 4000 level course in that area be taken and a grade of “A” or “B” received (however the other schools count only the required courses).

Let Us Know: Let the coordinator in DSB 241 know to which schools you have applied and whether you are successful or not. Knowing this information will better enable us to advise future students. If your application to the professional school is unsuccessful, call them to find out what you can do to improve your chances and then do exactly what they say and re-apply. Don’t assume that it is easier to get into one physical therapy school than another.

Internet Information: The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has an Internet site at : <http://www.apta.org/> (Click on “Public Information” at the top of the home page. It has various sites of information, and especially interesting is “a future in physical therapy.”)

Web Sites:

U.T. Memphis http://www.utmem.edu/allied/physical_therapy_home.html
 U.T. Chattanooga <http://www.utc.edu/gradstudies/phystherapy.html>
 Belmont University <http://www.belmont.edu/pt/>
 ETSU <http://www.etsu.edu/cpah/physther/pt/home.htm>
 TSU <http://www.tnstate.edu>

PT SCHOOL	MIN # HRS OR DEGREE	APPLICATION DEADLINE	STARTING DATE	DEGREE OFFERED	LENGTH OF PROGRAM
UT-MEMPHIS	B.S.	JAN 15	FALL	DPT	3 YR
UT-CHATTA.	96 HRS (B.S. 10F)	9/15, 1/15	FALL	DPT	3 YR
BELMONT	B.S.	NOV 1 (early admission)	FALL	DPT	3 YR
TENN. ST.	B.S.		JUNE	DPT	3 YR
ETSU	B.S.	FEB 15 (MAR 1) JULY 1	JAN.	DPT	3 YR