

## Physical Therapy Profession Educational Planning Guide

Physical therapists are healthcare professionals who diagnose and treat individuals of all ages, from newborns to the very oldest, who have medical problems or other health-related conditions, illnesses, or injuries that limits their abilities to move and perform functional activities as well as they would like in their daily lives. Physical therapists examine each individual and develop a plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. In addition, PTs work with individuals to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.

Physical therapists provide care to people of all ages who have functional problems resulting from, for example, back and neck injuries, sprains/strains and fractures, arthritis, burns, amputations, stroke, multiple sclerosis, conditions such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida, and injuries related to work and sports. Physical therapy care and services are provided by physical therapists and physical therapist assistants\* who work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. Physical therapists evaluate and diagnose movement dysfunction and use interventions to treat patient/clients.

Physical therapists often consult and practice with a variety of other professionals, such as physicians, dentists, nurses, educators, social workers, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists. Physical therapists practice in hospitals, outpatient clinics, and private offices that have specially equipped facilities. These jobs can be physically demanding, because therapists may have to stoop, kneel, crouch, lift, and stand for long periods. In addition, physical therapists move heavy equipment and lift patients or help them turn, stand, or walk.

Today's entrants to this profession need a post-baccalaureate degree from an accredited physical therapy program. All States regulate the practice of physical therapy, which usually requires passing scores on national and State examinations. Employment of physical therapists is expected to grow by 28 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Median annual wages of physical therapists were \$86,850 in May 2017.

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor)

\*Some community colleges offer Physical Therapist Assistant programs where students can earn an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in about 2 years. CLC does not currently offer this program, but Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, IL and College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL do. See more information on these programs:

[http://www.oakton.edu/academics/academic\\_departments/physical\\_therapist\\_assistant/index.php](http://www.oakton.edu/academics/academic_departments/physical_therapist_assistant/index.php)

[http://cod.edu/programs/physical\\_therapist/](http://cod.edu/programs/physical_therapist/)

The following is a list of area schools that offer Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree programs. Some of the required course prerequisites for these programs may be taken at CLC. CLC course equivalents are noted in red. All listed programs require a baccalaureate degree for admission.

**BRADLEY UNIVERSITY**

Website: <https://www.bradley.edu/academic/departments/pths/graduate/dpt/>

Contact Carol Wessler at 309-677-3489 or [cwessler@bradley.edu](mailto:cwessler@bradley.edu) for the most current requirements.

Total tuition and fees for the 3-year DPT program is \$72,000 for 2018. See website for additional fees. Program begins June of each year: applications due mid-October the prior year.

**Admission Requirements:**

- Admission is competitive; the DPT program is limited to 24 students
  - A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
  - Minimum 3.0 GPA in all Math/science courses; Minimum 3.0 grade point average for all courses taken
  - GRE scores: verbal minimum score of 150; quantitative minimum score of 150
  - An expanded resume
  - Letters of recommendation and an essay per application directions
  - An applicant should have coursework and/or significant experience in human relations development and exposure to health care
  - Completion of the following course prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or higher:
    1. 2 semesters of Chemistry: **CHM 121 and 123**
    2. 2 semesters of Physics: **PHY 121 and 122**
    3. 2 semesters of Biology: **BIO 161 and 162**
    4. 1 semester of Anatomy and 1 semester of Physiology: **BIO 244 and 245**
    5. 1 semester of Statistics: **MTH 222**
- Highly recommended:
1. Medical Terminology **HIT 111**

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Website: <http://www.govst.edu>

To talk to a DPT advisor, contact Dr. David Diers at 708.235.2232, or by e-mail at [ddiers@govst.edu](mailto:ddiers@govst.edu)

Total tuition for the 34 month program was estimated at \$72,947 in 2018. See website for additional fees.

**Admission Requirements:**

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Minimum overall undergraduate GPA of 2.8; minimum prerequisite coursework GPA of 3.0
- Submission of GRE scores: achieve a minimum of 1,000 points combined on the verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning sections; or 300 on the GRE revised General Test
- Applicants are required to complete a course that provides an overview to the field of physical therapy
- Three letters of recommendation (one must be from a physical therapist and one from an instructor)
- Personal interview
- Essay describing reasons for selecting physical therapy as a profession
- The Department currently accepts up to 30 students each year into this program
- Completion of the following course prerequisites w/grade of 'C' or higher-
  1. General Biology w/lab (8 semester hours): **BIO 161 and BIO 162**
  2. General Chemistry w/lab (8 semester hours): **CHM 121 and CHM 123**
  3. Additional BIO or CHM with Lab (4): must be 200 level or higher such as **CHM 222**
  4. 2 semester sequence of Anatomy and Physiology: **BIO 244 and 245**
  5. General Physics w/lab (8 semester hours): **PHY 121 and PHY 122**
  6. Statistics: **MTH 222**
  7. Medical Terminology: **HIT 111**
  8. General Psychology: **PSY 121**
  9. Abnormal Psychology: **PSY 223**
  10. Developmental Psychology: **PSY 220**
  11. Orientation to Physical Therapy: No CLC equivalent

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Grayslake Counseling Center/A-124, 543-2060

Transfer Guides can be viewed online at <http://www.clcillinois.edu/transerinfo>

**MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY**Website: [http://www.midwestern.edu/Programs and Admission/IL Physical Therapy.html](http://www.midwestern.edu/Programs_and_Admission/IL_Physical_Therapy.html)

(630)515-6462

2018 Tuition \$126,846 for the 34 month full time program. Class size 56.

**Admission Requirements:**

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0; minimum science GPA of 2.9
- Submission of GRE scores
- Possess current certification by the AHA in Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers
- Completion of a first aid course within 3 years prior to enrollment
- The Department currently accepts up to 54 students each year into this program
- Completion of the following course prerequisites w/grade of 'C' or higher (C- is not accepted):
  1. 4 semester hours of Biology w/lab: **BIO 161**
  2. Human Anatomy and Physiology: **BIO 244 and 245**
  3. General Chemistry w/lab: **CHM 121**
  4. 8 semester hours of Physics: **PHY 121 and 122**
  5. Statistics: **MTH 222**
  6. Additional college level mathematics course; college algebra or above
  7. 9 semester hours of English- at least one composition and one oral communication.
  8. 9 semester hours of social and behavioral sciences (at least one course in psychology)

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**Website: [http://www.chhs.niu.edu/physical\\_therapy](http://www.chhs.niu.edu/physical_therapy)

(815)753-1383

For 2017 tuition and fees for the three-year program, excluding transportation and housing-related costs, for in-state students is approx. \$56,000. Admission is competitive with 36 admitted each Fall.**Admission Requirements:**

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Submission of acceptable GRE scores
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and minimum prerequisite courses GPA of 3.0
- 50 hours of experience in a physical therapy setting; must be within 4 years of application date
- Two letters of reference
- The program accepts 36 students every fall semester
- Completion of the following course prerequisites w/grade of 'C' or higher-
  1. Statistics: **MTH 222**
  2. Human Anatomy and Physiology: **BIO 244 and 245**
  3. 8 semester hours of Biology: **BIO 161 and 162**
  4. 8 semester hours of Chemistry: **CHM 121 and 123**
  5. 8 semester hours of Physics: **PHY 121 and 122**
  6. 9 semester hours of Psychology (Intro, Developmental, Abnormal): **PSY 121, 220, and 223**
  7. 3 semester hours of Medical Terminology: **HIT 111**
  8. 3 semester hours of research methods: No CLC equivalent

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Grayslake Counseling Center/A-124, 543-2060

Transfer Guides can be viewed online at <http://www.clcillinois.edu/transerinfo>

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**

Website: <http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/pthms/index.html>  
(312)908-8160

The 2018 tuition is \$121,688 for the 32 month program (excludes room & board and other fees). Class size: 95 students.

**Admission Requirements:**

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and minimum prerequisite courses GPA of 3.0
- Submission of GRE scores
- Completion of the following course prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or higher-
  1. 12 semester hours of behavioral sciences to include psychology and human or child development: **PSY 121; PSY 220 or 222**; additional courses in psychology, sociology (e.g., abnormal psychology, organizational behavior, family relationships, medical sociology) or anthropology (e.g., cultural diversity, social networks, intergenerational interactions).
  2. 12 semester hours of biological sciences to include human anatomy and physiology: **BIO 244, and 245 and BIO 161**
  3. 8 semester hours of Chemistry: **CHM 121 and 123**
  4. 8 semester hours of Physics: **PHY 121 and 122**
  5. 3 semester hours of statistics: **MTH 222**
  6. 3 semester hours of calculus: **MTH 145**
  7. 3 semester hours of composition: **ENG 121**
  8. Recommended: Medical Terminology **HIT 111** (taking medical terminology is not required, however, accepted students must pass a proficiency test in medical terminology at the time of enrollment)
  9. CPR Certification is not required at the time of application, but will be required before a student matriculates. Students are responsible for maintaining CPR certification while enrolled in the Program.

**ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE**

Website: <http://www.rosalindfranklin.edu/Degreeprograms/PhysicalTherapy.aspx>  
(847)578-3307

The 2018 tuition is \$85,050 for the three year physical therapy DPT program. Class size: 50

**Admission Requirements:**

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Successful candidates typically have overall and science GPA's above 3.5
- Submission of GRE scores
- The on-campus portion of the application process includes the Watson Glaser Critical Thinking Exam and participation in a small group interview
- Minimum of 40 hours of volunteer work in physical therapy practice setting
- 3 Letters of recommendation (from licensed physical therapist, professor and applicant's choice)
- The program accepts 40 students per year
- Completion of the following professional study prerequisites w/grade of 'C' or higher -
  1. 8 semester hours of Chemistry: **CHM 121 and 123**
  2. 8 semester hours of Physics: **PHY 121 and 122**
  3. 4 semester hours of Biology: **BIO 161**
  4. 9 semester hours of Humanities/Social Science: **must include PSY 121**
  5. 8 semester hours of Anatomy and Physiology: **BIO 244**
  6. Statistics: **MTH 222**
  7. English Composition **ENG 121**

**UNIVERSITY OF IL CHICAGO**

Website: <http://ahs.uic.edu/physical-therapy/>  
(312)996-7783

In-state tuition for 2018 for the DPT program is \$68,744 for 8 terms (33 months). See website for additional fees.

Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Cumulate and prerequisite GPA of at least at 2.5
- The mean grade point average of recently admitted classes has been 3.6
- Submission of GRE scores
- 40 hours of physical therapy clinical experiences
- 2 letters of recommendation
- One written essay on a topic specified in the application
- The Department admits 36 students per year
- Completion of the following professional study prerequisites w/grade of 'C' or higher-
  1. 2 semesters of Chemistry w/lab: **CHM 121 and 123**
  2. 2 semesters of Physics w/lab: **PHY 121 and 122**
  3. One semester of General Biology: **BIO 161**
  4. Human Anatomy and Physiology: **BIO 244 and 245**
  5. General Psychology: **PSY 121**
  6. Developmental or Abnormal Psychology: **PSY 220 or 223**
  7. Statistics: **MTH 222**
  8. Calculus: **MTH 145**

**This transfer guide is designed to assist students with their academic planning. Every effort is made to maintain accurate information; however, this information is subject to frequent change. Students should contact the member institution to keep informed of changes, as final responsibility for verifying information rests with the student.**