

Pre-Physical Therapy Prerequisites and Timeline for Application



Idaho State
University

Kasiska Division
of Health Sciences

How to use this document:

- These are the prerequisites for the ISU physical therapy program and for preparations to take the GRE. Check other individual programs for exact requirements.
- Take these classes (according to prerequisites). Work with a pre-health advisor to determine correct sequencing.
- This page demonstrates the prerequisites, you may choose to take two to four years – whatever amount of time fits best for your plan.
- Add major classes along with pre-physical therapy prerequisites
- Pay close attention to sequences, prerequisites and when classes are offered
- Your major can be in any field as long as you have the classes to prepare you for a physical therapy program – Choose your major by your greatest field of interest.

Course Subject and Title	Credits	Offered	Pre & Co Requisites
BIOL 1101/L General Biology I and Lab	4	F,S,Su	Must place into MATH 1108
BIOL 1102/L General Biology II and Lab	4	F,S	BIOL 1101/L
BIOL 2227/L Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab OR BIOL 3301/L Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab	4	F,S	Must place into MATH 1108 BIOL 1101/L or BIOL 2227/L
BIOL 2228/L Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab OR BIOL 3302/L Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab	4	F,S	BIOL 2227/L or BIOL 3301/L BIOL 1101/L or BIOL 2227/L
CHEM 1111/L General Chemistry I and Lab	5	F,S	MATH 1143 or 1147 (recommended – CHEM 1101)
CHEM 1112/L General Chemistry II and Lab	4	F,S	CHEM 1111/L
CPH/HCA 2210 or HO 0106 Medical Terminology	2	F,S	
HPSS 3301/L Exercise Physiology and Lab	4	F,S,D	HPSS 2243 or BIOL 3301/L, 3302/L or BIOL 2227/L, 2228/L
MATH 1153 Statistical Reasoning	3	F,S,Su	MATH 1108
PHYS 1111/L General Physics I and Lab	4	F	MATH 1143 or 1147
PHYS 1112/L General Physics II and Lab	4	S	PHYS 1111/L
PSYC 1101 Introduction to Psychology	3	F,S	
PSYC 2225 or 3301 Child Development or Abnormal Psychology	3	F,S	

For Physical Therapy Program Application

Apply to physical therapy programs the year before you would like to attend, research programs you would like to apply to

Take the GRE – receive scores approximately 10-15 days later

3-6 months prior to application – Begin drafting your personal essay and finding letter writers

For PTCAS Applications

Early July – PTCAS application launches

At least 10-12 weeks before deadline – Ask your schools to send official transcripts directly to PTCAS

Early July – Applicant data is available to programs

Mid-August – Application deadline #1

April – Last recommended date to take the GRE

May – Applicants can no longer create or submit a new PTCAS application

Early June – PTCAS cycle closes

After Deadline – Download a copy of your application for your records

Apply early! PTCAS processing can take up to 4-5 weeks once all required materials are received

What else do you need?

- Undergraduate degree
 - Major – complete all requirements for major
 - General Education Requirements
 - Some programs may have a minimum GPA requirement
- Physical Therapy Volunteer Experience
 - Many programs require paid or volunteer experience working with patients under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist
 - May have to have the physical therapist verify the hours
 - Contact physical therapy clinics, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care settings in your area
- Leadership
 - Healthcare setting or non-healthcare setting, students are encouraged to be creative
 - Shows that you are a strong member of a team
 - Showing leadership will make you stand out from other applicants and show you are actively preparing for your future in your career and community
- Shadowing Physical Therapists
 - Develop a resume and cover letter to leave at a physical therapy office asking for an opportunity to shadow
 - Contact others who have shadowed and find out how they made the connection
 - Use your own networking and connections, both personal and professional
 - You may need to contact many therapists before finding someone who has time/space for a pre-PT student
- Letters of Recommendation
 - At least one letter from a science professor, and two letters from physical therapists
 - Consult with your pre-health advisor to determine additional letters of recommendation
- Be Prepared for Interviews
 - Some programs may require a visit to campus for an interview
 - Applicants should be prepared to discuss why they have chosen a career in physical therapy and how they perceive the role of PT in health care.
 - May be rated on oral communication skills, professional behaviors and attitudes, ability to interact with a group, knowledge of the profession, ability to solve problems, and motivation to pursue a career in PT
- Attributes
 - Patient
 - Determined
 - Compassionate
 - Integrity
 - Respectful
 - Collaborative

Helpful links:

PTCAS: <https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/>

APTA: <https://www.apta.org/>

GRE: <https://www.ets.org/gre/>

Pre-Health at ISU – isu.edu/hpac

PTCAS Applicant Help Center: https://help.liasonedu.com/PTCAS_Applicant_Help_Center