



# Pre-Physical Therapy

## The Profession

Physical therapy is a dynamic health care profession. Physical therapists are skilled in planning, organizing, and directing programs for the care of individuals of all ages who have been impaired by disease or injury.

The physical therapist performs tests and evaluations which help to establish treatment objectives for the patient. In addition, the physical therapist works with the patient to carry out the objectives in ways which are realistic and consistent with daily needs.

## The Program at UW-Platteville

The program at UW-Platteville for pre-physical therapy students offers opportunities for success and achievement in the profession.

The courses for the program provide the necessary science background as well as an understanding of people and institutions to insure that students completing the program succeed in physical therapy school and in their practice of physical therapy.

Pre-physical therapy is a preprofessional program; therefore, the student must also indicate an academic major. Many students in pre-physical therapy at UWP choose a major in biology.

## Physical Therapy School

Before entrance into the professional phase of physical therapy, you must receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Platteville in one of our academic majors such as biology. During this time, prerequisites for the professional phase of physical therapy are satisfied. After the bachelor's degree is received, the student must gain acceptance into a school of physical therapy which then grants a master's or doctoral degree in physical therapy in approximately two and one-half years. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is generally required in the junior year of the bachelor's degree program.

## High School Preparation

In preparing to become a physical therapist, the high school student needs to acquire a strong science background. In addition, good backgrounds in communication and social skills are important.

## Faculty and Facilities

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville provides the student with a strong science and liberal studies curriculum, a dedicated faculty and modern facilities to support the program. These range from well-equipped chemistry, physics, and biology laboratories to strong humanities and social sciences curricula.

## Placement

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville has an excellent record of placing qualified students in physical therapy schools and preparing them for the profession.

## Outstanding Career Opportunities

Physical therapists work in hospitals, nursing homes, schools for physically challenged individuals, private offices, rehabilitation centers, community health centers, research centers, and industry, and as athletic trainers, consultants, and educators. Physical therapy is among the fastest growing health professions, and its earning and advancement potentials are high.

## Suggested Course of Study

The requirements of the UW-Platteville pre-physical therapy program are those necessary or recommended for admission into most physical therapy schools. Pre-physical therapy students are advised to meet with their advisor as well as to seek information about course and grade point requirements from the professional school they plan to attend.

Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, has a curriculum available that provides qualified students from UW-Platteville entry into the professional phase of physical therapy. During that phase, courses and requirements for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program are completed. Your advisor can provide you with details about this and other opportunities available to complete the professional phase for becoming a physical therapist.

Experience in the area of physical therapy is generally required prior to applying for the professional phase. The amount and type may vary with the physical therapy school and can be acquired at many hospitals and clinics. Your advisor can assist you with this.

## For More Information

For more information, write to the Pre-Physical Therapy Advisor, Department of Biology, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, Wisconsin 53818-3099, or call 608.342.1664.

For general information on the university and its programs, contact UWP Prospective Student Services, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, WI 53818-3099, or call toll-free 1.877.897.5288 or locally 608.342.1068.

For information on the professional program and physical therapy schools, the website is [apta.org](http://apta.org).

## Suggested Course of Study Biohealth/Physiology Emphasis: Pre-Physical Therapy with Biotechnology Minor

### First Year

#### First Semester

Biol	1020	Bio Quest: Foundations for College Success	1
Biol	1650	Unity of Life	5
Chem	1140	General Chemistry	4
Engl	1130	Freshman Composition	3
Psyc	1130	General Psychology	3
			<b>16</b>

#### Second Semester

Biol	1750	Diversity of Life	5
Chem	1240	General Chemistry	4
Engl	1230	Freshman Composition	3
Math	2530	Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry	3
PE	1000	Fitness Assessment	1
Physical Education Requirement			1
			<b>17</b>

### Second Year

#### First Semester

Biol	2340	Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology	4
Phys	1110	Intro. to Physics Lab	1
Phys	1140	Introduction to Physics	4
Soc	1030	Principles of Sociology	3
Math	1830	Statistics	3
Spch	1010	Public Speaking	2
			<b>17</b>

#### Second Semester

Biol	2420	FBI: Fundamentals of Biological Investigations	2
Phys	1210	Intro. to Physics Lab	1
Phys	1240	Introduction to Physics	4
Tchg	2130	Human Growth and Development	3
Biol	2040	Cell Biology	4
Humanities, Fine Arts, History General Education Requirement			3
			<b>17</b>

### Third Year

#### First Semester

Biol	3240	Microbiology	4
Chem	3510	Organic Chemistry Lab	1
Chem	3540	Organic Chemistry	4
Psyc	3130	Child Psychology	3
PE	3720	Kinesiology	3
Humanities, Fine Arts, History General Education Requirement			3
			<b>18</b>

### Second Semester

Biol	3120	Animal Tissue Culture	2
Biol	3330	Genetics	3
Biol	3450	Ecology and Evolution	3
Biol	3620	Immunology	2
Psyc	4430	Abnormal Psychology	3
Humanities, Fine Arts, History General Education Requirement			3
Biol	4920	Independent Research in Biology	1
			<b>17</b>

### Fourth Year

#### First Semester

Chem	4630	Biochemistry	3
Chem	4610	Biochemistry Lab	1
Biol	3530	Biotechnology	3
Biol	4240	Advanced Physiology	4
Psyc	4430	Abnormal Psychology	3
Ethnic and Gender Studies General Education Requirement			3
			<b>17</b>

#### Second Semester

Biol	4970	Senior Thesis	1
OR			
Biol	4990	From Atoms to Ecosystems - The Study of Life	1
PE	3020	Physiology of Exercise	3
Biol	3040	Comparative Anatomy	4
OR			
Biol	4130	Endocrinology	3
Biol	4440	Human Gross Anatomy	4
Humanities, Fine Arts, History General Education Requirement			3
Biol	4520	Biotechnology Seminar	2
			<b>16-17</b>

1 year Foreign Language (8 credits) in 1 language required. (Waived if student has had 2 years of a foreign language.)

The suggested course of study is based on a Bachelor's Degree received from UWP with a Biology major and Biohealth/Physiology emphasis with a Biotechnology minor.

Some courses may be offered at a time other than the semester indicated above. Please check schedule of classes during registration and with your advisor. See advisor for optional courses. Certain courses must be taken before your senior year if you plan to complete the professional phase at Clarke College.

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, handicap, sex, sexual orientation, developmental disability, national origin, ancestry, marital status, arrest record or conviction record.