WHAT DEGREE AND PROGRAM DO WE OFFER?

There is no degree offered – only a course of study for Pre–Physical Therapy, which focuses on pre-requisite courses for graduate programs. An undergraduate degree is required along with the Pre–Physical Therapy track.

OPPORTUNITIES

If accepted, the graduate may go on to Physical Therapy school. Physical therapists must pass the state examination.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job description
Physical therapists work with patients to restore function and prevent disability after disease or injury. The goal is to help people reach their maximum physical ability, so they may assume productive roles in society while learning to live within the limits of a disease or disability. Physical therapists evaluate patients and plan a treatment program involving exercise, heat, cold, water, and ultrasound. The therapist may give strengthening exercises to someone who has fractured a leg; lessons in walking and stair climbing to a patient with paralysis after a stroke; or coordination exercises to a child with cerebral palsy. Sometimes therapists teach patients how to walk with an artificial leg or straight-leg braces. When progress is slow, the therapist must keep up the patient’s morale and cooperation. Thus, physical therapists need a good understanding of people and what motivates them. Physical therapists also work to prevent injury and disease by coordinating fitness programs.

Job settings
Hospitals, rehabilitation centers, schools for handicapped children, public schools, clinics, physicians’ offices, nursing homes, and summer camps. Physical therapists can also be self-employed, serve in the armed forces, or work in public health agencies, industry, or sports medicine clinics.

Projected needs
High need in greater Minnesota; opportunities in the Twin Cities should be good to excellent, depending on setting and personal qualifications.

Salaries
The median annual wage for physical therapists was $85,400 in 2016, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Related careers
Any of the other rehabilitative therapies or nursing might provide similar personal satisfactions.

Differences in training
Doctorate programs in physical therapy are offered at the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth; the Mayo School of Health-Related Sciences, Rochester, the College of St. Catherine’s, St. Paul, Concordia St. Paul; and the University of Minnesota; as well as numerous institutions outside of Minnesota. All Minnesota doctorate programs in Physical Therapy require baccalaureate degrees and pre-requisites completed to apply.

Admission is extremely competitive for applicants into all programs.

Credentials
Physical therapists must be registered by the Minnesota Board of Medical Examiners prior to employment within the state. To be registered, the individual must satisfactorily complete an approved course in physical therapy and pass the state examination.

BACKGROUND PREPARATION

You should take all the science, math, and English available.
The Pre-Physical Therapy curriculum is primarily a science-oriented curriculum which meets the standard requirements for admission to most physical therapy programs. The majority of schools require a Bachelor's degree prior to application for admission, although some still accept students following two or three years of college preparation. It is important that students check requirements for their professional school of choice as some require classes in addition to those contained in this concentration. Most programs also require that the student take the GRE and score at a certain level.

### Pre-Physical Therapy Concentration Courses at Minnesota State Mankato

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biology Courses</th>
<th>Chemistry Courses</th>
<th>Psychology Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 105: General Biology I (4)</td>
<td>CHEM 201: General Chemistry I (5)</td>
<td>PSYC 101: Psychology (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 106: General Biology II (4)</td>
<td>CHEM 202: General Chemistry II (5)</td>
<td>PSYC 433: Child Psych. AND PSYC 436: Adolescent Psych. AND PSYC 466: Psych. of Aging OR KSP 235: Human Development (3-8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 220: Human Anatomy (4)</td>
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<td>BIOL 330: Human Physiology (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 211: Principles of Physics I (4)</td>
<td>PSYC 455: Abnormal Psych (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 212: Principles of Physics II (4)</td>
<td>SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology (3) – Recommendation only; see graduate program requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 112 &amp; 113 or MATH 115 (Must meet PHYS 211 math requirement) (4-8)</td>
<td>HLTH 321: Medical Terminology (3) – Recommendation only; see graduate program requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 154: Statistics (4)</td>
<td>HP 265: Orientation to PT and OT (2)</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL: 53-68 credits**

*Graduate programs generally do not specify what undergraduate major must be completed. They are concerned about your performance within the major (including GPA) and that you have successfully completed all prerequisite coursework.*

**APTA Website for Accredited PT Programs:**
http://www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents/

*Be sure to check the specific prerequisite courses of programs you plan to apply to and tailor the above list to meet those requirements.

**Majors to Consider with PT Concentration:**
- Exercise Science
- Biology
- Health Science: Community Health

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