

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 projected to grow 21 percent from 2020 to 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations. The median annual wage for physical therapists was \$95,620 in May 2021. (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

https://www.cod.edu/academics/programs/physical_therapist/index.aspx

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. All listed programs require a baccalaureate degree for admission. **Details of each program are summarized in the following pages.**

**Bradley
Governors State
Midwestern
Northern Illinois
Northwestern
Rosalind Franklin
University of Illinois Chicago**

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

Summer (June) matriculation: class size 27

Doctor of Physical Therapy D.P.T.

Program length: 3 years

2023-2026 Tuition: DPT program price of \$81,000 covers the entire 3-year program and is inclusive of all tuition and most books, supplies, subscription, and fees. Three payments \$27,000 are due in May of each year.

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

Contact Carol Wessler at 309-677-3489 or cwessler@bradley.edu for the most current requirements.

Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application System (PTCAS) system by October 15th.
- 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. 40 hours of exposure to physical therapy is recommended

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above:

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
BIO 161 and 162 General Biology I & II	8
PHY 121 and 122 General Physics I & II	10
CHM 121 and 123 General Chemistry I & II	10
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy & Physiology I & II	8
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
Highly rec: HIT 111 Medical Terminology	3
Highly rec: upper division psychology or sociology courses	
Total	42+

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Advising Center/Grayslake Campus Room B118, (847) 543-2060

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

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer admission; class size 30

Doctor of Physical Therapy D.P.T.

Program length: 3 years (34 months); 119 credit hours

2022-2023 Tuition: total for the 3 year program \$88,150. See website for additional fees.Website: <https://www.govst.edu/DPT/>DPT advisor, Dr. David Diers at 708.235.2232, e-mail at ddiers@govst.edu**Admission Requirements:**

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application System (PTCAS) system by October 15th.
- 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

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above:

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
BIO 161 and 162 General Biology I & II	8
Additional BIO or CHM with lab, at least 200 level	4
PHY 121 and 122 General Physics I & II	10
CHM 121 and 123 General Chemistry I & II	10
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy & Physiology I & II	8
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
HIT 111 Medical Terminology	3
PSY 121 Intro to Psychology	3
PSY 223 Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 220 Developmental Psychology	3
Orientation to Physical Therapy: No CLC equivalent	
Total	55+

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MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Summer (June) admission; class size 55

Doctor of Physical Therapy D.P.T.

Program length: 3 years (34 months)

2022-2023 Tuition: \$141,318 for the 34 month full time program. See website for additional fees.

Website: <https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-and-programs/doctor-of-physical-therapy-il.xml>
(630)515-6462

Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application System (PTCAS) system by December 15.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0; minimum science GPA of 2.9
- Submission of GRE scores
- Criminal Background check

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above:

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
BIO 161 General Biology I	4
PHY 121 and 122 General Physics I & II	10
CHM 121 General Chemistry I	5
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy & Physiology I & II	8
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
Additional college level math; college algebra or above	
9 semester hours of social and behavioral sciences (at least one course in psychology)	9
9 semester hours of English- at least one composition and one oral communication.	6
Total	45+

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Summer admission; class size 36

Doctor of Physical Therapy D.P.T.

Program length: 3 years; 9 consecutive terms

2022-2023 Tuition: for full three-year program, \$75,774Website: http://www.chhs.niu.edu/physical_therapy

(815)753-1383

Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Submit 2 applications: first apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application System (PTCAS) system, then submit the NIU Graduate School application by September 15.
- Submission of acceptable GRE scores
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and minimum prerequisite courses GPA of 3.0
- 30 hours of observation/experience in a physical therapy setting; must be within 5 years of application date
- Professional essay
- Three letters of reference
- On campus interview

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above:

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
BIO 161 and 162 General Biology I & II	8
PHY 121 and 122 General Physics I & II	10
CHM 121 and 123 General Chemistry I & II	10
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy & Physiology I & II	8
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
Highly Rec: HIT 111 Medical Terminology	3
9 semester hours of Psychology (Intro, Developmental, Abnormal): PSY 121, 220, and 223	9
3 semester hours of research methods: No CLC equivalent	3
Total	42+

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

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Fall (September) admission; class size 95

Doctor of Physical Therapy D.P.T.

Program length: 2 ½ years (32 months)

2022-2023 Tuition \$176,356 for full 32 month program.Website: <http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/pthms/index.html>

(312)908-8160

Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application System (PTCAS) system. Early Decision by Aug1, Preferred admission by October 1, Firm deadline by Dec 1.
- Three essays: the PTCAS essay and two Northwestern specific essays via PTCAS system
- Three letters of reference including one from professor
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and minimum prerequisite courses GPA of 3.0
- GRE: beginning 2021-2022 admission cycle, the GRE will no longer be required.
- Applicants must acquire firsthand knowledge of physical therapy by working, observing or volunteering in a health-related facility. Most successful applicants report at least 100 hours. This is flexible due to COVID.
- 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.

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above:

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
BIO 161 and 162 General Biology I & II	8
PHY 121 and 122 General Physics I & II	10
CHM 121 and 123 General Chemistry I & II	10
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy & Physiology I & II	8
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
MTH 145 Calculus I	5
ENG 121 English Composition	3
PHY 121 Intro to Psychology One additional course of Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology or other areas that focus on human behavior (e.g., Developmental Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Abnormal Psychology, Family Relationships, Medical Sociology, Cultural Diversity, Social Networks)	6
Total	53+

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

ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

Summer (late May) admission; class size 52

Doctor of Physical Therapy D.P.T.

Program length: 3 years

2022-2023 Tuition: \$116,359 for full program.

Website: <http://www.rosalindfranklin.edu/Degreeprograms/PhysicalTherapy.aspx>

(847)578-3307

Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application System (PTCAS) system by November 15
- Successful candidates typically have overall and science GPA's above 3.5
- Submission of GRE scores (will accept new at-home GRE)
- On campus interview (may be offered virtual due to COVID)
- 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)
- Background check

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above:

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
BIO 161 General Biology I	4
PHY 121 and 122 General Physics I & II	10
CHM 121 and 123 General Chemistry I & II	10
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy & Physiology I & II	8
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
ENG 121 English Composition	3
9 semester hours of Humanities/Social Science: must include PSY 121	9
Total	47

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

UNIVERSITY OF IL CHICAGO

Fall admission; class size 60

Doctor of Physical Therapy D.P.T.

Program length: 8 terms; 33 months

2022-2023 Tuition: \$74,384.

Website: <https://ahs.uic.edu/physical-therapy/admissions-and-programs/doctor-of-physical-therapy>
 (312) 996-6695

Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- Apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application System (PTCAS) system by October 1, and apply using the online UIC application
- 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 (will accept new at home GRE)
- 40 hours of physical therapy clinical experiences
- 2 letters of recommendation
- One written essay on a topic specified in the application
- Interviews with select application (may be virtual).

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above:

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
BIO 161 General Biology I	4
PHY 121 and 122 General Physics I & II	10
CHM 121 and 123 General Chemistry I & II	10
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy & Physiology I & II	8
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
MTH 145 Calculus I	5
PSY 121 Intro to Psychology	3
PSY 220 or 223 Developmental or Abnormal Psychology	3
Total	42+

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.