

Coursework Requirements for Admission to PT School

Minimum Required Coursework for Admission to PT Programs. Students must research the admission requirements for the physical therapy programs to which s/he intends to apply early in his/her academic career, and s/he should schedule her/his undergraduate classes based on the requirements of the programs in which s/he is interested. ***Each student is ultimately responsible for knowing and fulfilling the admission requirements of the programs to which s/he intends to apply.***

Most physical therapy programs require two semesters of human anatomy and physiology with laboratories (mammalian, vertebrate, or comparative anatomy and mammalian or vertebrate physiology may be substituted in some cases; each student should be aware of the requirements of the schools to which s/he intends to apply), two semesters of general physics with laboratories, two semesters of general chemistry with laboratories, one or two semesters of general biology with laboratories, two semesters of social sciences, and a semester of statistics and of either precalculus or calculus. Some physical therapy programs also require or recommend medical terminology, applied kinesiology, and/or exercise physiology.

Mercer University's College of Health Professions program requires the following coursework for admission to their DPT program (<https://chp.mercer.edu/admissions/admissions-requirements/physical-therapy/>):

- Two semesters of general chemistry (CHM 111 and 112)
- Two semesters of physics (PHY 141 and 142 **or** PHY 161 and 162)
- Two semesters of human anatomy and physiology (BIO 131 and 132)
- One semester of biology (BIO 171)
- One semester of statistics (STA 126)
- One semester of general psychology (PSY 101)
- One semester of social science focused on group behavior (SOC 101 or ANT 101)

Online Science Coursework. Most professional schools do not accept online coursework for the core science requirements. Many professional schools relaxed the requirement for "in-person" science courses for students at institutions that did not offer students a choice due to the pandemic, but most schools have returned to requiring "in person" lab coursework.

Pass/Fail, AP, CLEP, and Audit Credit. Students should consult the websites and admissions personnel of the individual PT programs they are interested for their policies regarding AP credit, CLEP credit, audited courses, and courses graded on a pass/fail basis.

Academic Majors and Minors for Pre-PT Students. Physical therapy schools look for individuals who come from various backgrounds and possess a variety of skills and interests. While most professional schools in the U.S. require applicants to complete a bachelor's degree before they matriculate, they may not express a preference for any particular academic major when reviewing applications.

Pre-physical therapy students may therefore major in any academic discipline that they are interested in, as long as s/he also completes the required courses for admission to his/her preferred graduate programs as well. Because a successful pre-PT student must demonstrate a superior level of motivation and exceptional academic performance, the chosen academic major should interest the student sufficiently to catalyze such performance.

The Importance of Mathematics to the Pre-PT Track. To enroll in the first semester of general chemistry (CHM 111), physics (PHY 141), and/or general biology (BIO 171), a student must demonstrate a minimum mathematics competency that is equivalent to precalculus (MAT 133) or above. This competency may be demonstrated through a "math index" (calculated upon entry as a first-year student using the high school GPA and math score on the SAT or ACT) of 980 or higher; college credit for MAT 133 (transfer, AP, or CLEP), or by scoring 15 or higher on the math placement test. Information about the math placement test can be found online here: <http://aas.mercer.edu/for-students/placement-exams/>.

CLEP Exam for Precalculus. A student who scores 50% or higher on the CLEP precalculus exam may submit his or her test official transcript to the Mercer registrar and receive MAT 133 credit. Information about the CLEP precalculus exam can be found here: <http://clep.collegeboard.org/exam/prec calculus>.

