

Basic Pre-Physical Therapy Timeline (Regardless of Major)

Timeline based on Temple University Physical Therapy Program

Honors courses listed second

<p><u>First Year</u></p> <p>Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Chemistry I 1031/1033 or 1951/1953 • English Composition 1002 <p>Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Chemistry II 1032/1033 or 1952/1954 • Introductory Psychology 1061 <p>Summer – Research/volunteer Experience*</p>	<p><u>Second Year</u></p> <p>Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics 1013 • Sociology** (focus on group behavior) <p>Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology 1011 • Sociology** (focus on group behavior) <p>Summer – Research/volunteer Experience*</p>
<p><u>Third Year</u></p> <p>Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human A & P I 1223 • Upper Level Psychology (Theory and Practice) • GRE Preparation <p>Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human A & P II 1224 • GRE Prep/Take GRE Exam 	<p><u>Fourth Year</u></p> <p>Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics 1011 • GRE Prep/Take GRE Exam • Mail Applications • Complete Requirements for Major <p><u>Submit Application by 11/1 or 12/15.</u> The application must show plan in place to complete any outstanding prerequisites.</p> <p>Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics 1012 • Completion of requirements for major <p>Prepare to begin your studies; take a break!</p>

***Exposure to Physical Therapy** is an important part of your preparation/application. Do not over extend yourself at the expense of grades however.

****Sociology:** There are several other courses that satisfy this requirement: Intro. to Soc., Soc. Of Race & Racism, Sexuality and Gender, Soc. of Health Care, Marriage and Family, Soc. Psychology, Cultural Anthropology, and Comparative Religions.

PLEASE NOTE: An APTA survey of schools found that more than 50% of PT programs require courses such as anatomy and physiology, chemistry, physics, statistics, psychology, and general biology. Other courses that may be required include English, social science, humanities, computers, medical terminology, exercise physiology, human development, kinesiology, organic chemistry, research methods, cell biology, and pathology. (www.apta.org)

The Application Process

Application Timeline

Students planning to apply to a Physical Therapy graduate program should map out an individualized timeline based on the required courses in combination with the courses required by their major. The timeline as detailed above should begin with the freshman year courses but will vary for some students. Scheduling to meet with the Director of Pre-professional Health Studies, Neida Pérez at 1810 Liacouras Walk, suite 100, early in this process is important. If a student is undecided as to their major, they will be advised through the office of Academic Resources on course selections until they have declared a major but they should also schedule to meet with Mrs. Pérez.

Letters of Recommendation

Begin requesting letters of recommendation as you are completing classes in the sciences and have performed well in the class (A or B+). Your letters will be maintained on file in the Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies until a release is signed to send them to the indicated health professional schools.

Temple University

- Temple University will not consider an applicant who has not maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- Temple University will not accept any prerequisites where a grade of C- or less has been earned.
- Temple's Program does not require volunteer hours, although it does require "exposure" to the field, which may be satisfied through volunteer hours. Most programs do require a set number of volunteer hours so the students should learn what the expectation is from some of their other choices.

Education and Occupation

Additional Suggestions for Applicants

Admissions officers also look for volunteer experience as a physical therapy aide, involvement in school and community activities (e.g. sports, clubs, social organizations), a history of leadership, letters of recommendation from physical therapists or science teachers, and strong writing and interpersonal skills.

Types of Physical Therapy Degrees

1. **Doctoral of Physical Therapy (DPT)** - The majority of DPT programs require students to enter with an undergraduate degree. Students are in the program between six and nine semesters. As of September 2005, there are 142 DPT programs across the country. APTA's vision is that by the year 2020, the majority of practicing physical therapists will possess a DPT degree. This is the program that is offered at Temple University.
2. **Master's degree (MPT, MSPT, MS)** - On average, these programs require that students have at least three years of undergraduate work. However, some require students to enter with an undergraduate degree, and some admit students at the freshman level. Like the DPT programs, the students are in the program between six and nine semesters. As of September 2005, there are 68 programs across the country offering master's degrees. This program is not offered at Temple University.

Accreditation

Accreditation is the extensive review process conducted by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) to assure quality-both that the quality of your course work is high and that the program produces people qualified to serve the public. In order to take the licensure exam, you must have graduated from a CAPTE-accredited program.

Salary

Median annual earnings of physical therapists were \$60,180 in May 2004. The middle 50 percent earned between \$50,330 and \$71,760. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$42,010, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$88,580.

Additional Information

Visit www.apta.org for further information on: Specific program websites that include prerequisites, locations, accreditation; Scholarship opportunities; Financial Aid; Residencies and Fellowships Opportunities for continuing education after receiving DPT

Information on these pages was taken from the APTA website (www.apta.org).