

## pre-PHYSICAL THERAPY MAJORS (Suggested Associate in Science Degree Curriculum)

This worksheet is designed to help students select courses which are likely to meet the pre-requisite requirements for admission to a **PHYSICAL THERAPY** program. These suggested courses satisfy requirements in the Associate in Science degree program at Prairie State College and provide a basis for transferring to a four-year institution. This program meets the guidelines of the IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) General Education Core. Students should obtain a copy of the **Associate in Science Degree Worksheet** and should visit the IAI Website at [www.iTransfer.org](http://www.iTransfer.org) for more information. Students should also contact the school(s) of physical therapy they plan to apply to for further information about the application and admission process.

Physical therapy is the promotion of optimum human health and function through the application of scientific principles to prevent, identify, correct, or alleviate dysfunction of anatomy or physiology origin. This program provides the student with sound background in the basic sciences and mathematics necessary for admission to a physical therapy program. **Physical Therapy is a doctoral degree level program and admission to these programs is very competitive!** Physical therapy programs look for students with high grade point averages, especially in the science and math courses. In addition, **documented volunteer or paid experience in the health care field is a often a prerequisite** for admission to most programs.

### SUGGESTED CURRICULUM

*Each senior institution has its own transfer policies. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information in regard to every individual school. Consult the school of your choice and/or the Prairie State College Counseling and Advising Center to discuss the transferability of courses.*

#### TRANSFERABLE GENERAL EDUCATION CORE (41 credits)

##### Area A: Communications ( 9 credits)

ENG 101(3)	[C1 900]*	Composition I (Prereq. ENG 099, C or better, or qualifying score of English Placement Test)
ENG 102 (3)	[C1 901R]*	Composition II (Prereq. ENG 101 with C or better)
COMM 101 (3)	[C2 900]	Principles of Communication (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

*\*Must have a C or better in ENG 101 & 102 to receive credit for this degree.*

##### Area B: Humanities and Fine Arts ( 9 credits)

Select three courses with at least one course selected from the humanities area and one course from the fine arts area. Refer to the Associate in Science Degree Worksheet, Area B, for a listing of approved course choices.

Humanities Course (3)	Select any Area B Humanities Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
Fine Arts Course (3)	Select any Area B Fine Arts Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
Humanities/Fine Arts Course (3)	Select any Area B Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

##### Area C: Mathematics ( 5 credits)

MATH 171(5)	[M1 900-1]	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I (Prereq. MATH 165 with C or better or qualifying score on Math Placement Test)
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##### Area D: Physical and Life Sciences ( 9 credits)

BIOL 112 (4)	[L1 902L]	Organismal Biology (Prereq. High School biology or equivalent)
CHEM 110 (5)	[P1 902L]	General Chemistry I (Prereq. MATH 095 with C or better or placement in MATH 151 AND high school chemistry of CHEM 105)

##### Area E: Social and Behavioral Sciences ( 9 credits)

Select three courses in at least two different disciplines. Refer to the Associate in Science Degree Worksheet , Area E, for a listing of approved course choices.

PSYCH 101(3)	[S6 900]	Introduction to Psychology (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
Social/Behavioral Sci Course (3)	Select any Area E Social/Behav Sci Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)	
Social/Behavioral Sci Course (3)	Select any Area E Social/Behav Sci Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)	

#### PHYSICAL THERAPY MAJOR COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS (21 credits)

*(Check with the school to which you plan to transfer to verify the transferability of these courses for this major)*

**Select 21credits from the “suggested” course recommendations listed below:**

##### Suggested Pre-Physical Therapy Core Courses often include:

BIOL 111 (4)	Cellular & Molecular Biology (Prereq. High school biology or equivalent; placement in ENG 099 or above)
BIOL 221 (4)	Human Anatomy & Physiology I (Prereq. BIOL 111 with C or better; or CHEM 105 with C or better; or high

	<i>school chemistry within the past 5 years with C or better)</i>
BIOL 222 (4)	Human Anatomy & Physiology II (Prereq. BIOL 221)
CHEM 130 (5)	General Chemistry II (Prereq. CHEM 110 with C or better)
MATH 153 (4)	Probability and Statistics (Prereq. MATH 151 or qualifying score on Math Placement Test)
PHYSI 120 (4)	College Physics I (Prereq. MATH 151)
PHYSI 130 (4)	College Physics II (Prereq. PHYSI 120)

**Other suggested courses that satisfy the PSC AS degree requirements may include electives such as:**

- Any additional general education courses selected from Areas B, C, D, or E
- Any entry level majors course in a transferable major area
- Any foreign language courses\*
- Up to four credits of physical education courses

Additional courses recommended as transferable by the school(s) to which you plan to transfer.

*\*Foreign Language Requirement: Some universities have a foreign language requirement. Generally, four years of a single foreign language in high school, or four semesters in college, will fulfill this requirement. It is recommended that students complete the entire sequence at one institution.*

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## 62 HOURS OF CREDIT REQUIRED FOR AN ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Counseling & Advising Center Room 1190 (708) 709-3506

### FOR TRANSFER INFORMATION:

Course Applicability System (CAS): [www.transfer.org](http://www.transfer.org)

Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI): [www.iTransfer.org](http://www.iTransfer.org)

Links to Articulation Tables for Illinois Colleges: <http://www.itransfer.org/IAI/Other/Articulationlinks.taf>

Visit the web sites of colleges and universities to which you plan to transfer

American Physical Therapy Association: <http://www.apta.org>

### FOR CAREER INFORMATION;

*Occupational Outlook Handbook*, U.S. Department of Labor: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>

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## PHYSICAL THERAPY ADMISSIONS PROCESS

### Admission to a physical therapy program is very competitive!

There are a limited number of programs across the country and there are more than four times the number of applicants than spaces available in most programs. It is not unusual for students to apply several times, at many different schools, before being accepted into a program. It is also not uncommon for students to complete a baccalaureate degree in another major while waiting for acceptance into the physical therapy major.

### Common Admission and Application Requirements for Schools of Physical Therapy include:

- Completion of a special application to the physical therapy program, along with the regular university application for admission. Deadlines to apply to the physical therapy program are usually earlier than those set for the university at large, and are strictly adhered to.
- Completion of all prerequisite courses with a high overall grade point average.
- A high grade point average in all the science and math prerequisite courses.
- Documented clinical experiences (usually on a volunteer basis) of at least 15 hours in each of the three different physical therapy facilities (and with three different licensed physical therapists).
- Letters of recommendation (as specified by the admissions committee).
- Written essays (usually required as part of the admissions application process) on topic (s) specified by the admissions committee of the physical therapy school.

### What Does the Admissions Committee Look For?

- ✓ Most physical therapy programs have established minimum overall grade point averages for applicants. In addition, ability in the science and math courses is seen as the most valuable success indicator for physical therapy students; therefore, most schools also look for a high grade point average in science and math courses.
- ✓ The ability to communicate, relate to patients and their families, read and write reports, read literature to keep up to date with current physical therapy practice, teach patients and care givers, and relate to other members of the health care team are regarded as important attributes for physical therapists. Admissions committees look at the non-science courses taken, the essays written, and the letters of recommendation to try to find candidates who bring these attributes to the program.
- ✓ The physical therapy program is very academically challenging and the admissions committee is looking for

applicants who have demonstrated they can thrive in a competitive environment. They want individuals who have taken heavy course loads with multiple science courses, gotten good grades, and overall, have taken difficult and challenging courses.

- ✓ Successful work and/or volunteer experiences greatly enhances a candidate's prospect for acceptance. In addition, other pertinent skills such as ability to use sign language or fluently speak a language other than English, may add weight to an application.
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## PHYSICAL THERAPY DEGREE PROGRAMS IN ILLINOIS

### **BRADLEY UNIVERSITY** - Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Department of Physical Therapy and Health Science  
Bradley University  
1501 West Bradley Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61625  
(309)677-3489  
Web Address: <http://www.bradley.edu/academics/ehs/dpt>  
Program E-mail: [cwessler@bradley.edu](mailto:cwessler@bradley.edu)

### **GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY** - Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Department of Physical Therapy  
College of Health Professions  
Governors State University  
University Park, IL 60466  
(708)534-7290  
Web Address: [www.govst.edu](http://www.govst.edu)  
Program E-mail: [r-carter@govst.edu](mailto:r-carter@govst.edu)

### **MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY** - Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Physical Therapy Program  
College of Health Sciences  
Midwestern University  
555 31st Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
(630)515-6462  
Web Address: <http://www.midwestern.edu/il-pt/>  
Program E-mail: [dcechx@midwestern.edu](mailto:dcechx@midwestern.edu)

### **NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY** - Master of Physical Therapy (MPT)

Program in Physical Therapy  
School of Allied Health Professions  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
(815)753-1383  
Web Address: [www.niu.edu](http://www.niu.edu)  
Program E-mail: [mblascha@niu.edu](mailto:mblascha@niu.edu)

### **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY** - Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences  
Northwestern University  
Feinberg School of Medicine  
645 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1100  
Chicago, IL 60611-2814  
(312)908-8160  
Web Address: <http://www.nupt.northwestern.edu/>

### **ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE** - Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Department of Physical Therapy  
3333 Green Bay Road  
North Chicago, IL 60064  
Phone: (847)578-3307  
Web Address:  
Program E-mail: [Betty.Melton@rosalindfranklin.edu](mailto:Betty.Melton@rosalindfranklin.edu)

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO - Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)**

Physical Therapy Education Program  
College of Applied Health Sciences  
The University of Illinois at Chicago  
1919 West Taylor, M/C 898  
Chicago, IL 60612  
(312)996-7764  
Web Address: <http://www.ahs.uic.edu/pt/>  
(A UIC Physical Therapy Articulation Information Sheet is available in the PSC Counseling & Advising Center)

**AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION**

To find accredited schools in other states, visit the website at: <http://www.apta.org>