



# SMU PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS

## Suggested Pre-Physical Therapy Plan

Note: Some science courses may be completed in summer terms.



Individual program requirements may change at any time, and this plan may not reflect the most current information. It is the student's responsibility to review, understand, follow, and remain up-to-date with the policies, guidelines, and requirements (including pre-requisite coursework) of each individual physical therapy program and the application service, PTCAS.

This plan could vary depending on the major chosen. Consult your academic advisor and check individual degree plans for suggested sequencing of courses. **Grades of C (not C-) or better** are required to meet specific science (and math) pre-requisites for admission to PT (physical therapy) school. **Consult with your advisor before advancing to the next level course.** Combined science and math pre-requisites include courses coded as biology, chemistry, physics, and also include math and statistics. <http://www.ptcas.org/GPA/>

1 <sup>st</sup> Year Fall				1 <sup>st</sup> Year Spring		
CHEM	1303	General Chemistry I		CHEM	1304	General Chemistry II
CHEM	1113	General Chemistry I Lab		CHEM	1114	General Chemistry II Lab
BIOL	1301	Introductory Biology I		BIOL	1302	Introductory Biology II
BIOL	1101	Introductory Biology I Lab		BIOL	1102	Introductory Biology II Lab
DISC	1312	Discernment and Discourse (UC 2016)		DISC	1313	Discernment and Discourse (UC 2016)
WRTR	1312	Introduction to Academic Writing (CC 2020)		WRTR	1313	Writing and Critical Reasoning (CC 2020)
MATH	1337	Calculus		STAT	2331	Statistics

2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Fall				2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Spring		
BIOL	2441	Anatomy & Physiology I		BIOL	2442	Anatomy & Physiology II
PHYS	1307	General Physics I		PHYS	1308	General Physics II
PHYS	1105	Physics I Lab		PHYS	1106	Physics II Lab
PSYC	1300	Introduction to Psychology		PSYC	2332	Developmental Psychology

3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Fall				3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Spring		
APSM	3411	Exercise Physiology	GRE →			

Students can choose any major; however, courses offered in the APHM (Applied Physiology & Health Management) specialization are a good fit for students interested in becoming physical therapists. Additional recommended (or required courses) include **Medical Terminology, Speech/Communication, Biomechanics, Anatomy of Movement, Physiology of Health and Disease, and Nutrition.** Additional courses in behavioral science (psychology/sociology) are also recommended (and required) by some programs. Medical Terminology is not offered at SMU. **Review program websites to confirm required pre-requisite courses, observation hours, and specific documentation.**

Statistics can be moved to a later semester to better accommodate a student's schedule. Pre-physical therapy students may incorporate study abroad in their college plan, usually before the spring of Year 3 or during the summer. Meet with your academic or faculty advisor and plan ahead.

Students may complete PHYS 1303/1105 & PHYS 1304/1106 instead of PHYS 1307/1105 & PHYS 1308/1106. **Note: MATH 1338 is a prerequisite (or co-requisite) for PHYS 1304. Physics can be moved to a later semester to better accommodate a student's schedule.**

**It is the student's responsibility to understand the specific requirements for individual programs.** Most PT programs strongly recommend or require observation hours. Refer to individual programs for the required (or recommended) number of healthcare experiences (HCE) - including observation. Consult with individual programs for specific documentation requirements.

Pre-physical therapy students should plan to take the GRE in early spring of the year they intend to apply (usually no later than April/May of Year 3). The GRE (Graduate Record Exam) is offered multiple times during the year but may no longer be a requirement for many programs. Meet with the Pre-Health Director or Dr. Scott Davis (Applied Physiology and Sport Management) for more information.



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### **Important Steps for Pre-PT Students**

1. Compile a list of schools - Is the GRE required or recommended?
2. Research individual programs – What pre-requisites are required?
3. Complete pre-requisites
4. Seek Healthcare Experiences (HCE) including shadowing – How many hours are recommended or required?
5. Attend virtual or in-person PT program fairs/information sessions
6. Document all experiences – What documentation is required?
7. Take the GRE (no later than April/May in the year of application)
8. Craft personal statement and meet with letter writers for letters of recommendation
9. Apply using [PTCAS](#)

### **Application Timeline (begin process in January of the year of application) for PT School**

1. Create a PTCAS account - Applications open in late June/early July for submission
2. Request 3 Letters of Recommendation (minimum)
3. Request transcripts
4. **Submit application as soon as possible due to rolling admissions**
5. Register for CASPer, if required - <https://takecasper.com/> Computer-Based Assessment for Sampling Personality Characteristics and submit results
6. Submit Supplemental Applications
7. Prepare for Interviews (usually during the fall of Year 4 or year of application)

### **Important Resources**

<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/5287/Comparison-of-Course-Prerequisites-by-Program>

<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/39/List-of-PTCAS-Programs>

[www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org)

<https://www.apta.org/your-career/careers-in-physical-therapy/pt-admissions-process>