

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

College of Applied Sciences Department of Physical Therapy

Evaluation of Application Materials

In reviewing applications, the Admissions Committee attempts to evaluate, among other things, an applicant's likelihood of success in the program and profession. While the Committee reserves the right to consider any information it deems relevant, it begins its evaluation using a 100-point system with the points allocated as follows:

Geographic location:

North Carolina (NC) residents and Western Carolina University (WCU) students/graduates may earn points as follows:

- County of residence in NC - 1 point
- County of residence in Mountain 15 county area (west of Charlotte) - 1 point
- WCU student or WCU graduate - 2 points

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores:

A total score combining Verbal and Quantitative portions will be calculated. Points are earned on a graduated scale from a total combined GRE score of 800 or less (0 points) to a total combined GRE score of 1370 + (20 points). Points are earned for the GRE-AW score on a graduated scale from a score of 0 (0 points) to a score of 6 (10 points).

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) for all course work:

Points are earned on a graduated scale from a GPA of 2.84 or less (0 points) to a GPA of 3.90 + (15 points).

GPA for prerequisite courses required for admission to WCU PT program:

Points are earned on a graduated scale from a GPA of 2.49 or less (0 points) to a GPA of 3.90 + (15 points).

References:

Three references are required as part of the application packet. Up to 2 points are earned for each reference (maximum of 6 points for all three references).

Observation Experience:

Points for the total number of hours of observation in a physical therapy setting are earned on a graduated scale from a range of 0-16 hours of observation (0 points) to 129 + hours of observation (8 points).

Additional points can be earned for observation experience as follows:

- Observation in two physical therapy settings- 1 point
- Observation in more than two physical therapy settings- 2 points

Other Life Experiences:

A maximum of 10 points may be earned for life experiences that provide skills or learning opportunities that enhance a student's ability to successfully complete the WCU Physical Therapy Program. Examples in this category might include employment as a physical therapist assistant or physical therapy aide/technician, military experience, a previous career, being caretaker for elderly/disabled individual, or involvement in extracurricular activities.

Essay:

Applicants must submit an essay. Scoring of the essay is based on correctly following directions, organization, spelling, grammar, and specifically answering the questions posed. A maximum of 10 points may be earned for the essay.

Additional information:

If the Committee still has questions about the applicant's suitability for the program, including questions related to previous professional behavior or academic performance, the Committee may request any other information it deems relevant. It may also decide that a student interview would be helpful.