Western Carolina University | Pre-professional Pathways

Pre-Physical Therapy

In order to become an physical therapist, you must:

- complete a bachelor's degree (in any major) *WCU Undergraduate Major Options*
- take the appropriate prerequisite coursework *PTCAS Prerequisite Information*
- take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) *Examprep.wcu.edu*
- hands-on clinical / job shadowing experience required for most DPT *Observation Hours Information*
- apply through PTCAS.org, some colleges may require additional applications *PTCAS.org*
- complete a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (DPT) from an accredited PT program *List of programs*
- complete a series of supervised clinical internships in a variety of settings
- pass the National PT Examination (NPTE) and/or applicable jurisprudence examination

What should I major in?

While there is no prescribed major for admission into a physical therapy program, it is imperative that stu-dents complete all required courses for admission. PT programs vary significantly in their requirements, and it is important for you to learn what coursework the schools that interest you want. Students should choose their major according to their strengths, interests and alternative career choices. The Physical Therapist Central-ized Application Services (PTCAS.org) is used by the majority of PT schools but individual schools may also require a separate application to their institution as well.

Minimally, a student should complete these courses at WCU for entrance into many physical therapy programs:

BIOL 150, BIOL 151, BIOL 291, BIOL 292
General Bio. I, General Bio. II, Human Anat. & Phys. I, Human Anat. & Phys. II

CHEM 139, CHEM 140
General Chemistry I, General Chemistry II

MATH 170
Applied Statistics

PHYS 130, PHYS 131
Introductory Physics I, Introductory Physics II

PSY 150 and/or other course in social or behavioral science
General Psychology

ATTR 377 (fall semester) or HPE 370 (spring semester)
Exercise Physiology

WHO CAN HELP ME AT WCU?

For information on undergraduate program options and admission requirements for Physical Therapy schools, contact pre-professional advisors:

Pre-Professional Students:
828-227-7753
prepro@wcu.edu

Honors College Students:
Emily Sharpe
828-227-3277
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go.wcu.edu/preprofessionaladvising

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