

Advising Course Plan - Health Sciences Major - Physical Therapy Interest

Students pursuing a career in Physical Therapy (PT) will apply primarily through a centralized service: The Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). PTCAS allows applicants to use a single application and one set of materials to apply to the majority of PT programs. A smaller number of programs do not accept applications through PTCAS and have their own application process (e.g., University of Saint Augustine).

The application process typically opens July 1 (for admission a year later for the following fall), and application deadlines vary by school. The earliest application deadlines are October 1 (again, for admission the following fall). A complete list of PTCAS deadlines is found here:

<http://www.ptcas.org/ptcas/public/deadlines.aspx?listorder=date&navID=10737426786> (<http://www.ptcas.org/ptcas/public/deadlines.aspx?listorder=date&navID=10737426786>)

There is also an early decision option through PTCAS:

<https://portal.ptcas.org/ptcasHelpPages/frequently-asked-questions/early-decision/index.html> (<https://portal.ptcas.org/ptcasHelpPages/frequently-asked-questions/early-decision/>)

As noted on the PTCAS website (<http://www.ptcas.org/Home.aspx>), there are several requirements that are common across most PT programs. Most programs require the GRE.

First, in terms of course requirements, 98% of PT programs using PTCAS require Anatomy & Physiology from “a biology, neuroscience, anatomy, or integrated physiology department.” Health Sciences (HLSC) at Stetson fits under the category of “integrated physiology department,” but if you are taking your Anatomy & Physiology courses at another institution, you will need to verify that these transfer courses are from a department that meets one of the above descriptions.

Second, the vast majority of PT programs using PTCAS require one or more course(s) in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Specifically, 86% require one or more courses in Biology, 98% require one or more courses in Chemistry, and 100% require one or more courses in Physics. Only 24% require one or more courses in Math.

Third, again the vast majority (96%) of programs using PTCAS require Social and Behavioral Science courses and a Statistics course. For the Social and Behavioral Science requirement, many of our students will take one or more courses in Psychology and one in Sociology.

You will, of course, also need to consider and meet all the HLSC major requirements shown on Degree Audit and in the Course Catalog (NOTE: The sample plan shown below allows you to meet HLSC major requirements).

In addition to a common core of prerequisite coursework (*), many PT programs either require or strongly recommend shadowing/internship hours. Please discuss the opportunities available with your advisor.

Some graduate degree programs may require slightly different prerequisite coursework, so it is your responsibility to look (early! – for example, at the start of your sophomore year) at various universities in which you may be considering in order to know if you will need to take additional/different courses as an undergraduate.

Finally, PTCAS also provides a useful checklist to assist you in making sure your applications are complete prior to submission:

<http://www.ptcas.org/Checklist/>

First Year		Units
Fall		
BIOL 141P ^{1,*}	Introductory Biology: Biochemistry, Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics	1
HLSC 119V	Health and Wellness	1
FSEM 100 ¹	First Year Seminar (unless transfer student)	1
General Education requirement ¹		1
Term Units		4
Spring		
BIOL 142P ^{1,*}	Introductory Biology: Animal and Plant Physiology	1
PSYC 101S ^{1,*}	Introduction to Psychology	1
MATH 141Q [*]	Calculus I with Analytic Geometry	1
General Education Requirement (A, B, H, L course) ¹		1
Term Units		4
Second Year		
Fall		
MATH 141Q should be taken at some point during this year, if it was not taken in First Year.		
HLSC 201 ^{1,*}	Anatomy Physiology I	1
CHEM 141P [*]	General Chemistry I	1
SOCI 101S [*]	Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology	1
General Education Requirement (A, B, H, L course) ¹		1
Term Units		4
Spring		
HLSC 202 ^{1,*}	Anatomy and Physiology II	1
CHEM 142P [*]	General Chemistry II	1
PSYC 231	Developmental Psychology	1
General Education Requirement (A, B, H, L course) ¹		1
Term Units		4
Summer		
Take the GRE exam in preparation for PT school applications - by the end of summer before Fourth Year.		
Term Units		0
Third Year		
Fall		
Junior Seminar must be taken during this year.		
PHYS 121P or 141P [*]	College Physics I University Physics I	1
COMM 108	Public Speaking	1
HLSC 375 ^{1,*}	Community Health Care Seminar	0.5
Elective		1
Term Units		3.5
Spring		
HLSC 498 ¹	Senior Research Proposal	1
PHYS 122P or 142P [*]	College Physics II University Physics II	1
COMM 108	Public Speaking	1
PUBH 376	Health Coach Practicum I	0.5
MATH 125Q	Introduction to Mathematical and Statistical Modeling	1
Term Units		4.5

Fourth Year

Fall

HLSC 499 ¹	Senior Research Project	1
PHIL 316V	Bio-Medical Ethics	1
PUBH 377	Health Coach Practicum II	0.5
IHSC Elective ¹		1
Elective		1
Term Units		4.5

Spring

Elective		1
Elective		1
Elective		1
Elective		.5
Term Units		3.5

Total Unit: 32

¹ Required for IHSC major.

* Common core of prerequisite course work.