Doctor of Physical Therapy, DPT

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website. They must have completed a baccalaureate degree and all prerequisite coursework from an accredited institution in the United States, or anticipate completing the degree before enrolling in the DPT program. They must have a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 and must have completed the following prerequisite coursework, preferably with a GPA of at least 3.00.

All applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. They must take the test early enough for their scores to be received prior to the application deadline.

Prerequisite Science Courses

All science courses should include the appropriate laboratory instruction, if available. The prerequisite courses must be taken for a letter grade. Credit awarded through advanced placement testing may be applied to the prerequisites as indicated below.

Biological Sciences

8 s.h. of introductory biology courses plus one advanced biology course, or AP biology credit plus 8 additional s.h. of biology including at least one advanced biology course, equivalent to 12 s.h.

Physiology

A systemic human physiology course, preferably with a lab component, equivalent to 3 s.h., or a two-course sequence of anatomy and physiology, preferably with a lab component, equivalent to 6 s.h., can fulfill the physiology and anatomy prerequisites.

Anatomy

Human or comparative vertebrate anatomy, preferably with a lab component, equivalent to 3 s.h., or a two-course sequence of anatomy and physiology, preferably with a lab component, equivalent to 6 s.h., can fulfill the physiology and anatomy prerequisites.

Physics

A complete introductory series equivalent to 8 s.h.

Chemistry

A complete introductory series equivalent to 8 s.h.

Psychology

The equivalent of 6 s.h. of psychology courses, or AP psychology credit plus one additional psychology course beyond the introductory level.

Mathematics

A college-level mathematics course at the level of trigonometry or higher, equivalent to 3 s.h., or AP credit.

Statistics

A statistical methods course equivalent to 3 s.h.

Applications

Applications are submitted online through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). PTCAS allows applicants to use a single application and one set of materials to apply to multiple physical therapy programs. Once the application portfolio is complete with PTCAS, they will forward it to the University of Iowa.

See Application Timeline on the Department of Physical and Rehabilitation Therapy website for the application timeline.

The physical therapy admissions committee requests personal, on-campus interviews. Since the number of students admitted into each class is limited, not all who apply for admission are invited for an interview.

Background Checks

Enrollment in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program is contingent on a successful criminal background check. Drug screening may be required for some clinical rotations. These costs are the responsibility of the applicant.

Expenses

Applicants admitted to the DPT program must make an advance tuition payment which is forfeited if the applicant does not enroll. In addition to paying University of Iowa tuition and fees plus departmental fees, students are assessed laboratory fees for the human anatomy and neuroanatomy courses and are responsible for purchasing supplies, such as lab coats. Students are also responsible for all costs associated with professional development and clinical experiences.

All students are required to comply with the pre-entry and periodic health screening program developed by Student Health in cooperation with University of Iowa Health Care. All costs incurred for the health screenings are the student's responsibility. Students are also required to have health insurance.