



# Pre-Physical Therapy Program

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## **“What is a Physical Therapist?”**

The physical therapist (PT) works with patients to help improve their strength and mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical impairment (AMA, 2000). They are the experts of movement and function and work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and private practitioner offices. PTs may specialize in areas such as sports medicine, orthopedics, neurologic rehabilitation, pediatrics, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, women’s health, and geriatrics. Depending on experience and job setting, a PT can generate an income anywhere from \$55,000 to over \$100,000 per year.

## **“What are the trends in the profession?”**

With the increasing demands of PTs, individuals interested in pursuing this health profession must be independent thinkers with high-level problem-solving skills. Many PT graduate programs integrate problem-based active learning that encourages knowledge and skills from various disciplines. Their goal is to graduate PTs with professional decision-making skills.

As of August 2007, of the 210 accredited PT programs, 179 are accredited to award the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree and 31 award the Masters of Physical Therapy. It is anticipated that by 2010, 99% of the programs will be accredited to award the professional DPT degree. DPT programs prepare students for the broadening scope of physical therapy practice through an increased emphasis on medical screening, differential diagnosis, prevention, wellness, and health promotion. DPT programs are 3-4 years long depending on the school.

Recently, this health profession has transitioned from a master's level education to a doctoral level. It is anticipated that by 2010, 99% of the physical therapy programs will be accredited to award the professional Doctoral of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

## **Pre-Physical Therapy**

**Wright State University** offers all the courses necessary to meet the requirements for entry to PT programs. In addition, all courses are offered two to three times, per year. A preprofessional advisor is also available to assist students with program variations, information on the application process, and current trends within the profession. There are many

undergraduate fields of study that will prepare students for the PT graduate programs. Among the most common at WSU are Exercise Biology, Biology, Athletic Training, and Psychology.

Ohio has a variety of PT programs throughout the state. Requirements needed for admissions into these programs vary and students should meet with the preprofessional advisor to review prerequisites for each school. Most of these programs have specific requirements in addition to the core set of admission requirements listed below.

### **Core Pre-Requisites**

Requirements for entry into PT programs vary by programs, however, there are a core set of admission requirements that more than 75% of the programs require:

<b>Anatomy &amp; Physiology:</b>	<b>ANT 310, 311, 312</b>
<b>Physics:</b>	<b>PHY 111/101, 112/102</b>
<b>Chemistry:</b>	<b>CHM 121/125, 122/126</b>
<b>Statistics:</b>	<b>STT 264</b>
<b>Biology:</b>	<b>BIO 111</b>
<b>Psychology:</b>	<b>PSY 105</b>

In addition to the above pre-requisites, students will need to complete a standardized test assessing communication and reasoning skills (GRE or MCAT); gain exposure to a variety of physical therapy experiences; have their personal and interpersonal attributes evaluated (interview, references); and maintain GPAs (cumulative and science) above a 3.00. On average, 3.8 applications are received for each available class seat. Applicants offered admission to physical therapy programs average a GPA of 3.39

As of February 2008, there is an estimated 172,000 physical therapists in the United States. Development of a new DVD about a career in physical therapy was released in March 2008 and the DVD can be found under [www.beapt.org](http://www.beapt.org).

## Ohio Physical Therapy Programs

### DPT programs in Ohio

- **The Ohio State University:**  
<http://amp.osu.edu/pt>
- **University of Dayton:**  
<http://soeap.udayton.edu/academic/dpt>
- **Ohio University:**  
<http://www.hhs.ohiou.edu>
- **University of Cincinnati:**  
<http://www.cahts.uc.edu>
- **College of Mount St. Joseph:**  
<http://www.msjeu.edu/academics/majors/graduate/phystherapy>
- **Walsh University:**  
<http://www.walsh.edu/graduate/>
- **Youngstown State University:**  
[http://bchhs.ysu.edu/dpt/pt\\_master.htm](http://bchhs.ysu.edu/dpt/pt_master.htm)
- **Bowling Green State University:**  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/hhs/programs/phyt.html>
- **Cleveland State University:**  
<http://www.csuohio.edu/healthsci/pt/>
- **Medical University of Ohio:**  
<http://hsc.utoledo.edu/depts/pt/>



### MPT program in Ohio

- **University of Findlay:**  
<http://www.findlay.edu/academics/colleges/cohp/>

### College of Science & Mathematics

For additional information please visit our website: [www.wright.edu/cosm/premed](http://www.wright.edu/cosm/premed)  
or contact the advisor:

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### *“What is the difference between a professional DPT and MPT program?”*

The length of the majority of DPT programs has been extended beyond the traditional two-year masters program. Most DPT programs have integrated content areas of a typical MPT program, such as differential diagnosis, pharmacology, radiology/imaging, health care management, prevention/ wellness/health promotion, histology, and pathology. In addition, the final or culminating clinical education experience is typically extended beyond the average of 15 weeks; some are 1 year in length.

### *“What are some of the reasons for choosing a career in physical therapy?”*

- **Excellent income:** the median salary of physical therapists in private practice is approximately \$70,000 depending on position, years of experience, degree of education, geographic location, and practice setting ([www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)). Some physical therapists make over \$100,000 ([www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)).
- **Satisfying professional career:** many physical therapists enjoy the independence and autonomy of owning their own practice and the flexibility of determining their practice hours (thus allowing more time for personal life).
- **Career outlook is excellent:** new physical therapists are needed in private practice and as teachers in academic settings. Because of our aging population, opportunities for physical therapists specializing in geriatrics are abundant.
- **Full-time/ part-time flexibility:** many physical therapists work part-time, making it easier to balance a career with family life.
- **Best employment rates:** with just a 0.2% unemployment rate, physical therapists are now experiencing some of the best employment conditions

Thank you for your interest in Wright State University!