

Physical Therapy

Messiah College has a proud tradition of preparing students for careers in Physical Therapy (PT). While the academic and experiential requirements *may* vary by institution, most of them have similar requirements. Prospective applicants are encouraged to research the schools to which they may apply to best plan their curriculum. The purpose of this document is to present a brief outline of what is generally expected of successful applicants to Physical Therapy Programs, and how Messiah College prepares its students to meet and often exceed these requirements. At Messiah there are two PT tracks. The most populated track is the Pre-PT concentration of the Sports and Exercise Science Major offered through the [Department of Health and Human Performance Department](#) (HHP). This is the program chosen by students who are certain that they want a career in PT or a closely related field. The second PT track is for students who think that they may want to enter the PT field, but are potentially considering a career as a doctor or in the allied health field. These students are advised to enter the pre-med program and to take the courses for PT school that also satisfy the requirements for medical school.

<p>Nature of the Work</p>	<p>For descriptions of this profession see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Labor <i>Occupational Outlook Handbook</i> www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm • www.explorehealthcareers.org
<p>Course Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements vary by school • Check the Education section on the American Physical Therapy Association webpage (www.apta.org) • Generally, course work should include general biology, general chemistry, general physics, human anatomy and physiology, statistics, psychology, English, and humanities
<p>Application Timeline</p>	<p>Physical therapy school directly after Messiah College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required courses completed by end of senior year (although preference may be given to applicants that complete the required courses sooner) • Apply during fall of senior year
<p>Standardized Test</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate Record Exam (GRE) • Given virtually daily at computer test centers • Register on-line (www.gre.org) • Length 3 h • 3 sections : verbal (scores 200-800), quantitative (200-800), analytical writing (0-6) • Receive scores immediately
<p>Application Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No centralized application service • Apply directly to each physical therapy school • APPLY EARLY!!! •

Admissions Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GPA• GRE• Letters of evaluation• Health-related experience• Writing and interpersonal skills
Length of Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varies by school• ≈ 3 years for DPT programs• ≈ 2 years for MS or MPT programs

Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy) (\approx 50% of programs)• MS (Master of Science) or MPT (Master of Physical Therapy) (\approx 50% of programs)
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• American Physical Therapy Association (www.apta.org)