



Prehealth Programs: Physical Therapy

CU-BOULDER ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER, PREPROFESSIONAL OFFICE
<http://advising.colorado.edu> (click on prehealth, at left)

IS THIS PROFESSION FOR YOU?

Physical therapists work with patients of all ages who have physical disabilities that interfere with their ability to lead normal lives. They educate patients in preventive care related to work and recreation. Work settings include hospitals, private practice, home, schools, health and community facilities. As a therapist you would evaluate strength, movement, sensation and coordination, establish treatment goals, and modify and administer treatment programs.

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR

You will need to complete a bachelor's degree in addition to taking prerequisites for the physical therapy program. You are free to major in any discipline that interests you. Choose something that you like, and in which you will do well. Also, consider if the major would be a good alternative should your plans to become a physical therapist not materialize. The prehealth advisor is located in Old Main 1B90, (303) 735-3000.

PREREQUISITES

There are two physical therapy programs in Colorado, at the CU Health Sciences Center (UCHSC) and at Regis University. Each of these programs leads to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree in three years of full-time study.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR UCHSC DPT PROGRAM

• **Chemistry (2 semesters w/ lab)**
CHEM 1111 *and* CHEM 1131

• **Physics (2 semesters w/ lab)**
PHYS 2010 *and* 2020

• **Human or Vertebrate Anatomy w/ lab**

IPHY 3410/3415 *or* IPHY 3460

(Note: 2 sems. general biology are prerequisites for Anatomy and Physiology courses at Boulder.)

• **Human Physiology w/ lab**
IPHY 3430

• **Psychology or Sociology (2 sems.)**
Any two courses (Recommended: Developmental (PSYC 4684) and Abnormal (PSYC 4303))

• **Math (3 credit hours)**
1 course, calculus or statistics

• **Additional upper-division course**
Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Psychology, or Sociology

• **Recommended Courses:** Organic Chemistry, Survey of Biochemistry (Note: a combined survey of chemistry and biochemistry is acceptable.)

All prerequisite courses must be completed with a C or above (C- not acceptable). If prerequisite science courses are older than five years, you must take an additional six credit hours of upper-division basic science courses. Applications may be submitted, but admission decisions will not be made until all but six semester hours or less of prerequisite courses are completed.

OTHER ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR UCHSC DPT PROGRAM

• Cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher
• Science GPA 3.0 or higher
• GRE scores of 500 each on verbal and quantitative sections, 3.5 on the written section (GRE must be less than five years old)

• Three letters of recommendation
• CPR for Health Professionals
• 45 hours or more of fieldwork in three settings:
- 15 hours - acute in-patient setting (such as a hospital)
- 15 hours - out-patient setting (such as a PT clinic)
- 15 hours - long-term care facility (such as a nursing home or rehab. facility)

Application deadline is December 1, 2007. Earlier applicants have a better chance of admission. Very qualified students committed to attending CU's program may apply for the Early Decision Option by early October. You can download the online application at https://www.uchsc.edu/pt/education/online_application. Questions? Contact the UCHSC DTP program at betti.krapfl@uchsc.edu or by calling 303-372-9142

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIS UNIVERSITY DPT PROGRAM

PREREQUISITE COURSE WORK

• **Human Anatomy w/ lab**
IPHY 3410 *and* 3415

• **Human Physiology w/ lab**
IPHY 3430

• **General Chemistry (2 sems. w/ lab)**
CHEM 1111 *and* 1131

• **General Physics (2 sems. w/ lab)**
PHYS 2010 *and* 2020

• **Psychology (2 courses)**
Abnormal and Developmental recommended

• **English Composition/Scientific Writing (1 sem)** WRTG 1150 or 1250

• **Statistics (1 course)**
PSYC 3101, SOCY 2061, MATH 2510, or IPHY 2800

OTHER RECOMMENDED COURSES

Biomechanics, Exercise Physiology, Motor Learning, Motor Control, Public Speaking, Neuroscience, Advanced Statistics, Communications

A grade of C or above is preferred for all prerequisites; courses may not be taken pass-fail.

PREHEALTH PROGRAMS:

OTHER ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGIS UNIVERSITY DPT PROGRAM

- Overall GPA 3.0 or higher
- GRE scores of 500 each on verbal and quantitative sections, 3.5 on the written section preferred
- Three professional/academic (not personal) letters of recommendation
 - one must be from a licensed physical therapist and one from a faculty member
- No specific number of clinical experience hours, but you should get broad exposure to physical therapy practice

Application deadline is January 1 of the year that you plan to enter PT school. Online application and recommendation forms can be downloaded from the Regis website (<http://www.regis.edu>); go to Graduate Programs. The curriculum begins in the fall semester. Questions? Contact the Regis DTP program at shcp@regis.edu or by calling 303-458-4344.

PREHEALTH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is an honorary prehealth society for those interested in health careers. Contact with other students with similar interests to yours can be very gratifying. You can e-mail AED at aed@ucsu.colorado.edu for more information.

The Student Association for Prehealth Professionals (SAPP) represents a community of students at CU-Boulder who are interested in pursuing health-related careers. Its goal is to provide an organization where students interested in all areas of medicine can come together and learn more about the many professions, receive academic or personal guidance, and get detailed advice on applying to graduate schools. Membership is open to all CU students. You can e-mail SAPP at prhth@colorado.edu or visit their web site at: <http://www.colorado.edu/student-groups/prehealth>.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

You should take the time during your undergraduate career to nurture meaningful relationships with people who you respect, whether they be professors or professionals you meet during extracurricular work. If a professor's research excites you, try to become part of his or her team, or arrange to do independent study or research under his or her direction. If you are drawn to an individual, follow up on maintaining contact. Some schools require letters of recommendation, and heart-felt letters of enthusiasm are more useful than the "boiler-plate" variety that emerge when professors are asked to submit dozens of letters for students they barely know.

In addition, being part of a network of people working in the field that you consider your passion can pay off in intangible ways down the road.

Application Year

ENTRANCE EXAM

Both programs require that you take the GRE before application. The GRE can be taken online almost any day of the year. More information is available at www.gre.org or through Career Services 303-735-2044.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Typically you will arrange to have your letters of recommendation sent the same time that you return your primary application. You must have a combination of letters, one from a professor who has had you in a course; one from a licensed physical therapist; and one from either of the above, or from anyone in the health care professions with at least a BS degree.

The UCHSC and most other programs have a special form for recommenders to fill out and use.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

INTERVIEWS

Some schools require an interview. If you are granted an interview, congratulations! You have passed an important milestone. Consider honing up on your interviewing skills by attending the practice interview sessions that are offered by the Preprofessional Advising office. For more information call 303-735-3000.

Vital Statistics (from the CU Health Sciences Center Physical Therapy Program, 2002)

Applications to acceptance ratio: 3:1
Total applications received: 166
Mean age of students: 26.6
Average entrance exam score:
GRE: qualified 1640
Mean GPA: 3.5
Size of program: 60
Degree conferred: DPT
Licensure requirements after graduation:
State Licensure Exam
In-state tuition: \$40,250 over 3 years
Median income of profession:
\$57,000

Vital Statistics (from the Regis University Physical Therapy Program, 2006)

Applications to acceptance ratio: 5:1
Total applications received: 270
Average GRE: 480 V, 620 Q, 4.5 W
Mean GPA: 3.36
Size of program: 48-54
Degree conferred: DPT
Licensure requirements after graduation:
State Licensure Exam
In-state tuition: \$61,820 over 3 years

All information in this publication is subject to change. Please check with the prehealth advisor, or with the appropriate school or program for up-to-date information.

The University of Colorado at Boulder is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

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