



Pre-Physical Therapy prep at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC)

What is Pre-Physical Therapy?

Most pre-physical therapy students are biology majors, but a pre-physical therapy student can major in any discipline provided the required science courses are completed when applying to schools of physical therapy. Physical Therapy schools expect non-science majors to perform very well in science courses. Physical Therapist programs offer either a Master or Doctor of Physical Therapy, 96% are Doctor of Physical Therapy with the remainder planning to convert.

What is the Pre-Physical Therapy curriculum?

Course requirements vary considerably among the numerous physical therapy graduate programs. Prerequisites for entry into physical therapy graduate programs typically include; 16 credits of biology including human anatomy & physiology (BIOL 101, 102, 121, and 122, at HACC), 8 credits of chemistry (CHEM 100 **or** CHEM 101,102, at HACC as determined by transfer institution), 8 credits of physics (PHYS 201, 202 **or** 211, 212, at HACC as determined by transfer institution), 6-9 credit of psychology (PSYC 101, 209, and/or 213, at HACC as determined by transfer institution), and 3 credits of statistics (MATH 202, at HACC). Students should refer to HACC transfer check sheets, if available, and work with their HACC advisor in preparation for transfer to the Bachelor Degree granting institution. Additionally, students are expected to complete all requirements for a Bachelor Degree with pre-medicine/dentistry advising.

What are the characteristics of a successful Pre-Physical Therapy student?

There are approximately 15 accredited physical therapy graduate programs in Pennsylvania, approximately 212 nationwide. All are highly competitive, have strict course prerequisites, and require students to plan a strategy early in their college career. Accepted students typically have GPA's of at **least** 3.3, for their Bachelor Degree and performed above average on their Graduate Record Exam (GRE). It is also competitive that pre-physical therapy students participate in internship experiences in a variety of physical therapy settings in order to become acquainted with the field prior to making formal application to selected professional programs. Leadership, community/human service and a willingness to volunteer contribute to the "personal qualities" of successful pre-physical therapy students. All interested students should visit the American Physical Therapy Association website, www.apta.org, for further information. Students will be advantaged by transferring from HACC to a Bachelor Degree granting school with a pre-physical therapy option where students are advised by pre-physical therapy advisors in prerequisite courses, (GRE) preparation, application procedures and current trends in admission. It would be a further advantage to transfer to a Bachelor Degree granting school that has an affiliation with a school(s) of physical therapy.