# Pre-Physical Therapy Prerequisites and Timeline for Application

How to use this document:
- These are the prerequisites for the ISU physical therapy program and for preparations to take the GRE. Check other individual programs for exact requirements.
- Take these classes (according to prerequisites). Work with a pre-health advisor to determine correct sequencing.
- This page demonstrates the prerequisites, you may choose to take two to four years – whatever amount of time fits best for your plan.
- Add major classes along with pre-physical therapy prerequisites
- Pay close attention to sequences, prerequisites and when classes are offered
- Your major can be in any field as long as you have the classes to prepare you for a physical therapy program – Choose your major by your greatest field of interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Subject and Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Pre &amp; Co Requisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1101/L General Biology I and Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F,S,Su</td>
<td>Must place into MATH 1108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1102/L General Biology II and Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F,S</td>
<td>BIOL 1101/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2227/L Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab OR BIOL 3301/L Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F,S</td>
<td>Must place into MATH 1108 BIOL 1101/L or BIOL 2227/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2228/L Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab OR BIOL 3302/L Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F,S</td>
<td>BIOL 2227/L or BIOL 3301/L BIOL 1101/L or BIOL 2227/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1111/L General Chemistry I and Lab</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>F,S</td>
<td>MATH 1143 or 1147 (recommended – CHEM 1101)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1112/L General Chemistry II and Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F,S</td>
<td>CHEM 1111/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH/HCA 2210 or HO 0106 Medical Terminology</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>F,S</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HPSS 3301/L Exercise Physiology and Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F,S,D</td>
<td>HPSS 2243 or BIOL 3301/L, 3302/L or BIOL 2227/L, 2228/L</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1153 Statistical Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>F,S,Su</td>
<td>MATH 1108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 1111/L General Physics I and Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>MATH 1143 or 1147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 1112/L General Physics II and Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>PHYS 1111/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 1101 Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>F,S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2225 or 3301 Child Development or Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>F,S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**For Physical Therapy Program Application**

Apply to physical therapy programs the year before you would like to attend, research programs you would like to apply to

- Take the GRE – receive scores approximately 10-15 days later
- 3-6 months prior to application – Begin drafting your personal essay and finding letter writers

**For PTCAS Applications**

- Early July – PTCAS application launches
- At least 10-12 weeks before deadline – Ask your schools to send official transcripts directly to PTCAS
- Early July – Applicant data is available to programs
- Mid-August – Application deadline #1
- April – Last recommended date to take the GRE
- May – Applicants can no longer create or submit a new PTCAS application
- Early June – PTCAS cycle closes

After Deadline – Download a copy of your application for your records

Apply early! PTCAS processing can take up to 4-5 weeks once all required materials are received
What else do you need?

- Undergraduate degree
  - Major – complete all requirements for major
  - General Education Requirements
  - Some programs may have a minimum GPA requirement

- Physical Therapy Volunteer Experience
  - Many programs require paid or volunteer experience working with patients under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist
  - May have to have the physical therapist verify the hours
  - Contact physical therapy clinics, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care settings in your area

- Leadership
  - Healthcare setting or non-healthcare setting, students are encouraged to be creative
  - Shows that you are a strong member of a team
  - Showing leadership will make you stand out from other applicants and show you are actively preparing for your future in your career and community

- Shadowing Physical Therapists
  - Develop a resume and cover letter to leave at a physical therapy office asking for an opportunity to shadow
  - Contact others who have shadowed and find out how they made the connection
  - Use your own networking and connections, both personal and professional
  - You may need to contact many therapists before finding someone who has time/space for a pre-PT student

- Letters of Recommendation
  - At least one letter from a science professor, and two letters from physical therapists
  - Consult with your pre-health advisor to determine additional letters of recommendation

- Be Prepared for Interviews
  - Some programs may require a visit to campus for an interview
  - Applicants should be prepared to discuss why they have chosen a career in physical therapy and how they perceive the role of PT in health care.
  - May be rated on oral communication skills, professional behaviors and attitudes, ability to interact with a group, knowledge of the profession, ability to solve problems, and motivation to pursue a career in PT

- Attributes
  - Patient
  - Determined
  - Compassionate
  - Integrity
  - Respectful
  - Collaborative

Helpful links:
PTCAS: https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/
APTA: https://www.apta.org/
GRE: https://www.ets.org/gre/
Pre-Health at ISU – isu.edu/hpac
PTCAS Applicant Help Center: https://help.liaisonedu.com/PTCAS_Applicant_Help_Center