

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (PT) FACT SHEET



Last Updated: July 2025

TRADITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Check with individual schools for more information

Helpful Resources:

[American Physical Therapy Association](#)

PT Schools in Michigan:

[Andrews University \(AU\)](#)

[Central Michigan University \(CMU\)](#) *(Offered at Mt. Pleasant and Houghton campuses)*

[Concordia University Ann Arbor \(CU\)](#)

[Grand Valley State University \(GVSU\)](#)

[University of Michigan - Flint \(UM\)](#)

[Oakland University \(OU\)](#)

[Western Michigan University \(WMU\)](#)

[Wayne State University \(WSU\)](#)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	Successful Completion is needed with a B or C (Depending on Program)	
General Biology	BIO 1200 (4 credits) BIO 1201 (1 credit)	WSU, WMU, OU, UM, GVSU, AU
General Biology	BIO 1300 (4 credits)	UM *Note: Some majors take additional Biology courses to cover BIO 1300
Human Anatomy	BIO 2100 (4 credits)	WSU, WMU, OU, UM, GVSU, CMU, AU, CU
Human Anatomy Lab	BIO 2101 (1 credits)	WSU, WMU, UM, GVSU, CMU, AU, CU
Human Physiology	BIO 2600 (4 credits)	WSU, WMU, OU, UM, GVSU, CMU, AU, CU
Human Physiology Lab	BIO 3621 (1 credit)	WSU, WMU, UM, GVSU, CMU, AU, CU
Upper Level Biology	BIO 3000 Level	WSU (Not required of students completing degree by program start)
Upper Division Requirement	6 additional credits (3000+ level courses) concentrated in one area	WSU
Upper Level Requirement	Upper division human biology, human physiology, or exercise physiology course.	AU
General Physics	PHY 1010 (4 credits) PHY 1100 (1 credit) PHY 1020 (4 credits) PHY 1110 (1 credit)	OU, UM, GVSU, CMU, AU, WMU, WSU, CU

General Chemistry	CHM 1440 (4 credits) CHM 1470 (1 credit) CHM 1450 (4 credits) CHM 1480 (1 credit)	WSU, WMU, OU, UM, CMU, AU, GVSU, CU
Medical Terminology	CDS 2100 (1 credit)	AU
Statistics	STA 2220 (4 credits) OR STA 2222 (4 credits) OR STA 2221 (4 credits) OR STA 2226 (4 credits)	WSU, WMU, OU, UM, GVSU, CMU, AU, CU
Exercise Physiology	EXS 3010 (3 credits)	OU, UM, GVSU, CMU (UM recommends the lab - EXS 3015)
Intro to Psychology	PSY 1000 (4 credits)	WSU, OU, UM, GVSU, AU
Lifespan Developmental Psychology	PSY 2250 (4 credits)	OU, UM, GVSU, CMU, AU
Sociology and/or Anthropology	SOC 1000 (4 credits) OR AN 1111 (4 credits)	GVSU
Behavioral Science	Two courses in behavioral sciences (psychology, sociology, anthropology, etc.)	WMU
College Algebra & Trigonometry/ Pre Calc/ Calc	MTH 1331 (4 credits) AND MTH 1332 (4 credits) OR MTH 1441 (4 credits) OR MTH 1554 (4 credits)	OU, UM, GVSU, CMU

Writing Composition	WRT 1050 (4 credits)	WSU
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Course/Credit Expiration & Pass Fail- Things to consider			
Program	Pass/Fail	Credit Expiration	Prereq Completion
AU	Accepted for Spring 2020 courses	Within 5 years of application	Coursework must be completed by May 1st.
CMU	-----	Prerequisites must be completed within six years of when the program matriculates.	Must have completed (or be no more than two classes from completing) the prerequisite courses when applying.
GVSU	Not Accepted	Proficiency is required	Completed by first day of classes
CU	-----	-----	Five of the seven prerequisite courses must be completed at the time of application.
UM	Not Accepted. For admission purposes, it is recommended that future applicants should take the option of a letter grade instead of a P/F (pass/fail) grade for any course during semesters affected by COVID-19	Prerequisite courses should be completed within 7 years of applying to the program; prerequisite courses taken more than 7 years prior will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.	Domestic students are allowed to have coursework outstanding at the time of application. These prerequisites must be completed prior to program enrollment, if admitted
OU	-----	Within 7 years of application	Prior to enrollment in the program.
WMU	No more than 2 prereqs will be accepted in the 2020 calendar year	Within 10 years of application	No later than June 1st
WSU	Due to COVID-19, a Pass/No Pass option in lieu of a letter grade in certain semesters is applied:	Science prerequisite coursework must be completed within six years of the time of application to the professional program.	Non-science prerequisites coursework must be completed by May. Science prerequisites must also be completed by December of

	Winter 2020, Spring/Summer '20, Fall '20, Winter '21, and Spring/Summer '21. The program encourages applicants to receive letter grades in their prerequisite courses.		the application year. (One science prerequisite course can remain to be completed by May.)
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GPA
National GPA Standard: Total Mean GPA: 3.5 Minimum Prerequisite GPA: 3.0 <i>Resources</i> Academic Support helps with effective studying, time management, test preparation, tackling difficult assignments, and improving strategies for college-level work. Academic Success Center (tutoring) Writing Center

Experience
Applicants are also evaluated on nonacademic factors. Some examples may include Shadowing, Community Service, Researching, Leadership Skills, Teamwork, Diversity Experience, Teaching, Publications etc. <i>GVSU</i> - Documentation of volunteer / work / job shadow PT hours on the PTCAS application—minimum of 20 hours required; the ‘PTCAS Verification Form’ is not required by/for GVSU admissions. <i>Central Michigan University</i> - A minimum of 24 career exploration hours is required. Observation hours can be from one or more settings. <i>Concordia University</i>: Documentation of completion of 20 hours of Physical Therapy observation (the identified hours must be completed at time of application and documented

under the observation hours section of PTCAS) **AND** Documentation of completion of 20 hours of volunteer/service work with an underserved/underrepresented population (the identified hours must be completed at time of application and documented under the experiences section of PTCAS)

Andrews University - Students must complete a minimum of 60 observation hours supervised by a licensed physical therapist in at least 3 different settings; at least 10 hours must be in an in-patient acute care or hospital setting and 50 hours in an outpatient setting.

Resources

[Office of Student Involvement \(OSI\)](#) has student organizations which can help with Leadership Skills, Volunteering and Community Service.

[The Writing Center](#) will help on how to write about your experiences.

****Character count cannot exceed 600 characters per experience (including spaces)****

Examination

GRE

Take when ready. Aim to take once.

GRE Test Sections: Analytical, Quantitative, Verbal

[Registration for GRE](#)

[GRE Scoring and Interpretation](#)

Cost: \$220

[GRE Fee Reduction Program](#)

Michigan schools that require this test: WSU, WMU, OU, GVSU, AU

Average GRE Scores (Quantitative/Verbal): 148 or greater

Test Prep Resources

Free Resources

[Learning Express](#) - contact Kresge Library for any questions

Other Resources

[PACE](#) - Oakland University (Kaplan)

[Princeton Review](#)

Application

[PTCAS](#)

Beginning of June- Application Opens

Cost

Primary Application

\$175 for first school

\$75 for each additional school

Supplemental Application

\$25-\$100

[Fee assistance](#)

Personal Statement

A personal statement is for you to express your motivation and desire to become a physical therapist and what makes you unique as an applicant. This statement is sent to all the schools you apply to, so you don't want to direct it to a specific school. It should be more of a story, not a resume and should not list experiences again.

The statement must be no more than 4500 characters, including spaces.

Resources

[Writing Center](#) - For help with writing your personal statement

Letter of Recommendation

3 to 5 Letter of Recommendation

****Each school requires different types of individuals to write the letters**

Examples: Professor, Supervisor, Dentist, Physical Therapist, etc.

Interviews

CASPer Test - a 60-90 minute online situational judgment test.

Known Michigan schools that require this test: WSU, WMU

Personal Interviews are given to the only top applicants who meet the requirements.

Traditional Interviews

The candidates are usually interviewed by one or more people.

The questions will be more about you as an individual, special life experiences, and what you learned from these life experiences. Students should review the application before the interview and research possible interview questions.

Resources

For additional help with interview practice, contact [Career and Life Design Center](#).

[Online Mock Interview Tool](#): “Big Interview”

Additional Physical Therapy Resources

[Physical Therapy Resources](#)