

Pre-Health Information for
Physical Therapy



Profession Web site: http://www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents
Application web site: Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (http://www.ptcas.org) is utilized by more than half of the PT programs (160 programs for the 2012-13 application cycle).
Admission/Entrance exam: Graduate Record Exam (GRE) - http://www.ets.org/gre
Transcripts: Official transcripts from <u>ALL</u> institutions attended, including Marquette University, must be sent directly from the institution to the central application service and/or individual school. If you completed study abroad courses that are on a transcript from another university, official transcripts from that institution must also be sent.
Course prerequisites: Course prerequisites vary by program (both PTCAS and APTA web sites are good resources for locating program-specific prerequisites). Typical prerequisites include biology, chemistry, physics, statistics, psychology, anatomy, and physiology.
Observation hours/experience: <u>PT specific</u> volunteer/work hours are required by a majority of programs. Some programs may have specific forms that must be completed by an individual who supervised your hours or verified by your supervisor(s) via email to PTCAS. PTCAS will require you to enter the following information regarding your hours: name of the physical therapist(s) who supervised your hours; PT license number; state of licensure; PT email address; type of experience; start/end date; type of setting; and patient diagnosis/populations observed. It is much easier to keep track of this information as you complete your hours rather than at the time of application.
Minimum GPA to apply: Many programs have a minimum GPA to apply (overall and/or prerequisites), typically a 3.0. Please keep in mind that grades earned in all college level courses must be reported, including repeated attempts of the same course. All grades for repeated attempts are typically used in GPA calculations, so <u>the GPA calculated for your application may not match your Marquette GPA.</u>
Personal Statement: The PTCAS essay requires you to “describe your decision making process in choosing physical therapy as a career choice versus other health care careers.” You will be limited to 4500 characters, including spaces. In addition, individual programs may have further question(s) you will be required to address.
Letters of Reference (LOR): Many physical therapy programs require one to four letters of reference and may require that specific individuals supply letters of reference (i.e., a science teacher, a physical therapist, etc.). Select individuals who meet the program’s reference requirements; who know you well; and who can speak to your maturity, dependability, problem-solving skills, leadership ability, communication skills, etc.
Interview: Competitive applicants may be invited to participate in an interview process. Interviews may include faculty members, current students of the program, and/or practitioners. Interviews may be used to assess oral communication skills; professional behaviors; attitude; knowledge of the profession and health care overall; problem-solving skills; etc. Go to your interviews with prepared questions about the school/program that show your interest in what the school has to offer (other than being close to home or low tuition).
Deadlines: Make sure you understand the program deadlines for each program to which you are applying. Programs may have multiple deadlines (preferred, priority, or early decision) or operate on a rolling admission. Rolling admission means a program reviews applications as they arrive, so the earlier an application is submitted, the better the chance for acceptance. PTCAS processing of an application may take up to four to five weeks once all materials have been submitted. Applications to most PT programs will be due in the fall, the year prior to enrollment (i.e., fall of senior year at MU). Early Decision: The early decision program is a binding option for applicants who have decided that a particular PT program is their first choice and that they <u>will</u> enroll if accepted. The application deadline for early decision is August 15 th (for the entering class in the following year).
Data for <u>Accepted</u> Students (2012-13 Application Cycle): Average GPA: overall 3.54; prerequisites 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) Average GRE Scores: Verbal 55.39%; Quantitative 54.8%; Analytical 48.96%

