

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Physical Therapists practice physical medicine in rehabilitation. They use mechanical force and movements to remediate impairments and to promote mobility, function, and quality of life. Physical Therapists use an individual's history and physical examination to arrive at a diagnosis and establish a management plan.

CAREER DESCRIPTION*

- » National median salary: \$99,710
- » National projected career growth: 14%
- » Many work in private offices, clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes
- » Help injured or ill people improve their movement and manage their pain

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Years of School (including undergraduate): 7
- » Average Entering GPA: 3.7
- » GRE required
- » Average Entering GRE: 309
- » Programs typically require a bachelor's degree

NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska Medical Center
- » Creighton University
- » Regis University
- » Northwestern University
- » University of Illinois at Chicago
- » Des Moines University

COMPETITIVE STUDENTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain a competitive academic record
- » Gain hands on experience as a physical therapy technician
- » Shadow professionals in the field

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL SAY

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My favorite part of being a physical therapist is seeing patients get better and become healthier. On a daily basis I see patients return back to their sport, go back to work, improve their hobbies, and live a full day without pain. The best part of this is that these patients I am helping are my friends."

-Justin Longhurst, DPT

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Being a physical therapist is very rewarding. You will work with patients one-on-one, see them progress through treatment, and know that you are really making a difference in their lives."

-Meredith Harris, PT, DPT, EdD

WORDS FROM SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

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My education at UNMC has been one of the best experiences of my life. Between the great faculty, and all of my PT classmates, including the classes before me, I've found a whole network of friends and support here."

-UNMC DPT Student

UNO Health Careers Resource Center
307 Allwine Hall | 402.554.5980
unohealthcareers@unomaha.edu
cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc

*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Data and information from UNMC

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Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

University of Nebraska Medical Center	Creighton University
Regis University	Northwestern University
University of Illinois at Chicago	Des Moines University

*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.

UNMC's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 16)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 1450 Biology I & Lab	5	F, S, M	High School Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2440 The Biology of Microorganisms & Lab	4	F, S, M	High School Biology and Chemistry
AND			
BIOL 2740 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab	4	F, S, M	High School Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab	4	F, S, M	BIOL 2740
OR			
BMCH 2400 Human Physiology & Anatomy I & Lab	4	F, S	
BMCH 2400 Human Physiology & Anatomy I & Lab	4	F, S	BMCH 2500

Chemistry (minimum credits: 8)			
CHEM 1180/1184 General Chemistry I & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144
CHEM 1190/1194 General Chemistry II & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 and CHEM 1180 & 1184

*Physics (minimum credits: 10)			
PHYS 1110 & 1154 General Physics I & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320
PHYS 1120 & 1164 General Physics II & Lab	5	F, S, M	PHYS 1110 & 1154

*Advanced Physics may be substituted

Psychology (minimum credits: 6)			
PSYC 1010 Introduction to Psychology	3	F, S, M	
AND			
PSYC 2500 Lifespan Psychology	3	F, S, M	PSYC 1010
OR			
PSYC 4440 Abnormal Psychology	3	F, S, M	

Statistics (one course)			
PSYC 3130 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
BIOL 2020 Statistics for Life and Environ. Science	3	F, S	MATH 1120, 1130, 1300, or 1320
SOC 2130 Social Statistics	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
STAT 1530 Elementary Statistics	3	F, S	ACT 19 or ALEKS 4
STAT 3000 Statistical Methods I	3	F, S	MATH 1300 or 1320
Other statistics courses can fulfill the requirement as well but should be approved by an admissions advisor.			

Social Sciences (one course)
Anthropology, Community Health, Criminal Justice, Ethnic Studies, Human Sexuality, Marriage/Family, Personal Health, Sociology, Social Work, or Women's Studies.

- Pass/Fail, credit by CLEP examinations, or Advanced Placement (AP) will not be accepted for any of the listed prerequisites.
- UNMC will not accept online science labs.
- It is recommended that students take courses in chemistry, biology, mathematics, and psychology beyond the required minimum.