

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 typical salary: \$91,010
- » National projected career growth: 21%
- » 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
- » Approximate cost: \$54,706
- » 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 APPLICANTS ALWAYS...

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

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS SAY

My favorite part of being a physical therapist is seeing patients get better and become more healthy. 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

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 PT STUDENTS

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

Apply EARLY! I think getting your application in early is key! There are programs that have rolling admissions, meaning they accept students into their program as they find students they like. Non-rolling admission programs wait until they see all applicants before accepting students. If you aren't applying to rolling admission programs, I think it is still very important to apply early. Schools do look at when people submit their applications. By submitting it earlier, schools may see that you are more interested, organized, and on top of it.

-UNMC DPT Student

*Data and information from 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	Des Moines University

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

UNMC's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

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

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

Physics (minimum credits: 10)			
PHYS 1110 & 1154 – General Physics I & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1310 or 1220
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	S, F, M	
-PSYC 4440 – Abnormal Psychology	3	S, F, M	PSYC 1010
OR			
-PSYC 2500 – Life Span Psychology	3	S, F, M	PSYC 1010

Statistics (one course)			
PSYC 3130 – Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	S, F, M	MATH 1120, 1220, 1310 OR 1530
SOC 2130 – Social Statistics	3	S, F, M	MATH 1120, 1130, 1220 1310 or 1530
STAT 3000 – Statistical Methods I	3	S, F, M	MATH 1310 OR 1220
PA 3000 – Applied Statistics	3	S, F, M	MATH 1310 OR 1220
BIOL 4110—Statistics for Biology	4	F	BIOL 1450 and BIOL 1750 & MATH 1220, 1130 or 1530
Other statistics courses can fulfill the requirement as well but should be approved by an admissions advisor.			

Social Science (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.

It is recommended that students take courses in chemistry, biology, mathematics, and psychology beyond the required minimum.