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*

- Typical salary: $80,110 (NE); $86,850 (National)
- Projected career growth: 4.9% (NE); 28% (National)
- 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

NEARBY SCHOOLS

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

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Programs typically require a Bachelor’s Degree
- Gain hands-on experience as a physical therapy technician
- Shadow professionals in the field
- Maintain a competitive GPA

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS SAY

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

- Student, DPT Class of 2015

"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

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

*Data and information from Bureau of Labor Statistics
**Data and information from UNMC
Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Nebraska Medical Center</th>
<th>Creighton University</th>
<th>Regis University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
<td>University of Illinois</td>
<td>Des Moines University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

UNMC’s Prerequisites  

**Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 16)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1450 – Biology I</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>High school Biology and Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2440 – The Biology of Microorganisms</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>High school Biology and Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-BIOL 2740 – Human Physiology &amp; Anatomy I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F, M</td>
<td>High school Biology and Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-BIOL 2840 – Human Physiology &amp; Anatomy II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>S, M</td>
<td>BIOL 2740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-BMCH 2400 - Human Physiology &amp; Anatomy I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F, S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-BMCH 2500 - Human Physiology &amp; Anatomy II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>S, M</td>
<td>BMCH 2400</td>
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</table>

**Chemistry (minimum credits: 8)**

<table>
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<th>Semester</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1180 &amp; 1184 – General Chemistry I &amp; Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>Math 1320 or CHEM 1140/1144</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 1190 &amp; 1194 – General Chemistry II &amp; Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>CHEM 1180/1184</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Physics (minimum credits: 10)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 1110 &amp; 1154 – General Physics I &amp; Lab</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>F, S, M</td>
<td>MATH 1310 or 1220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 1120 &amp; 1164 – General Physics II &amp; Lab</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>F, S, M</td>
<td>PHYS 1110 &amp; 1154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advanced physics may be substituted.

**Psychology (minimum credits: 6)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 1010 – Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>PSYC 1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-PSYC 4440 – Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>PSYC 1010</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-PSYC 2500 – Life Span Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>PSYC 1010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistics (one course)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 3130 – Statistics for Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>MATH 1120, 1220,1310 OR 1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 2130 – Social Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>MATH 1120, 1130, 1220 1310 or 1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 3000 – Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>MATH 1310 OR 1220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 3000 – Applied Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>S, F, M</td>
<td>MATH 1310 OR 1220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 4110–Statistics for Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>BIOL 1450 and BIOL 1750 &amp; MATH 1220, 1130 or 1530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.