Physical Therapy

WHAT? Physical therapists' primary responsibilities are to test, evaluate, and treat patients with acute or prolonged motor dysfunction. Treatments use a variety of methods including massage, heat, cold, water, and electricity. Physical therapists may elect to specialize with certification in pediatrics, orthopedics, sports medicine or geriatrics. Physical Therapists in Texas can earn from $50,000 to $86,000 per year, with the mean gross income being $83,000.

HOW? Students may elect to major in what they prefer. However, there are required courses (prerequisites) for pre-physical therapy students listed on the attached page. Students should plan to complete the required courses as part of their chosen degree plan. All PT programs in Texas offer a doctorate level program.

Selection Criteria: Entry to physical therapy school is extremely competitive. Decisions are usually based upon the following: Grades: The average grade point of entering students is between a 3.45 and 3.80, depending upon the school. Work/Volunteer experience: Students should have some type of volunteer/work experience with a physical therapist to be competitive. In fact, some schools require up to 150 hours of volunteer/work experience in 3 different areas before consideration. Academic Courses: Schools examine the science grades of applicants very closely, as well as the amount of hours taken per semester. Schools will not accept science courses offered for non-science majors. Low course loads and frequent QDrops can adversely affect the applicant. (Students who must work and take low course loads should alert the schools to this fact in their application.) Students should also plan to complete many of their prerequisite science courses prior to applying so that schools may evaluate their potential. Some schools limit the number of courses they will accept from a junior college. All upper level science courses must be taken at a four-year institution. Application/Essay: Applications should be sent approximately ten months prior to entry date. Applications should be neat and easy to read with no typographical errors. Some schools require an essay that outlines goals and reasons for interest in physical therapy. Other schools may require you to write an essay when you arrive for your interview. Letters of Recommendation: Schools typically require three letters (schools may differ, so check school requirements), one or more of which should come from a physical therapist. These letters should comment on your potential, as well as your leadership, motivation and communication skills. Interview: Some schools will invite you to interview at their campus. The interview will assess your commitment to the field of physical therapy, your communication skills, and your motivation for applying. Tests: Most programs require the GRE.

WHERE?
Texas State University, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, US Army Baylor University, UT Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas Woman's University, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, Angelo State University, University of Texas at El Paso, UT-Southwestern Medical Center, Hardin-Simmons University, University of North Texas, University of the Incarnate Word, University of St. Augustine.

For a listing of other accredited programs visit www.apta.org
Most Texas programs require:

8 hours:
Biology (111 and 112)
Chemistry (101/111, 102/112)
Physics (201, 202) (junior college credit is acceptable)
Anatomy and Physiology (Biol or Bims route)

6 hours Psyc:
107 & 307*  *Psyc 2314 is a common and accepted substitute for Psyc 307, either is fine for Texas PT programs.

3 hours Statistics:
301 or 302 or 303

Additional requirements per program**

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<th>Course</th>
<th>ASU</th>
<th>Army-Baylor</th>
<th>TSU</th>
<th>TWU</th>
<th>UIW</th>
<th>UTEP</th>
<th>UTHSCSA</th>
<th>UStAug</th>
<th>UTMB, UNT, UTSW, Tech, HSU</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Speech</td>
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<td>English</td>
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<td>Tech Writing***</td>
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<td>MedTerm</td>
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<td>Hlth 354</td>
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<td>Add’l 3 hrs Soc 205 Anth 205/210 Psyc 315 or Soci 411</td>
<td>3 add’l hrs social/behav. see website</td>
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<td>Soci/Behav Science</td>
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<td>Add’l 3 hrs Soci/Anth/ Psyc/Phil</td>
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<td>Others</td>
<td>4 hrs upperlevel Biology course</td>
<td>Exer Phys (Kines 433)</td>
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**Most schools will list additional recommended course, they are worth looking at
***Writing intensive counts or 4.5 on the writing section of the GRE

Professional School Advising is partially funded by the Association of Former Students.