



## Physical Therapy (PT)

**PT** is a dynamic profession with an established theoretical and scientific base and widespread clinical applications in restoring, maintaining, and promoting optimal physical function. Physical therapists diagnose and manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional abilities for their patients. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook is projected to grow 17% from 2021 to 2031, which is much faster than the average for other occupations.<sup>1</sup> The median annual physical therapist's salary is \$95,620 in May 2021, with 90% earning more than \$61,930.<sup>2</sup>

**Prerequisites:** Students must complete all required prerequisite courses before beginning a PT program. Some programs require all prerequisite courses and/or a certain number of prerequisites to be completed before applying, so applicants will need to review the admissions requirements on each program's website.

There are currently 353 PT doctoral programs (DPT). Texas currently has 16 DPT programs, 15 are entry-level programs, and applicants can attend the doctoral program immediately after receiving a bachelor's degree. Texas A&M doesn't have a designated pre-PT major, so students may choose from over 200 major fields of study. Most students select majors which include the prerequisites and provide an alternate career choice. Common majors include Kinesiology, Biology, Health, and Nutrition.

The PT prerequisite chart is a guide developed in consultation with the TX PT programs to assist you in planning your undergraduate curriculum. Please review the notes above and below the chart carefully and contact the Pre-PT advisor with questions.

Texas Programs	Program Start Dates
HSU, TWU, UIW, UMHB, USAHS, UTMB Health	Fall
Army-Baylor, Baylor, USAHS	Spring
ASU, Texas State, TTUHSC, UNTHSC, USAHS, UTEP, UT Health San Antonio, UTSW	Summer

**Experience:** While some schools require a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer/work experience in 3 different areas before consideration, at least 200 hours in diverse settings makes for a competitive applicant. On PTCAS, applicants will have the option to submit the licensed physical therapist's contact information and/or upload documentation of their shadowing. Check PT program websites and [PTCAS program directory](#) to see what has been required in the past.

**GRE® General Test:** The GRE® is required for admission to most TX PT programs and is offered as a computer-delivered test year-round. The GRE® General Test features question types that closely reflect the thinking you'll do — and the skills you need to succeed — in today's demanding graduate and business school programs.

The test covers verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing.<sup>3</sup> We recommend you look at the DPT program of your choosing to learn more about what would be considered a competitive score.

<sup>1,2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Physical Therapists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm> (visited March 10, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> GRE Test Content and Structure. [https://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/about/content/](https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about/content/) (visited March 10, 2023). at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm> (visited March 10, 2023)

Prerequisites can change without notice, so it is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to regularly check PT school websites.

Applicants must get any course exceptions approved by individual PT schools.

Texas PT School Pre- reqs	Biology	General Chemistry	Physics	Anatomy & Physiology	Exercise Physiology	Psychology PSYC/PBSI	Statistics	Math	HLTH 354	Social Science	Other
	BIOL 111/112	CHEM 101/111 & 102/112 OR 119 & 120	PHYS 201/202	BIOL 319/320	KINE 433	PBSI 107 & (225, 306 OR 307)	STAT 301, 302, 303, or 312				
Army Baylor	4 hours	✓	✓	✓		6 hours	✓			✓	3 hours add'l Biology not Botany
ASU		✓	✓	✓		6 hours GADL	✓	✓	✓		See ASU Note
Baylor	✓	✓	✓	✓*		6 hours GADL	✓				3 hours English Composition or Writing
HSU		✓	✓	✓*		6 hours GADL	✓				See HSU Note
USAHS	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	9 hours	
TTUHSC	✓	✓	✓	✓		3 hours GADL	✓				See TTUHSC Note
TWU		✓	✓	✓*		6 hours GAL		✓	✓		
TX State		✓	✓	✓	✓	6 hours GAL	✓		✓		
UIW	✓	✓	✓	✓		6 hours GADL	✓		✓		
UMHB		✓	✓	✓*		6 hours GAD	✓	✓	✓		3-4 hr upper-level biological course: vertebrate BIOL preferred
UNTHSC	3 hours	✓	✓	✓*	Rec	3 hours GADL	Rec		Rec		
UTEP	✓	✓	✓	✓*	Rec	3 hours GADL	✓		Rec		See UTEP Note
UT Health San Antonio	✓	✓	✓	✓		6 hours GL**	✓			✓	speech-public speaking
UTMB Health	✓	✓	✓	✓		6 hours GDL	✓	✓			
UTSW	✓	✓	✓	✓*	Rec	6 hours GADL	✓	✓	Rec		See UTSW Note

\*Have indicated they also accept VIBS 305 & VTPP 423. You must contact programs directly with questions about prerequisites.

Psychology Abbreviations: G= General Psychology, A= Abnormal Psychology, D= Developmental Psychology, L= Lifespan Psychology

A&M's PBSI 225=Texas Common Course Numbering System (TCCNS) PSYC 2314, Lifespan Development.

**DPT Program Notes (recommended courses may contribute to success in PT programs):**

ASU Note: Requires ENGL 210 technical writing or a 4.5 on the writing section of GRE and <https://www.angelo.edu/academics/programs/physical-therapy-dpt/admission/>

HSU Note: Applicants must have 5 of 7 Science/Stats prerequisites courses completed before a seat in the class may be offered.

TTUHSC Note: No More than 16 hours of science prerequisite courses may be in process at time of application. See recommended coursework <https://www.ttuhsu.edu/health-professions/doctor-of-physical-therapy/admissions-requirements.aspx>

UNTHSC Note: See recommended courses: <https://www.unthsc.edu/school-of-health-professions/physical-therapy/admissions-information/>

UTEP Note: See recommended courses: [https://www.utep.edu/chs/pt/academic-programs/Prospective\\_Students.html](https://www.utep.edu/chs/pt/academic-programs/Prospective_Students.html)

\*\*UT Health San Antonio Note: PSYC/PBSI developmental psychology, motor development or human development requirement must cover lifespan

UTSW Note: See recommended courses-<https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/education/school-of-health-professions/programs/physical-therapy/admissions/requirements.html>

**Additional Information:**

All grades from higher education institutions, including dual credit, count toward your PTCAS GPA (competitive is 3.5 and up). An academic review will be done along with your PTCAS application, and having frequent Q-Drops can adversely affect your application. Additional supplemental essays, resumes, and interviews are required by most programs. Once accepted, programs require background checks, immunizations, and CPR for the Healthcare Provider certification before starting.

**Programs in Texas**

1. [Army Baylor University – San Antonio](#)
2. [Angelo State University \(ASU\)– San Angelo](#)
3. [Baylor University – Waco \(Hybrid program\)](#)
4. [Hardin-Simmons University \(HSU\) - Abilene](#)
5. [Texas State University – Round Rock](#)
6. [Texas Tech University Health Science Center \(TTUHSC\) – Amarillo, Lubbock, & Odessa](#)
7. [Texas Woman’s University \(TWU\) – Dallas & Houston](#)
8. [University of the Incarnate Word \(UIW\)– San Antonio](#)
9. [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor \(UMHB\) - Belton](#)
10. [University of North Texas \(UNTHSC\) – Fort Worth](#)
11. [University of St. Augustine \(USAHS\)– Austin & Dallas](#)
12. [University of Texas at El Paso](#)
13. [UT Health San Antonio](#)
14. [UTMB Health – Galveston](#)
15. [UT Southwestern Medical Center - Dallas](#)

**Web Resources**

- [Professional School Advising](#)
- [Texas A&M Physical Therapy Society](#)
- [PT Application Program List](#)
- [PTCAS Instructions](#)
- [PT Admission Test-GRE®](#)
- [American Board of PT Residency & Fellowship Education](#)
- [American PT Association \(APTA\)](#)
- [APTA Specialist Certification & specialty areas](#)
- [Texas PT Association \(TPTA\)](#)
- [Find a PT Program](#)
- [APTA Career Center](#)

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