

B.S., Degree: Biology Major, Including Preparation for Physical Therapy Programs

Most physical therapy (PT) programs lead to doctoral degrees. Completion of a baccalaureate degree is required prior to entering PT school. Requirements described here lead to a BS Degree in Biology and include additional courses typically required by physical therapy schools such as the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). After completing your baccalaureate degree, three additional years are required at PT school, after which you receive a doctorate in physical therapy. NOTE: You do not have to major in biology, but most students do since it includes nearly all of the PT prerequisites as part of the major. If you are interested in a different major, consult an advisor for that major, then add the additional PT prerequisites.

	Courses	Credit	Notes
General Education Requirements			
English Composition	ENG 101 and ENG 102 or 103	6	Two semesters of English composition
Communication Studies	COM 101 or 202	3	Take either Public Speaking or Interpersonal Communications.
Literature and Fine Arts	2 literature courses plus one from: ART 101, 212, 401, 402, 405; MUS 114, 115, 116, 117; THE 225, 320	9	Most students choose ENG 203/204 for literature. For fine arts, choose an art, music, or theater course from those listed. (See <i>Bulletin</i> for course descriptions)
History	Choose any two from: HIS 101, 102, 201, or 202.	6	History of civilization (101/102) or United States history (201/202)
Mathematics	(see next section)		Satisfied by mathematics taken for Special Degree Requirements
Perspectives on Society	PSY 101 plus two from: ANT 101, ECO 210 or 211, GEO 201 or 303, PHI 201, PSC 103 or 201, SOC 101	9	General psychology plus two of the listed courses from the fields of anthropology, economics, geography, philosophy, or sociology. (See <i>Bulletin</i> for course descriptions)
Personal Development	(see next section)		Satisfied by foreign language, which is required under special degree requirements.
Writing Proficiency	ENG 300, ENG 301, passing CAAP score, or passing GRE writing score	0-3	Take the Writing Proficiency Exam (ENG 300) after taking both semesters of English composition and one semester of literature. If you don't pass, you must take ENG 301. This requirement may also be satisfied by a score of 3 or higher on the CAAP exam, or by a score of 3.5 or higher on the writing portion of the GRE.
33-36			
Special Degree Requirements			
Foreign language	SPA 101, 102 or FRE 101, 102 or GER 101, 102	6	Two semesters of Spanish, French, or German. May be satisfied with 6 hours at the 200 level if two years of language were taken in high school. One semester of language also satisfies the general education personal development requirement.
Mathematics	MAT 104/105 or MAT 106 plus MAT 300 or PSY 331	6-9	College algebra and trigonometry, or precalculus; plus a course in statistics. (Statistics must be taken at a senior college.)
Chemistry	CHE 101, 102, 103, 104	8-10	First and second semesters of general chemistry with laboratories
20-25			
Major Requirements			
Biology Core	BIO 100, 101, 300, 301, 328	20	Principles of biology I and II, cell biology, ecology, and genetics.
200 or 300-level elective	BIO 217, 221, 312, 321, 336, 340, 330, 331, 343	3-4	Choose one of the courses listed.
400-level electives	Choose any three BIO courses at the 400-level with the exception of BIO 470, 492, and 499	9-12	Any three 400-level biology courses except internship, special topics, or readings in biology. Your advisor will help you choose courses specific to your interests and goals.
Anatomy and Physiology	BIO 230, 231	6-8	Choose BIO 230/231 as your two free biology electives. Many physical therapy schools specifically require these courses. (UMMC does not, but the biology degree requires two additional electives anyway.)
38-44			
Additional Physical Therapy Prerequisites			
Physics	PHY 221, 222, 233, 234	8	Two semesters of physics with laboratories.
Developmental Psychology	PSY 307	3	Developmental psychology is required by UT and other physical therapy schools (but not UMMC).
Computer Applications	CIS 205	3	PT schools require computer proficiency. If you have developed significant computer skills on your own, this course is not required.

Recommended electives

Advisor
recommendations

Consult your advisor

Work with your advisor to choose courses related to your interests, your career goals, and preparation for any professional or graduate schools you might be considering. You must take enough electives to bring your total credit to at least 124. See additional requirements below.

Additional Notes:

- The physical therapy program at UMMC begins each May.
- Application deadline for UMMC is usually November 1st, but check their website for the current deadline.
- A baccalaureate degree from Delta State requires a minimum of 124 credit hours. Of that 124 hours, at least 62 must be taken at a senior college, at least 31 must be taken at DSU, and at least 40 must be 300- or 400-level courses. Courses taken at 2-year schools cannot be counted at the 300- or 400-level. 24 of the last 30 hours must be taken at DSU.
- Enrollment in upper-level BIO courses (BIO 200 and above) requires that you have "Full Admission" status. You have full admission status if you have completed BIO 100, 101, and CHE 101, 102, 103, and 104 with no grades below C. Consult the Bulletin or the Division of Biological and Physical Sciences web site, or see your advisor for more information.
- Admission to physical therapy school requires completion of a baccalaureate degree plus specific prerequisite courses. Completion of the curriculum described above meets the requirements for (1) the DSU BS degree with major in biology and (2) any additional courses required by the PT program at UMMC. If you choose a different major, your curriculum will be different. Consult with an advisor for your chosen major to plan your course of study.
- The specific courses required for the UMMC PT program are: BIO 100/101 - Principles of Biology (2 courses), CHE 101/102/103/104 - General Chemistry with labs (2 courses), PHY 221/222/233/234 - Physics for the Life Sciences with labs (2 courses), MAT 300 or PSY 331 - Statistics (1 course), BIO or CHE 300 or above - Advanced science with lab (1 course).
- GPA for required courses must be 3.0 or above with no grade below C. (Accepted applicants usually have a significantly higher GPA.) Science courses designed for non-science majors are not acceptable. All physical or biological sciences listed at a particular college or university do not necessarily satisfy the prerequisite requirements. Consult a pre-PT advisor for clarification. Students must have completed all specified prerequisites for each advanced science course.
- At least 5 of the 8 prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester prior to physical therapy enrollment. Applicants accepted for admission must complete all prerequisite courses by the end of spring semester.
- For UMMC, 40 hours observation time in a minimum of two physical therapy clinical departments or practices is required (additional hours and sites recommended). A maximum of 20 hours may be used from any one site. Hours earned through employment will not be accepted. All observation hours must be in the current year of application. You must submit a verification form for observation hours by application deadline. The form for this purpose can be downloaded from the UMMC SHRP website.
- Credit for physical education, military science, dogmatic religion, vocational courses, and science courses designed for non-science majors may not be counted toward the prerequisites for professional school.
- A score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required. It is important to prepare for this exam. Your GRE score is an important criterion used by PT schools to determine who will be awarded admission. For more information on the GRE, see <http://www.ets.org/gre>
- Admission to physical therapy school at UMMC requires a grade point average of at least 3.0. (To be competitive, you need a GPA significantly higher than this minimum. All grades, including failing grades and grades of repeated courses, are used to calculate your GPA for the purpose of admission). A minimum grade of C is required in each course accepted for prerequisite credit.
- For more information on the physical therapy programs, visit web sites of the schools you plan to apply to, such as UMMC at <http://shrp.umc.edu/PT/index.html> and UT at http://www.utmem.edu/allied/physical_therapy_home.html.
- Also see our frequently asked questions (FAQ) at:
<http://www.doctortee.com/dsu/tiftickjian/faqs/pt-faq.html>
- Degree requirements are revised frequently. This list is a summary based on the current DSU Bulletin. Consult the Bulletin for complete details on all requirements for graduation. You should follow the requirements stated in the issue of the Bulletin that was current for the semester you first enrolled at DSU. You may elect to follow a more recent Bulletin issue if you wish.
- **IMPORTANT:** Application to health professional schools is very competitive. Completion of the minimum requirements will not ensure admission. Admission decisions are based on policies established by the professional school's faculty and admission committee. Successful applicants typically have GPAs and other qualifications well in excess of stated minimums. Talk to your advisor for more information on what is realistically needed to have a good chance of getting into your desired professional school.