

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

The curriculum described here is a summary based on the current DSU *Bulletin*, which should be consulted for more details. The *Bulletin* is available online at: <http://www.deltastate.edu/academics/academic-catalogs>. For more information on all science programs offered at DSU, visit: <http://www.deltastate.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/biological-and-physical-sciences>. 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.
Humanities and Fine Arts: Literature	Any literature course	3	Most students choose ENG 203 or 204
Humanities and Fine Arts: History	Choose one course from: HIS 101, 102, 103, 104, 201, or 202.	3	History of civilization (101/102), world history (103/104), or United States history (201/202)
Humanities and Fine Arts: Fine Arts	Choose one of: ART 101, 212, 401, 402, 405; MUS 114, 115, 116, 117; THE 225, 320	3	Any introduction, appreciation, or history of art, music, or theater course. Those listed are the ones typically chosen (See <i>Bulletin</i> for course descriptions)
Humanities and Fine Arts: Elective	Choose PHY 201 or any course listed above under literature, history, or fine arts.	3	Philosophy or any other humanities or fine arts course from this section.
Personal Development	Choose from: CEL 300, CIS 205, FCS 215, FCS 270, FCS 325, FCS 343, foreign language, LIB 101, PER (100 level), SHS 360, SWO 101, or SWO 300	2-3	While any of the listed courses (see <i>Bulletin</i> for course descriptions) can be taken to meet this requirement for the biology major, pre-PT students should take microcomputer applications (CIS 205), because PT schools usually require or recommend a computer course.
Perspectives on Society	Choose two of: ANT 101; ECO 210, 211; GEO 201, 303, PSC 103, 201, PSY 101; SOC 101	6	Choose two of the listed courses from the fields of anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology. (See <i>Bulletin</i> for course descriptions)
Mathematics	(see next section)		Satisfied by mathematics taken for Special Degree Requirements
Writing Proficiency	ENG 300, ENG 301, passing CAAP score, or passing GRE writing score	0-3	Satisfied by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam (ENG 300) or ENG 301, a score of 3 or higher on the CAAP exam, or a score of 3.5 or higher on the GRE writing component. See your advisor for more information.
29-33			
Special Degree Requirements			
Chemistry	CHE 101, 102, 103, 104	8-10	First and second semesters of general chemistry with laboratories
Mathematics	MAT 104, 105, 300 or MAT 251, 300	6-9	College algebra plus trigonometry plus statistics. Students who are exempt from 100-level math courses may take one semester of calculus plus one semester of statistics. NOTE: UMMC physical therapy school requires that the statistics course be taken at a senior college. (Either of these combinations satisfies general education mathematics.)
14-19			
Major Requirements			
Biology Core	BIO 100, 101, 300, 301, 328	20	Principles of biology I and II, cell biology, ecology, and genetics.
400-level electives	Four BIO courses at the 400-level (except BIO 470)	12-16	Any 400-level biology course, except internship, can count in this category. Your advisor will help you choose courses that best fit your interests and goals.
BIO electives	All BIO courses are eligible except those described as "not for biology major credit." BIO 230/231 recommended.	12-16	Choose any biology courses except those designated for non-science majors. Anatomy and physiology (BIO 230/231) is strongly recommended to include in this category. Many physical therapy schools specifically require these courses. (UMMC does not, but the biology degree requires BIO electives anyway.)
44-52			
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 some other physical therapy schools (but not UMMC).
Developmental Psychology	PSY 307	3	Developmental psychology (Human Growth and Development is also acceptable).

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Recommended electives

Advisor recommendations	Consult your advisor	Advisors help students choose courses related their interests, career goals, and preparation for any professional or graduate programs. You must take enough electives to bring your total credit to at least 124.
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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 Department of Biological 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 8 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 - Statistics (1 course), BIO or CHE 300 or above - Advanced science (1 course).
- Overall GPA must be 3.0 or above. Grades for all required courses must be C or above. (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 of the year of application. Applicants accepted for admission must complete all prerequisite courses before enrolling in PT school.
- 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 physical therapy programs, visit web sites of the schools you plan to apply to, such as UMMC at <http://www.umc.edu/shrp> and UT at <http://www.uthsc.edu/allied/pt>
- Degree requirements are revised periodically. This list of requirements is based on the DSU *Bulletin* that was current at the time this document was created. 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. The *Bulletin* is the official source of all degree requirements.
- **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.