

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALBAMA
PRE-HEALTH ADVISING
ACADEMIC ADVISING & TRANSFER SERVICES
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ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Montgomery, Alabama

APPLICATION TO ASU DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

The Alabama State University Department of Physical Therapy offers a Doctor of Physical Therapy (ASU DPT) degree that prepares graduates for professional practice and is designed as an entry-level PT degree. They are seeking applicants who have a strong academic record and high scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), as well as documented observation hours. Twenty-four (24) students matriculate into the program each August.

Students apply July 1st – November 1st in the year prior to their planned start date. Applicants must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 and complete the GRE (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing sections). The application process is completed electronically through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). The deadline for all applicants is November 1st.

STATISTICS FOR THE FALL 2018 ENTERING CLASS

Number Enrolled	24
Overall GPA	3.61
Mean Prerequisite GPA	3.51
GRE Verbal*	150
GRE Analytical Writing*	3.5

*GRE scores are required. These scores are the minimum scores considered.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ASU DPT

The ASU DPT seeks applicants with a wide range of talents and academic backgrounds. Because of this, all majors, both science and non-science, are considered for acceptance. A bachelor's degree is required for admission. Applicants must also complete the minimum required course work with grades of "C" or higher in each course¹ (see below). Please refer to the USA Major Guides for information about course requirements for specific majors.

- English Composition: One semester beyond basic course
- Public Speaking: One semester
- General Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters²
- General Biology with Lab: One semester²
- Biology Elective: One semester^{2,3}
- Mathematics: One semester²
- General Physics with Lab: Two semesters²
- Anatomy and Physiology with Lab: Two semesters²
- Psychology: Two semesters (general and developmental)
- Social Science Elective (psychology, sociology, ethics, or anthropology elective): One semester
- Statistics: One semester

¹U.S. AP and IB credits will be accepted with proper denotation on the undergraduate transcript.

²All math and science courses have required prerequisites. Entrance to these courses will be based on Math ACT or SAT score and/or prior coursework.

³General biology II, cellular biology, microbiology, immunology, and histology are acceptable; botany is not.

RECOMMENDED ACADEMIC PLAN

FIRST YEAR	CREDIT HOURS
CAS 100	2
EH 101 & EH 102	6
MA 113 or higher	3-4
CH 131/L & CH 132/L ⁴	8
BLY 121/L & BLY 122/L ⁴	8
CA 110	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	30-31

SECOND YEAR

BMD 251 & BMD 252 ⁴	8
Physics I & II and Labs ⁴	10
Psychology	6
History (US or Western Civilization)	3
Courses for Major/Minor	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	33

THIRD YEAR

ST 210	3
English Literature	3
Social Science Elective ⁵	3
Fine Arts	3
Humanities	3
Courses for Major/Minor	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	30

FOURTH YEAR

Completion of Major and Minor	
Courses required for the degree	
TOTAL	30

⁴The semester in which science coursework is taken may be affected by the chosen undergraduate major.

⁵Must be a 300-level psychology, sociology, ethics, or anthropology course.

GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION (GRE)

In addition to maintaining a strong GPA, completing required coursework, and observing a licensed physical therapist, students will need to take the GRE. Students should plan on taking the GRE during the third year. The GRE is composed of three sections: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. The Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning sections are each scored on 130-170 scales in one-point

increments. The Analytical Writing section is scored on a 0-6 scale in half-point increments.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST CENTRALIZED APPLICATION SERVICE

All applicants must apply to the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Services (PTCAS). Applications are available each July. Students must enter all coursework and observation hours into PTCAS for verification. Students must also send all transcripts and GRE scores to PTCAS. Students are encouraged to begin the process early. Applications are not complete unless they are verified by PTCAS by the deadline.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Students must submit three letters of recommendation to PTCAS. ASU DPT only accepts letters of recommendation from PTCAS. A letter must be from a physical therapist that documents the applicant's exposure to a physical therapy clinical setting. One must be from a professor who can evaluate the applicant's academic abilities and character. The third letter may be from an additional physical therapist, professor in major, other academic evaluator, supervisor/employer, or healthcare professional.

SELECTION PROCESS

Acceptance to the ASU DPT is based on academic ability and aptitude for a career as a physical therapist. A limited number of applicants are invited to interview with the physical therapy faculty and clinicians from the community.

PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Pre-Health Advising at the University of South Alabama is dedicated to supporting the success of students working toward a graduate education in physical therapy. Pre-health advisors are available to help students craft a workable plan by providing structure, guidance and information about University and Pre-Physical Therapy resources.

CHOOSING A MAJOR

There is no perfect "pre-physical therapy" major at the University of South Alabama. A student can major in any subject area and apply to physical therapy school. The ASU DPT encourages students to explore interests and find a major that will be enjoyable. If the desired career path changes students need to be in a major that will allow them opportunities for success. Academic and Pre-Health advisors work together to help students with the coordination of courses for both the major and physical therapy school.

IMPORTANCE OF GPA

Physical therapy schools will require students to provide their academic GPA which includes all grades earned at any institute of higher learning and dual enrollment. Overall GPA, Prerequisite GPA, and last 60 hours GPA are the calculations used for admission purposes for the ASU DPT.

OBSERVATION AND VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES

Physical therapy schools desire students with diverse backgrounds and experiences, strong GPAs (especially in math and sciences), sustained volunteer activities, leadership skills and most especially shadowing or experience in the health profession of interest. The ASU DPT requires a minimum of

80 hours of work or observation experience under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist at a hospital, nursing home, rehabilitation center, outpatient clinic, or community center. A minimum of two different settings is required. Hours must be documented and verified through the PTCAS.

Pre-physical therapy students are entering fields with very strong and well established service orientations. Students need to get involved in service at the start of their college career. There are volunteer activities that one can participate in during the semester as well as during the summer break. Physical therapists will be part of a team as a health professional, and one way to learn how to be part of a team is to get involved and develop leadership skills.

Students also need to be culturally aware and actively pursue experiences that allow them to learn about themselves and others. It is important for pre-physical therapy students to choose experiences that will allow them to stand out, demonstrate their value, and enable them to work with diverse populations at home and abroad. For instance, if a student studies abroad at some point during their academic career, they will learn the issues affecting the health and well-being of populations in other countries.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
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