Physical Therapy, Master of Science in - Professional Preparation

Program Director: Shaw
Faculty: Adams, Bergman, Blatt, Clelland, Denton, Harden, Hoobler, Knowles, Morris, Murphy, Nicholson, Ogard, Peel, Pinkston, Shaw, Sherer

Physical therapists practice the art and science of physical therapy in direct patient care. Additionally, they have the capability of assuming responsibilities in areas of administration, consultation, teaching, and research as these relate to physical therapy.

Physical therapists work in hospitals, nursing homes, schools for handicapped children, private offices, rehabilitation centers, community health centers, research centers, and industry and as athletic trainers and educators in colleges and universities providing programs in physical therapy.

Accreditation: The program is accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association.

Credentials Conferred: Diploma The Master of Science degree is awarded by the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

License: Graduates are eligible for the physical therapist licensure examination. Note that state law regulates the practice of Physical Therapy; contact a specific state's Board of Licensure for Physical Therapy to obtain information on that state's eligibility requirements.

Length of Study: Six semesters.

Program Entrance Date: Spring semester.

Application Deadline: Rolling admission with priority deadline of January 15 preceding the expected term of enrollment.

Application Procedure: The following materials must be submitted directly to the Division of Physical Therapy:

- UAB Graduate School application, including the Division of Physical Therapy application,
- a non-refundable $35.00 application fee,
- two official transcripts from each college attended,
- test scores (GRE or MAT), and GRE Writing Assessment scores,
and three evaluation forms (references).

**Requirements for Admission:** The applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university within the United States in a field other than physical therapy. Acceptance will be based on the student's academic ability and aptitude for a career as a physical therapist. The candidate is expected to satisfy the following requirements:

- have a minimum GRE score of 1,000 (minimum 500 verbal and minimum 500 quantitative) or MAT of 50,
- complete the GRE Writing Assessment,
- have a minimum 3.0 (A=4.0) overall grade point average and on the last 60 semester hours of coursework,
- have a minimum academic average performance of 3.0 in the biological sciences, 3.0 in the physical sciences, 3.0 in 6 semester hours of English composition, and at least a C in each of the other prerequisite courses,
- complete a personal interview with the Division of Physical Therapy faculty, and
- if accepted, complete the UAB medical history questionnaire and physical, provide proof of required immunizations, and receive satisfactory screening by the UAB Medical Center Student Health Service.

Because state law regulates the practice of Physical Therapy, applicants are encouraged to review the non-academic eligibility requirements for licensure to practice physical therapy upon completion of the program. These may be obtained from each individual state's Board of Licensure for Physical Therapy.

Variations in these requirements are considered. In instances where applicants do not meet the principle requirements for admission, they may be admitted on probation with the approval of the Graduate School Dean. Such students must establish themselves in good standing by achieving not less than a B average by the time they have completed 2 terms of approved work taken at UAB for graduate credit.

**Program Prerequisites - UAB Equivalents**

(Course requirements are listed in semester credit hours)

**Arts and Humanities**

English Composition - EH 101, 102 (6)

**Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Psychology (9)

**Natural Sciences and Mathematics**

Precalculus with Trigonometry - MA 106 (3)
Statistics (must be taken in Math, Psychology, or Sociology) - MA 180, PY 214, or SOC 110 (3-4)
Physics* - PH 201/211 lab, 202/212 lab or PH 221/231 lab, 222/232 lab** (8)
General Chemistry for science majors with labs* - CH 115/116 lab, 117/118 lab (8)
Biology including Human or Mammalian Physiology* - BY 116 or 309

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*For these prerequisite courses, credit older than ten years from the application deadline must be validated by examination or other appropriate mechanism.

**The physics course sequence must be designed for science majors and include laboratory sessions. A minimum of 8 semester hours is required. The following topics must be studied: mechanics, heat, electricity and magnetism, wave motion and sound, and light.

Essential Requirements: Fundamental tasks, behaviors, and abilities necessary to successfully complete the academic and clinical/residency requirements of the program and to satisfy licensure/certification requirements, if any, have been outlined and are available upon request from the academic program office. Students requesting disability accommodations must do so by filing a disability accommodation request in writing with the academic program office.

Typical Program
(Course requirements are listed in semester credit hours)

**First Year**
**Spring**
PT 600 Human Gross Anatomy I (5)
PT 602 Functional Anatomy (5)
PT 603 Movement Science I (1)
PT 630 Applied Physiology for Movement Science (5)
PT 611 Introduction to PT Examination (1)
PT 613 Introduction to PT Intervention (2)
PT 660 Introduction to PT Professional Practice (3)
PT 670 Clinical Education I (1)

**Summer**
PT 601 Human Gross Anatomy II (1)
PT 606 Neuroscience I (4)
PT 612 PT Examination I (3)
PT 614 PT Intervention I (3)
PT 640 PT Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction I (4)
PT 661 PT Professional Practice I (3)
PT 690 Scientific Inquiry I (1)

**Fall**
PT 607 Neuroscience II (3)
PT 604 Movement Science II (3)
PT 620 Pathology and Pharmacology for Movement Disorders I (3)
PT 641 PT Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction II (3)
PT 643 PT Management of Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction (4)
PT 662 PT Professional Practice II (2)
PT 671 Clinical Education II (3)
PT 691 Scientific Inquiry II (2)

**Second Year**
**Spring**
PT 605 Movement Science III (2)
PT 615 PT Intervention II (3)
PT 621 Pathology and Pharmacology for Movement Disorders II (3)
PT 642 PT Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction III (3)
PT 644 PT Management of Neuromuscular Dysfunction (5)
PT 663 PT Professional Practice III (3)
PT 692 Scientific Inquiry III (1)

Summer
PT 672 Clinical Education III (7)
PT 645 Complex Clinical Management Seminar (2)
PT 695 Scholarly Activity Presentation (1)

Fall
PT 673 Clinical Education IV (7)
PT 674 Clinical Education V (7)

Total Credit Hours for Program: 108

For further information, contact:

Division Chair
Physical Therapy Professional Preparation Program
School of Health Related Professions
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University of Alabama at Birmingham
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For course descriptions, see the UAB School of Health Related Professions Catalog - Course Descriptions.

Go to list of SHRP Programs of Study.