Department of Physical Therapy — Early Acceptance

You don’t want to wait. And at UAB you don’t have to wait. You can begin preparing for your UAB Doctor of Physical Therapy now.

The UAB DPT Early Acceptance program allows you to tailor your undergraduate coursework for your future as a PT.

The UAB DPT Early Acceptance program allows you priority admission to our nationally ranked program.

The UAB DPT Early Acceptance program allows you to bolster your PT skills and knowledge in advance.

You are ready for your future.
You are ready for UAB.
Requirements and Conditions
(Criteria for remaining in good standing)

COURSES          SEM HRS

DPTEAP students must meet the following requirements and conditions in order to maintain good standing and acceptance into the UAB Department of Physical Therapy.

- Maintain overall 3.2 GPA and 3.4 in all prerequisites
- Stay in contact with DPTEAP mentor each semester
- Academic counseling with undergraduate advisor
- Complete HIPPA training
- Develop volunteer experiences through shadowing different physical therapists and volunteering in service organizations that serve under-served populations.
- Participate in Department of Physical Therapy activities and demonstrate leadership and maturity consistent with the expectations of other non early admission students
- Graduate with an undergraduate degree from UAB
- Submit GRE score to UAB Graduate School (code 1856)
- Submit documentation of 40 hours observation to the Physical Therapy department at becol@uab.edu by December 1
- All materials including GRE score, transcripts and fees must be submitted to PTCAS by the application due date.

FAQ's Careers in Physical Therapy

What is physical therapy and what do they do?
Physical therapists are movement specialists who help people function to their greatest potential. Physical therapy is a health profession concerned with the promotion of optimal human health and function, prevention of physical disabilities and the treatment and rehabilitation of injured persons. The job of a physical therapist is to identify, prevent, correct and ease movement problems caused by illness, injury or birth defects. Therapists perform a variety of tests to measure the function of the musculoskeletal, nervous, pulmonary, and cardiovascular systems. They then use the information to determine the most effective and efficient physical therapy treatment.

Where do physical therapists work?
Physical therapists practice in a variety of places including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, schools, sports medicine facilities, community health organizations, home health and research centers.

How do I become a physical therapist?
Most physical therapy programs award a doctoral degree. That means you will have to first graduate with a 4 year college degree and then complete a clinical doctoral program in physical therapy. After graduating from an accredited program you must pass a licensure examination.

How and when should I prepare for this career?
In high school, take courses in social science, biology, math and chemistry. Volunteer in a local physical therapy clinic to better understand care giving and the needs of patients. Talk with and shadow physical therapists to learn more about the work they do and to find out how well that suits you. Select a college carefully, keep your grade point average high and learn the admission requirements for physical therapy programs.

Will I find a job and what salaries do physical therapy personnel earn?
Physical therapists are in high demand. Salaries vary depending on what type of physical therapy you practice and the geographical region where you work. The American Physical Therapy Association reported in 2010 that the median salary for the East South Central region was $84,000. Experienced physical therapists and those in supervisory and administrative positions can earn more.