

Pre-Physical Therapy



Physical therapists work in rehabilitation facilities, hospitals, industry, sports medicine, nursing homes, schools and private clinics. They evaluate and treat persons of all ages whose ability to function is threatened or impaired due to injury or disease. They help these individuals through the use of exercise, cold, heat, massage, water, ultrasound, electrical simulation treatments to improve circulation and strengthen muscles to help return normal function and extend the range of motion.

Admission to physical therapy programs is extremely competitive. The American Physical Therapy Association encourages masters or doctoral degrees before entry into the field. The University of Kentucky offers a program which leads to the awarding of a Master of Science degree in Physical Therapy. After completing the pre-professional course work students enter the physical therapy program. This professional phase of the program requires a minimum of eight consecutive semesters of class work. (about 100 semester hours). Successful completion of the program allows graduates to take licensure examinations in all states and foreign countries which hold membership in the World Confederation of Physical Therapy. The basic requirements for most schools are the same.

University of Kentucky Requirements

There are two ways to be eligible to apply to the Physical Therapy Education Program:

1. Complete a Bachelor's Degree prior to the start of the PT program with a minimum GPA from all college course work of 2.75 or above. To be competitive, the overall GPA should be 3.2 or above.
2. Complete the junior year requirements in a declared major:
 - Ninety semester hours working toward a Bachelor's degree. This means you are completing the major requirements and are on track to graduate within one year of the semester you are interviewed for the PT program.
 - Establish an overall GPA of > 3.2
 - Establish a science GPA and major course GPA of > 3.5
 - A combined verbal and quantitative GRE score of 290 or greater is recommended by the Physical Therapy Division.
 - A combined verbal and quantitative score of 300 or higher will be more competitive.

Pre-Professional Requirements

2 semesters of general physics/lab	PHY 141,143; PHY 142,144
2 semesters of general chemistry*	CHE 111,113; CHE 112,114
1 semester of animal biology/lab*	BIO 201
1 semester of comparative anatomy/lab*	BIO 362
1 semester of general psychology	PSY 111
1 semester of development psychology	PSY 321
1 semester of statistics	MTH 130 or PSY 361
1 semester of medical terminology	BIO 348
College Algebra	MTH 111
2 semesters of English Composition	ENG 111, 112
1 semester of Oral Communication	
1 semester of Exercise Physiology	

ALL of the six prerequisites MUST BE completed at the time of application.

Other Requirements

—Upper division biology, chemistry, and physics courses are recommended to give students an opportunity to work toward a degree program and increase their overall value in the application.

—The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. The minimum score is 290 on the combined Verbal and Quantitative sections (305 to be more competitive). Scores should be sent to UK PT Program (code #7753). The GRE should be taken no later than mid-April to ensure your scores are received in time to be sent with your application.

—Volunteer Requirement: Fifty (50) hours of documented and confirmed physical therapy observation, volunteer or aide experience is required for admission to the professional program. A minimum of twenty-five (25) hours at each of two (2) separate facilities is required. Most applicants average at least 100 work/volunteer hours at the time of application. Forms to document these experiences are sent with the application packet.

—Certifications required:

- Certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation for adults, children and infants by the American Heart Association for the Health Professional or the American Red Cross for the Professional Rescuer is required to participate in clinical education which begins in the second semester. The *Community CPR* course offered by the American Red Cross is not acceptable. This requirement should be completed before entering the program.
- Certification in first aid by the American Red Cross is required in clinical education which begins the second semester of the first year. This must also be completed before entering the program.

Bellarmino University Requirements

Bellarmino University undergraduate students can be admitted to the professional program after completing all prerequisite and general education courses and a minimum of 90 semester hours. Admission to the program is competitive. Bellarmino students are preferentially admitted to the professional program.

- Minimum math & science grade point average of 3.00/4.00
- Minimum overall grade point average of 2.75/4.00
- Completion of seven of the ten science and math prerequisites prior to January 1 of the admission year
- Completion of all prerequisites prior to entering the curriculum
- A grade of "C" or better in all science and math prerequisites
- 25 clock hours of work or volunteer experience in physical therapy
- Taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) in the past 5 years and submit your official scores to Bellarmino University (School code: 1056; PT program code: 7674)
- Have the physical ability to perform tasks required of a physical therapist.
- Bellarmino undergraduate students: completion of at least 90 hours
- Transfer students: completion of baccalaureate degree.

Pre-Professional Requirements

1 semester of general biology/lab (not Botany)	BIO 201
2 semesters of human anatomy & physiology	BIO 221 BIO 222
1 semester of advanced physiology such as: Vertebrate physiology, mammalian physiology, exercise physiology or pathophysiology	
2 semesters of general chemistry with lab	CHE 111,113; CHE 112,114
1 semester of statistics	MTH 130 or PSY 361
2 semesters of college physics/lab	PHY 141,143,142,144
1 semester of psychology	PSY 111
1 semester of advanced psychology (300 & above)	

For more information contact:

University of Kentucky:

Physical Therapy Program
900 S. Limestone St., Room 204
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40536-0200
859-323-1100 ext. 8-0494

Bellarmino University:

Lansing School of Nursing & Health Sciences
2001 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205
502-452-8364

Application Deadlines:

University of Kentucky

[Spring Admissions Only]

- Deadline for UK & professional program application, recommendations, transcript(s) & GRE scores is June 1.

Bellarmino University

- Submit an application and \$25 fee to Bellarmino University by December 1 of the year prior to admission.
- The preferred application deadline is October 1.
- Submit official copies of all college transcripts to Bellarmino prior to Feb. 1 of the admission year

Division of Natural Science

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