

## Physical Therapy

### **Q: What should I major in?**

A: PT Schools do not have a preferred major and encourage applicants to earn a degree in a subject they are passionate about. The most common majors for Pre-PT students are Kinesiology, Health, and Biology since many of the prerequisite courses (found [here](#)) are included in the degree plan. We like to remind students that PT schools use applicant's overall, prerequisite, science, and last 60 hours GPA to evaluate how competitive or successful an applicant will be in their program.

\*Having a non-science major does not put you at a competitive disadvantage. You will have to work with your academic advisor to incorporate some of the prerequisite classes into your degree plan.

### **Q: Can I take a course at a community college?**

A: It is recommended to **ONLY** take non-science courses (History, Political Science, English, etc.) at a community college. The grades earned through a community college will not count on your TAMU transcript, however, they will be calculated into your overall GPA when applying to PT school.

\*Check-in with your academic advisor before enrolling in a community college course, check [here](#) to make sure the course has a transfer course equivalency at Texas A&M.

### **Q: Can I accept AP or IB credit?**

A: This is a PT School specific question as it depends on where you want to go to PT School. We recommend students reach out to the PT programs they are interested in applying to before they accept their credit, especially if their credit is in a prerequisite requirement such as biology, chemistry, physics, or psychology. This is particularly important if you are considering applying to PT schools out of state.

\*Once you accept credit for a course, you cannot un-accept it, so make sure you meet with your academic advisor to discuss your options fully.

### **Q: When should I take the GRE?**

A: We encourage applicants to take the GRE when applicants are ready. Start by taking FREE online practice exams to gauge how you will perform on the exam. The GRE also tests endurance as it is 3 hours and 45-minute online test. We advise you to take the official GRE, in your spring semester or the summer of the year you are applying to PT school. Tests can be taken through your personal computer at home or on campus at the MARS Center in the General Services Complex multiple times a week.

Most PT schools have minimum GRE requirements and advertise their previous admission scores to help applicants compare competitive scores. You can retake the GRE after 21 days, but when submitting your GRE scores to PT School, they will be sent all GRE attempts. For more information or to register for the GRE, visit [their website](#).

### **Q: How do PT schools admission committees choose who they want to admit into their programs?**

A: PT Schools review applicants through a holistic review process. A holistic review evaluates an applicant's GPA, quality of shadowing experience, volunteer/work/leadership experience, letters of recommendation, application essays, and GRE scores. PT schools' value mature applicants who are well rounded, passionate about the PT profession, and care about giving back to their community. A competitive applicant typically has approximately 200 observation hours and diverse PT shadowing experience. We encourage applicants to research prospective schools to see where they are interested in applying to confirm they are meeting their requirements.

### **Q: How do I get PT shadowing/observation hours?**

A: As a future healthcare professional, we encourage students to develop their leadership and interpersonal skills. We recommend getting plugged in with the [PT Society](#) to engage with your peers and future colleagues to learn more about the profession, including shadowing opportunities. A competitive Pre-PT applicant will research PT shadowing opportunities to gain valuable exposure to help themselves gain confidence with applying to a doctoral program. We recommend you use Google to find local clinics to call, resources on our [WDINTBWO](#) handout, such as, [Find An Aggie](#) or the [volunteer handout](#) to find a PT site that suits your needs and interests. We like to remind students to be professional and respectful of a PT site policy when contacting PT site. This will include inquiring about dress code, vaccine requirements, and if the site has any additional volunteer requirements.

\*Note the opportunities in College Station may be limited due to the large number of students looking for PT shadowing in the Bryan-College Station area.

**Q: What scholarship opportunities are available for pre-PT students at Texas A&M?**

A: Check out all scholarships at [A&M's Scholarships & Financial Aid](#).

**Professional School Advising**

209 John J. Koldus Building  
1233 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-1233

Tel. 979.847.8938  
opsa@tamu.edu  
opsa.tamu.edu