

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
PRE-HEALTH ADVISING
ACADEMIC ADVISING & TRANSFER SERVICES
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UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Birmingham, Alabama

APPLICATION TO UAB DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

The University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Physical Therapy offers a Doctor of Physical Therapy (UAB 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.

Students apply July 1st – November 1st in the year and a half prior to their planned start date. Students matriculate in the spring semester. For example, a student would apply between July-November 2018 to begin the program in January 2020. 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 SPRING 2020 UAB DPT ENTERING CLASS

Number Enrolled	50
Overall GPA*	3.68
Mean Prerequisite GPA*	3.60
Last 60 Hours GPA*	3.75
Mean GRE (Verbal + Quantitative)**	304
Verbal	152
Quantitative	150
Mean GRE Analytical Writing***	4.0

*If a course is repeated, the average of the attempts will be used for the calculation. For calculation of the prerequisite GPA, the higher of two grades will be used. If a course is taken more than twice, grades will be averaged for the prerequisite GPA.

**If multiple GRE tests are taken, the best score will be chosen from each component.

***Scores below 3.5 will not be accepted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR UAB DPT

The UAB 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). Applicants must have completed 75% of prerequisite courses (i.e. 38/51 credit hours) by the end of the fall semester of their year of application. For example, a student applying to begin in January 2020 must complete 75% of prerequisite courses by end of Fall

2018. The remaining prerequisites must be completed in the spring, summer, and fall prior to starting the program. Please refer to the USA Major Guides for information about course requirements for specific majors.

- English Composition: Two semesters
- General Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters²
- General Biology with Lab: Two semesters²
- Mathematics: One semester²
- General Physics with Lab: Two semesters²
- Anatomy and Physiology with lab: Two semesters
- Psychology: Two semesters
- Statistics: One semester
- Medical Terminology: One course; may be taken online

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.

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 114 & BMD 115 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	3
Fine Arts	3
Humanities	3
EMS 210	3
Courses for Major/Minor	<u>12</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. Applicants must have completed 75% of prerequisite courses by the end of the fall semester of the year of application.

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 November 1st.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Students must submit three letters of recommendation to PTCAS. UAB DPT only accepts letters of recommendation from PTCAS. Two letters must be written by physical therapists who have interacted with the applicant for at least 20 hours in a clinical setting. The third letter must be written by a professor with whom the applicant had significant interaction in an academic setting.

SELECTION PROCESS

Acceptance to the UAB 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. Applicants are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Overall GPA, Prerequisite GPA, last 60 hours GPA, and GRE scores
- Quality of answers to the program specific essay questions on the PTCAS application
- Quality of interview

PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Pre-Health Advising at the University of South Alabama is dedicated to helping students succeed as they work towards a graduate education in physical therapy. We are here 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 UAB 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 UAB 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 UAB DPT requires a minimum of 40 hours of work or observation experience under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist. Students are encouraged to gain observation experience in a variety of physical therapy settings. 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 the academic career, the student 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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