

# Physical Therapy

<b>Nature of the Work</b>	<p>For descriptions of this profession see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Prospective Students</i> section of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) website <a href="http://www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents/">www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.explorehealthcareers.org">www.explorehealthcareers.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>Course Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements vary by school Check the <i>Prospective Students</i> section of the American Physical Therapy Association website (<a href="http://www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents/">www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents/</a>)</li> <li>• Generally, course work should include general biology, general chemistry, general physics, human anatomy and physiology, statistics, and psychology</li> </ul>
<b>Application Timeline</b>	<p>Physical therapy school directly after Gettysburg College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required courses completed by end of senior year (although preference may be given to applicants who complete the required courses sooner)</li> <li>• Apply summer between junior and senior years</li> </ul>
<b>Standardized Test</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate Record Exam (GRE) revised General Test (<a href="http://www.ets.org/gre">www.ets.org/gre</a>)</li> <li>• Given year-round at computer-based test centers</li> <li>• Length ~ 4 hours</li> <li>• 3 sections : Verbal Reasoning (score 130-170), Quantitative Reasoning (score 130-170), Analytical Writing (score 0-6)</li> <li>• Register on-line (<a href="http://www.ets.org/gre">www.ets.org/gre</a>)</li> <li>• Free and low-cost preparation materials (<a href="http://www.ets.org/gre">www.ets.org/gre</a>)</li> <li>• Unofficial scores on test day, official scores in 10-15 days</li> </ul>
<b>Application Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) (<a href="http://www.ptcas.org">www.ptcas.org</a>)</li> <li>• Available ~ July 1</li> <li>• Schools not participating in PTCAS: apply directly to school</li> <li>• APPLY EARLY! Do not wait until application deadlines!</li> </ul>
<b>Admissions Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPA</li> <li>• GRE</li> <li>• PT-related experience</li> <li>• Interpersonal, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, and leadership skills</li> <li>• Sincere desire to enter a helping health care profession</li> <li>• Letters of evaluation</li> </ul>

<b>Length of Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Varies by school</li><li>• ~ 3 years for DPT programs</li><li>• ~ 2 years for MS or MPT programs</li></ul>
<b>Degree</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy)</li></ul>
<b>Additional Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• American Physical Therapy Association (<a href="http://www.apta.org">www.apta.org</a>)</li></ul>