



# **UIC**

# **Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**

**Information for Prospective DPT Student**

**2023 Application Cycle –  
for entry in FALL 2024**

**1919 West Taylor Street  
4th Floor (M/C 898)  
Chicago, Illinois 60612**

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# WELCOME!

Now is an exciting time to become a physical therapist. The profession continues to grow in stature. Potential applicants now face more rigorous standards than ever before, but we hope that you will not be frightened by the process or the competition. The University of Illinois at Chicago's first physical therapy class consisted of six individuals who graduated in 1973. We now admit up to 60 students. The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program at the University of Illinois at Chicago is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

The UIC program is unique, and we take great pride in the efforts we make each year to improve the quality of our program and our physical environment. Our faculty includes nationally and internationally recognized experts who are expanding the body of knowledge in physical therapy. UIC has one of the few PT educational programs where academic and clinical services are unified. University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System therapists teach in the UIC program, and the hospital is used as a teaching laboratory. Additionally, our nearby Faculty Practice offers PT services, research, and clinical education experiences. Our urban setting affords students a wide range of educational, cultural and entertainment opportunities.

We hope this information packet will help you understand our program and help you plan your pre-physical therapy course work and/or prepare your application to our program. We also hope that it helps allay some of your fears and makes the application process and career planning a little easier!

## General Information

Physical therapy is in demand as a professional career choice. In an effort to provide service and information to prospective students, we offer group advising opportunities. You can also access information and complete application materials online at <http://ahs.uic.edu/physical-therapy/admissions-and-programs/doctor-of-physical-therapy/>. You are also encouraged to explore APTA's website for more information.

The physical therapy entry-level education program at UIC is a 33-month professional program leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) professional degree in physical therapy. The Department of Physical Therapy seeks applicants who will contribute to the profession and society. The prerequisites and admission requirements described here apply to the 2023 application cycle for Fall 2024 admission to the Class of 2027 and are subject to change for later admission dates. Application forms and related materials are valid for the year of issue only.

## Opportunities for Advisement

The Department of Physical Therapy offers group advising seminars for prospective students to hear about prerequisite information, the application process, and evaluation criteria. Individual application status information is not available at these sessions. Sessions are held in the Applied Health Sciences Building, 1919 W. Taylor. See <http://ahs.uic.edu/physical-therapy/events>. No appointment is required. An optional tour is included. You may also contact Mollie Rose at [mhrose@uic.edu](mailto:mhrose@uic.edu).

# MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY

The Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Illinois at Chicago participates in the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service, known as PTCAS. Applicants to the entry-level professional physical therapist program, the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, for the class entering in 2024 will apply online using the PTCAS application. Applicants can begin their PTCAS application beginning the first weekday in July. The PT program application deadline will be the first weekday in October. To learn more about the PTCAS application process, please visit the PTCAS web site at [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org)

To be considered for acceptance into the physical therapy program, the applicant must submit:

- A **complete application to the PTCAS** including all required fees and attachments by the application deadline: October 2, 2023 before 10:59 p.m. CST. It must be in VERIFIED status by November 13. As UIC accepts rolling admissions, applicants are encouraged to submit well before October 2.
- A **complete on-line application to UIC** by October 2. Information is at <http://ahs.uic.edu/physical-therapy/admissions-and-programs/doctor-of-physical-therapy/applying/>
- **Completion of the GRE General Test within past 5 years** (after October 2, 2018, and no later than October 2, 2023). There are several UIC departments, so be careful to send your GRE results to the right one. The GRE reporting code is: 7784. You **MUST** send the report to 7784 to be considered. Re-applicants must resubmit their GRE scores. As long as the GRE is TAKEN by Oct 2 with scores submitted to 7784, and your PTCAS application is submitted by the Oct deadline, there is time for scores to arrive and reach VERIFIED status before the Nov deadline on PTCAS.
- **Bachelor's degree** or reasonable plan for completion before entering the program in August.
- **Physical therapy clinical experiences**. We require at least 40 hours of physical therapy observation, volunteer, or employment hours. These experiences must be complete and documented on PTCAS by October 2 for an application to be eligible. See [Before You Apply](#) for COVID Exceptions.
- **Successful completion of course prerequisites** as follows: a *grade of C or better*, by the end of the Summer 2023 semester. You may have up to 3 outstanding prerequisites when you apply, however, it is more competitive to have all prereqs completed by the time you apply.
- A reasonable **plan for completion of remaining course** prerequisites is not necessary to input in PTCAS. (*All course prerequisites must be complete before entering the program.*)

## Course Prerequisites

**Ideally, required science and math courses will have been taken within five years of application.** Science courses taken before that time will be considered as meeting requirements for prerequisites but may weaken an applicant's potential for admission. This is because the DPT program is rigorous, and courses are built on top of those prerequisites; the information is not reviewed. UIC accepts older prerequisites, but it is for your benefit and that of your classmates/professors to have the information current. If your work/study keeps the material fresh, that is helpful.

SEMESTERS or QUARTERS? Prerequisites are expressed in terms of semester courses. Three quarter courses are regarded as the equivalent of two semester courses. See the table below for more information. Pay close attention to the lab and credit requirements.

## Prerequisites Table

Prerequisite	Lab	Minimum Credits*	Acceptable courses	Additional information
General Biology	Required	4 including lab	Biology I Cell Biology General Biology Microbiology Zoology	Science major biology only, with a cellular component.
Human Anatomy	Required	4 including lab	Human Anatomy Human Anatomy & Physiology	We accept a two course sequence of combined human anatomy and physiology
Physiology	Required	4 including lab	Human Physiology Mammalian Physiology Vertebrate Physiology Human Anatomy & Physiology II	<b>OR</b> a course in human anatomy and a course in physiology. <b>We will not accept less than two courses.</b>
Chemistry I	Required	4 including lab	Chemistry I Biochemistry Inorganic Chemistry Organic Chemistry	Science major chemistry only. <b>Survey courses not accepted.</b>
Chemistry II	Required	4 including lab	Chemistry II Biochemistry Inorganic Chemistry Organic Chemistry	Science major chemistry only. <b>Survey courses not accepted.</b>
Physics I	Required	4 including lab	Physics I	Science major physics required, though it does not have to be calculus based. <b>Survey courses not accepted.</b>
Physics II	Required	4 including lab	Physics II	Science major physics required, though it does not have to be calculus based. <b>Survey courses not accepted.</b>
Statistics	NA	3	Biology: Biostatistics Business: Statistics Mathematics: Statistics Psychology: Statistics	A basic statistics course is required. This may be taken from a variety of disciplines as long as all basic statistical tests are covered.
Introductory Psychology	NA	3	Introductory Psychology General Psychology	
Abnormal or Developmental Psychology	NA	3	Psychology: Abnormal Psychology: Adolescent Psychology: Child Psychology: Aging Psychology: Developmental Psychology: Growth & Development Psychology: Life Span Psychology: Pathopsychology	Abnormal Psychology may have a different name. It is now called "Introduction to Psychological and Behavioral Disorders" at UIC

**Advanced Placement** courses must appear on a college transcript to satisfy a prerequisite.

In-person labs are preferred, (especially for Anatomy and Physiology) although online labs are accepted. See [Before You Apply](#) for COVID Exceptions.

\*Prerequisites are expressed in terms of **semester courses**. Three quarter courses = two semester courses.

## Transfer and Waive Policy

The UIC Department of Physical Therapy does not accept transfer students from other physical therapy programs or other types of health professions programs for the Doctor of Physical therapy program. **All applicants to the Doctor of Physical therapy program must apply through the regular DPT admissions process.** If offered admission to the program, admitted students may petition the faculty for consideration to have courses in the DPT program waived. These petitions will only be considered if similar coursework was taken beyond the undergraduate level, such as from another physical therapy program or health professions program. Only courses with grades of B or better will be considered. The maximum number of credits hours that may be waived is 16 semester hours. If a student has DPT courses waived, the student will be required to complete the rest of the DPT curriculum courses and requirements, other than waived courses, for graduation.

## UIC Courses that Satisfy Pre-requisite Course Work

*Course descriptions for prerequisite courses as taught at UIC are provided here to assist you in selecting courses at your chosen school and to assist your local school counselors in advising you on which courses to take that are most likely to be equivalent to the prerequisite courses. UIC students can also visit: <https://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/preprofessional-studies/pre-pt/>*

### **Introductory Psychology requirement.** PSCH 100 Introduction to Psychology

Survey of basic concepts of contemporary psychology. Introduction to the nervous system, perception, motivation, learning and memory, social behavior, personality, developmental and clinical psychology. Participation in research.

### **Abnormal or Developmental Psychology** PSCH 270 or PSCH 320

PSCH 270 “Abnormal” Psychology, now called "Introduction to Psychological and Behavioral Disorders": Survey course covering the assessment, description, causes, and treatments of many psychological disorders, including depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis, sexual dysfunction and personality disorders.

PSCH 320 Developmental Psychology: Analysis of research and theory concerning social, cognitive, and biopsychological aspects of human development.

### **Statistics requirement,** KN 200 or PSCH 242 Introduction to Research in Psychology

Techniques and problems associated with the study of behavior. Emphasis on measurement, descriptive statistics, and the principles of experimental design. Exercises involving data collection. Participation in research.

Any basic statistics course will be accepted as long as it covers all the basic experimental statistical methods. Other examples at UIC include STAT 101, STAT 130, SOC 201, PSCH 343.

### **General Biology requirement,** BIOS 100 Biology of Cells and Organisms

Processes of cellular and organismic function. Cell structure, respiration, photosynthesis, molecular genetics and development, structure and physiology of plants and animals. Lecture, laboratory and discussion.

### **Human Anatomy and Human Physiology requirements,** KN 251/252 Human Physiological Anatomy I and II (only available to Kinesiology majors)

KN 251: The structure and function of mammalian cells and tissues and human skeletal, muscular and nervous systems are discussed. Integrating the functions of the various systems is emphasized.

KN 252: The structure and function of the human endocrine, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, sensory, and reproductive systems are discussed. Integrating the functions of the various systems is emphasized.

**General Chemistry requirement**, CHEM 122-125 General College Chemistry I and II

CHEM 122/123: Stoichiometry, periodicity, reaction types, the gaseous state, solution stoichiometry, chemical equilibria, acid-base equilibria, dissolution-precipitation equilibria. Includes a weekly three-hour laboratory.

CHEM 124/125: Phase transitions, thermochemistry, spontaneity and equilibrium, electrochemistry, kinetics, bonding, order/symmetry in condensed phases, coordination compounds, descriptive chemistry.

**General Physics requirement**, PHYS 131/132 Introductory Physics for Life Sciences I and II or PHYS 141/142 Physics I and II

PHYS 141: Kinematics, vectors, Newton's laws of motion; linear momentum, collisions; work and kinetic energy; potential energy, conservation of energy; rotational kinematics and energy; rotational dynamics, static equilibrium; simple harmonic motion.

PHYS 142: Electrostatics; electric currents; d-c circuits; magnetic fields; magnetic media; electromagnetic induction; a-c circuits; Maxwell's equations; electromagnetic waves; reflection and refraction; interference; geometrical optics.

## ELEMENTS OF THE APPLICATION

### PTCAS Physical Therapy Professional Application

**Application fee:** There is a PTCAS application fee; instructions for paying the fee will be available at <http://www.ptcas.org/>. There is a separate application fee for admission to the University Illinois at Chicago described below under II. UIC Application.

**Transcripts:** These are mailed to PTCAS. Official, sealed transcripts are required from **each** college or university attended, even if only one course was taken, and even if the courses were transferred to another institution for which a transcript is being submitted. Transcripts must be in the original, sealed envelopes provided by the issuing schools, and must include grades posted through Summer 2023.

**Applicants who are offered admission** to the program must submit separate transcripts for courses taken from Fall 2023 through Summer 2024 as a condition of admission. (*Instructions for students enrolled in the University of Illinois system are below.*) These late transcripts showing completion of outstanding prerequisites are sent directly to the UIC Department of Physical Therapy.

College level coursework completed outside of the United States must be documented with the following:

- A subject analysis evaluation from World Education Services (WES) for advising and application evaluation purposes. The evaluation should be submitted directly to PTCAS.
- An original transcript in the native language AND a translated copy in English. A verbatim, literal translation, NOT an evaluation of equivalencies, is required. A translation agency (such as ATA) may provide a referral to a certified translator if the institution doesn't provide an English translation.

The original transcript and English translation should be sent to:

DPT Admissions - Department of Physical Therapy  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1919 W Taylor St (MC 898)  
Chicago, Illinois 60612

University of Illinois students: The Department of Physical Therapy does not have access to students' transcripts. University of Illinois (UIC, UIUC, and UIS) students must include a UIC, UIUC, or UIS

transcript in the application packet to the PTCAS. A separate transcript for each college attended is required even if the coursework has already been transferred to a college in the University of Illinois system.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Two Letters of Recommendation are required (we will accept up to 4), and must be submitted online to PTCAS. Persons who write letters of recommendation should know you well and be able to attest to your strengths from an academic, employment, or volunteer setting. At least one letter from a physical therapist is required. Letters from friends or family members are not accepted. Letters of Recommendation from previous applications are not retained. New letters must be submitted with each application.

**Clinical Experiences prior to application:** 40 hours of physical therapy experiences observing, volunteering, or working are required. It is recommended that the experiences be of different specialties. The more extensive and varied the physical therapy experiences, the better the applicant will be prepared for elements of the program and that preparation may be reflected in application review. Competitive applicants typically have 100+ hours in a variety of settings and patient conditions. See [Before You Apply](#) for COVID Exceptions.

Applicants may consult hospitals, nursing homes, community organizations (e.g., Easter Seals, United Cerebral Palsy, or March of Dimes), home health agencies (e.g., Visiting Nurses Association), health maintenance organizations, or stand-alone physical therapy clinics (consult Yellow Pages phone directory) for opportunities to observe physical therapy. The UIC Department of Physical Therapy does not assist applicants in finding a volunteer placement. Clinical experiences are documented on PTCAS only. You can use the [Physical Therapy Observation](#) Hours sheet at the end of this packet to stay organized. No signatures are required on the sheet, however, PTCAS will verify your hours by contacting the PT you observed in the verification process.

## UIC Application

This is an on-line application. Please see the website for instructions: <https://ahs.uic.edu/physical-therapy/admissions-and-programs/doctor-of-physical-therapy/applying/>

**The application fee** for admission to the University Illinois at Chicago is \$70 for both domestic or immigrant applicants and international applicants. The fee is nonrefundable and must be submitted for an application to be considered. A University application fee may also be required from students who were previously enrolled as degree-seeking students at UIC or from students who attended UIUC the preceding academic term. There is a separate PTCAS application described above under I. PTCAS Physical Therapy Professional Application.

## Additional Elements for International, Immigrant, or Non-Citizen Applicants

*--Also see "Transcripts" in PTCAS Physical Therapy Professional Application*

### Evidence of Immigration and Naturalization Service Documentation

Applicants granted immigrant, permanent resident, temporary resident, refugee, parolee, or conditional entrant status must attach a clear photocopy (front and back) of their Alien Registration Card and/or other appropriate INS documentation with the Professional Application. Submission of these documents does not guarantee their acceptability. Additional documentation and/or review of original documents may be required.

### Evidence of English Competency

Applicants whose native language is not English must take either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the exam of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The test score cannot be more than two years old.

Minimum scores for TOEFL are 213 combined or, for iBT, minimums for the four subsections of Reading 19, Speaking 20, Listening 17, Writing 21, and Total 80. Minimum scores for IELTS are total score of 6.5 and subscores of 6.0 for each of the four subsections.

The TOEFL and IELTS are not required for students who have completed at least one academic year of full-time study in a country where English is the native language and, in a school, where English is the language of instruction within five years of the proposed date of enrollment in the University. In addition, the examination is not required of non-native English speakers who have a minimum of one-year full-time employment in the U.S. or another country where the only official language of the country is English. Applicants must submit a letter from their employer verifying at least 12 consecutive months of employment and describing their English language skills.

#### Evidence of Financial Support

Students who require an F-1/J-1 visa must submit evidence with the Professional Application Leaflet of financial support through (a) a notarized Declaration of Finances Form (available from the Office of Admissions and Records); (b) Immigration and Naturalization Services Affidavit of Support Form (1-134) executed by the sponsor; or (c) a notarized affidavit of support executed by the sponsor. All forms must be notarized and accompanied by a copy of a bank statement showing proof of sufficient funds in US dollars (checking accounts are unacceptable). You can find additional information about this at the link provided below.

[https://www.ois.uic.edu/students/prospective/obtaining\\_an\\_initial\\_i-20\\_d\\_s-2019/](https://www.ois.uic.edu/students/prospective/obtaining_an_initial_i-20_d_s-2019/)

## ADMISSIONS DECISION CRITERIA

**What we look for:** We use a holistic process to identify diverse students with the academic ability and personal resolve to successfully complete our rigorous program and become licensed physical therapists. Outstanding communication skills, compassion, and desire to work with/help others are key characteristics for the field. Several success indicators are evaluated for each applicant and applicants are then ranked relative to each other.

Any applicant who submits a complete application showing evidence of minimum requirements will be considered. Due to the large number of applicants, however, not all will be offered admission into the program.

The following elements of the evaluative criteria have been used in the past by the Department of Physical Therapy Admissions Committee when reviewing applicants. This process may change in future admission cycles.

Our holistic admissions process considers the balance of a multitude of factors:

- **Prerequisite GPA** averages grades earned in all courses within the subject areas of UIC's prerequisites. It doesn't MATTER WHERE or WHEN these courses were taken to be included.
  - Both an original score and a retake score are averaged together in the prerequisite GPA.
- **Cumulative GPA** is computed based on the last 60 credit hours NO MATTER WHAT they were or WHERE they were taken -- undergraduate or beyond.
- **Additional Factors**
  - Extracurricular activities – time management, relevance, leadership, recognition, research publication
  - Work/volunteer experience – time management, relevance to profession, leadership
  - Other language fluency
  - Variety and quantity of observation hours – more than 3 different settings/patient populations with more than 40 hours minimum
  - Specific facts presented in personal statement and letters of recommendation

- Efforts since last application to program: additional course work, additional work/volunteer experience
- **Academic Preparation**
  - Course load taken/factors affecting course load (e.g., full time work, athlete)
  - Number of credit hours per term
  - More than one science/math taken per term and grades
  - Additional science courses taken - caliber, type, grade, relevance, lab
  - Recentness of prerequisite science courses; if more than 5-years-old, is there an update of old prerequisite science courses or work experience refreshing the material
  - Type and number of prerequisites left to complete and plan for completion
  - Graduate course work taken and grades
- **Unique Life Experiences** of hardship, unique circumstances, or issues you have had to manage as noted in the PTCAS application are reviewed.
- **GRE** - IF you take the GRE multiple times, UIC considers a *super-score*, or the highest score you have received in each section.
  - **Verbal and Quantitative** based upon the sum of the scores in these two sections.
  - **Analytic Writing** based on the score of the GRE Writing Assessment.

**Application Status Notification:** The Department of Physical Therapy will notify applicants of their status by email. Notification will occur on a rolling basis and end in late December, though later notification is possible. **Please do not call for application status. We will notify you as soon as decisions are made.**

## ACCEPTED APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

**CastleBranch:** Students are required to establish an account with CastleBranch. This service lets members capture their important personal documents, store and protect those documents in their private online vault, and certify the information's accuracy. Documentation of the lab reports, blood tests, and certifications described below are verified and stored by CastleBranch.com. Background checks and drug screenings described below are arranged through CastleBranch. Fees for CastleBranch services are the students' responsibility.

**Background Checks and Drug Screening:** Before entering the program, students must work through CastleBranch.com to arrange for a background check and a drug screening. Additional background checks or drug screenings may be required by physical therapy clinical education experience sites before students are allowed access to patients. Clinical facilities reserve the right to refuse students for clinical education experience opportunities based on background check results.

**Vaccinations:** Documentation of current tetanus/diphtheria and tuberculosis status is required prior to entering the program. Additional immunizations (i.e. influenza vaccine, COVID vaccine) may be required by physical therapy internship sites before students are allowed access to patients. The costs for these immunizations are the responsibility of the student and may or may not be covered by the student's health plan.

**Titers:** As health profession students, DPT students are required to document immunity via blood tests, called "titers," to measles, rubella, mumps, varicella, and Hepatitis B. It is recommended that students begin the lengthy Hepatitis B series as soon as possible. Entry into the clinical environment begins as early as January in the first year of the program. Students will not be permitted in clinical experiences until this series is complete.

**CPR and First Aid Certification:** Applicants must have two current certifications through American Heart Association or Red Cross. One, a First Aid certification, and the other, "BLS for Health Providers" (not the general public CPR) are required before entering the program. Certification costs are students' responsibility.

**Students with Disabilities:** The College of Applied Health Sciences encourages and accommodates the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs. Please advise the Department of your specific needs upon admission.

**Tuition and Fees** are set annually by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Different rates apply to Illinois residents and out of state residents. The schedule of Professional Tuition and Fees is available at [http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/professional/tuition\\_prof.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/professional/tuition_prof.html).

Tuition and fees are adjusted annually. For a discussion of the University policy on residency, please see <https://www.uaps.uillinois.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=808247&pageId=812666>. The previous year's Tuition and Fees Table can be found at the end of this packet.

**Additional Program Costs:** Applicants should plan for the cost of required textbooks and supplies which are estimated at \$3,000 for the three academic years in addition to tuition and fees. Students should be prepared to cover additional transportation or housing costs associated with physical therapy internships. These costs are the responsibility of the student. Although students' input is considered regarding out-of-town assignments, students must be prepared to accept assignments to physical therapy internships which could require additional transportation or housing costs.

**Financial Aid:** The Financial Aid Office accepts applications for Financial Aid, in the form of loans, after October 1. Applications may be submitted prior to notice of acceptance in the program. UIC award letters are available on a first-come, first-served basis each spring.

**Contact the Financial Aid Office at 312-996-3126, [money@uic.edu](mailto:money@uic.edu) or <http://financialaid.uic.edu/>.**

**Housing:** Learn about Campus Housing at <http://www.housing.uic.edu/>. The Physical Therapy program is on the west campus. The west side dorms are SSR, SRH, and PSR. Many DPT students live within walking distance in the Little Italy and Pilsen neighborhoods.

**Change of Address, Email Address or Phone Number:** Notify, in writing or by email, both the University of Illinois at Chicago Office of Admissions and Records, and the Department of Physical Therapy, of any change in your address, email address or phone number.

**Licensing:** Physical Therapy is a licensed profession. Upon successful completion of the professional physical therapy program students are eligible to sit for the physical therapy licensing exam. The following questions appear on the application for the Illinois exam and are provided for your information. These questions are not a part of the program application and are not to be answered in the application for the physical therapy program.

1) Have you been convicted of any criminal offense in any state or in federal court (other than minor traffic violations)?

*If yes, attach a certified copy of the court records regarding your conviction, the nature of the offense and date of discharge, if applicable, as well as a statement from the probation or parole office.*

2) Have you ever had or do you now have any disease or condition that interferes with your ability to perform the essential functions of your profession, including any disease or condition generally regarded as chronic by the medical community, i.e., (1) mental or emotional disease or condition; (2) alcohol or other substance abuse; (3) physical disease or condition that interferes with your ability to practice your profession?

*If yes, attach a detailed statement, including an explanation whether or not you are currently under treatment.*

3) Have you been denied a professional license or permit, or privilege of taking an examination, or had a professional license or permit disciplined in any way by any licensing authority in Illinois or elsewhere?

*If yes, attach a detailed explanation.*

- 4) Have you ever been discharged other than honorably from the armed service or from a city, county, state or federal position?  
*If yes, attach a detailed explanation.*

More information can be found on the website of the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation, <http://www.idfpr.com/>.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** *How many apply? How many are accepted?*

**A:** In the last few years, the number of applicants has approached or exceeded 500. We are limited by space and other resources to accepting 60 students annually. Applicants' chances of being accepted depend on their academic and other qualifications relative to others in the applicant pool of a given application year.

**Q:** *What is the profile of a typical successful applicant?*

**A:** We consider all applicants who meet the minimum admission requirements and who submit a complete application. However, because of the large number of applicants, we offer admission to the most qualified students in the applicant pool for a given year. For the past few years, successful applicants typically completed most pre-physical therapy course work before the application deadline, and achieved scores listed on the last page. They carried heavy course loads that some semesters included more than one science or math as well as other courses. Most applicants that were admitted have taken science courses related to the human body that are not required for admission, for example, neuroscience, organic chemistry, biochemistry, etc. Successful applicants are also well-rounded. They are involved in volunteer or community activities.

**Q:** *What does your admissions committee look for?*

**A:** The UIC Department of Physical Therapy Admissions Committee utilizes a holistic process to identify diverse students with the academic ability and personal resolve to successfully complete our rigorous program and become licensed physical therapists. Outstanding communication skills, compassion, and desire to work with/help others are key characteristics for the field. Several success indicators are evaluated for each applicant and applicants are then ranked relative to each other. A class of 60 is selected from this list.

**Q:** *Do you accept course work completed at community colleges?*

**A:** We accept course work from accredited institutions of higher education, including community colleges. The critical factor in determining whether a course is acceptable is that it is similar in nature, content and level to courses taught at UIC.

**Q:** *Do you give preference to UIC students?*

**A:** UIC students receive the same consideration as any students who have attended high quality four-year institutions. They are not given any extra consideration because they already attend UIC.

**Q:** *My GPA is not all that good. Do I have any chance to be admitted?*

**A:** Yes, provided you satisfy the **minimum** application requirements, and are within the range of successful applicants (mostly A's and B's). If there were extenuating circumstances at the time you were earning that GPA (e.g., working full time and raising a family, or dealing with a medical or personal problem) check "yes" to PTCAS questions regarding extenuating circumstances, and provide a statement correlating the circumstance with instances of poor grades and offering proof of ability to perform adequately when the circumstance is absent.

**Q:** *Do I have to complete all of the prerequisites before I apply to the UIC program? Must my bachelor's degree be completed before I apply?*

**A:** Academic qualifications are major factors considered in admissions decisions. While it is not necessary for you to have completed **every** prerequisite course before you apply, you may have up to three outstanding (still-to-be-completed) prerequisites. Any remaining prerequisites must be completed before the start of the program. The greater the number of prerequisites completed (with official transcripts) at the time of admission, the greater the number of factors to be evaluated. Students who have completed more course work are given more consideration in the admissions process. If you are not able to present a realistic plan for completion of the remainder of your prerequisites, you will compare unfavorably to others in the applicant pool.

While your bachelor's degree does not have to be completed before you apply, it must be complete before enrolling. If you are admitted and your degree is not yet complete, your offer of admission will be withdrawn if you do not complete the degree before the start of the program.

If you are unable to complete prerequisite courses, or your degree, before the start of the DPT program to which you are offered to admission, your offer is withdrawn and you will have to reapply. An offer of admission is not guaranteed upon reapplication; you will be ranked with the new group of applicants.

**Q:** *Do you accept non-residents?*

**A:** Yes. About 20-35% of each entering class are non-residents. Please note that all non-citizens of the United States are considered non-residents for admissions purposes regardless of how long they have resided in Illinois and regardless of their immigration status.

**Q:** *What if I don't get accepted? How do I find out why? What should I do?*

**A:** Many students who are not accepted the first time they apply take additional courses (preferably science courses) to demonstrate that they can perform successfully in the physical therapy program and reapply in subsequent years. Review the Admissions Decision section to see what factors affect the decision. It is recommended to make a substantial improvement in your application when you reapply. Applicants may contact Mollie Rose for any questions regarding their application.

**Q:** *Will I be able to work during the program?*

**A:** Although some students hold jobs, the schedule is not very adaptable to outside work commitments. Evenings and weekends are needed for study and recreation. Current students suggest planning to work only minimal hours – and only during the second year of study.

**Q:** *How long is the program? Is it full or part time? When does it start?*

**A:** The course of study is 33 months long, covering eight semesters: two full academic years (including summers) plus an additional year of physical therapy internships. The program is full-time and very time intensive. There is no part-time option. The program starts with the Fall Semester only. It should be thought of as "9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, plus homework."

**Q:** *Where are courses held? Where will I be assigned for my clinical experiences?*

**A:** Courses are held in the College of Applied Health Sciences, principally in the Department of Physical Therapy space. Anatomy courses and other lectures and labs are taught in the nearby College of Medicine building. Clinical education experience sites are located all over the country and world, with about 1/3 in the Chicagoland area, 1/3 in the Midwest, and 1/3 outside the Midwest. Students must be prepared to have access to a car and be responsible for additional transportation and housing costs associated with some placements.

**Q:** *When are interviews scheduled?*

**A:** Conducting interviews is a subject we debate each year. And after a pilot test, we have decided that we will NOT interview candidates. The application process itself (essays, outside activities, etc.) provides a level playing field. It's helpful to have letters of recommendations that are unique and speak to your various strengths.

## **PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM**

DPT students complete 33 full calendar months of instructional and clinical education over 8 semesters. Educational experiences include classroom activity, laboratory courses, case-based scenarios, role-playing, collaboration, seminar series and guest instructors, nontraditional short intensive courses, and clinical education experiences. Students will participate in laboratory and patient care experiences with our affiliate, University of Illinois Hospital (UI Health). Nationally known experts may be invited to supplement faculty expertise. Every effort is made to provide expert, thorough instruction.

The clinical education experience program consists of two components. The first component consists of half-day experiences for the student, integrated within the class work portion of physical therapy education, and the second component is the full-time clinical rotations. The overall purpose of these experiences is to expose the student to a variety of clinical settings and patient populations prior to the full-time clinical rotations.

In clinics, students are exposed to a variety of traditional and nontraditional service delivery models, including acute and rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient clinics, private practices, school system physical therapy, pediatric and geriatric residential facilities, and introducing the student to different patient populations such as pediatrics and geriatrics, as well as patients with neurological, orthopedic, and medical conditions who require physical therapy services. In addition, students are able to see firsthand the application of clinical practices discussed in class, such as evaluations and the use of modalities and exercises, and occasional exposure to other aspects of clinical practice such as patient care conferences and rounds.

UIC's Department of Physical Therapy currently has affiliations with over 400 clinical facilities and is continually expanding its affiliations across the country and internationally. Types of facilities include hospital and medical centers (offering inpatient acute, inpatient rehab, and outpatient rotations), outpatient centers and clinics (adult and pediatric, orthopedic and neurological), freestanding rehabilitation hospitals, school systems, private practices, children's hospitals, geriatric rehab centers, home health, veterans and military facilities. With the changing climate of health care, the Department continually looks to further enhance its repertoire of nontraditional and community-based clinical affiliation sites.

# COURSE SEQUENCE

Year 1			
Fall Semester (1)	Credits	Spring Semester (2)	Credits
PT 600 Introduction to Physical Therapy	4	PT 635 Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction	4
PT 603 Gross Anatomy for PT	5	PT 617 Applied Kinesiology	4
PT 605 Systems Physiology and Plasticity	6	PT 604 Anatomy of CNS, Head & Neck for PT	4
		PT 629 Science and Practice Seminar I	3
		PT 625 Professional Development I	2
		PT 618 Motor Control	2
<b>Totals</b>	15		19

Year 2					
Summer Semester (3)	Credits	Fall Semester (4)	Credits	Spring Semester (5)	Credits
<b>First summer term – Year 1:</b>		PT 636 Applied Pathophysiology	4	PT 634 Neuromuscular Dysfunction II	5
PT 624 Therapeutic Applications	5	PT 633 Neuromuscular Dysfunction I	5	PT 622 Psychosocial Theory and Practice I	2
PT 616 Biophysics	4	PT 631 Musculoskeletal Dysfunction I	5	PT 632 Musculoskeletal Dysfunction II	5
		PT 626 Professional Development II	3	PT 623 Psychosocial Theory and Practice II	3
<b>Second summer term – Year 2:</b>		PT 638 Integration and Assessment I	1	PT 639 Integration and Assessment II	1
PT 640 Clinical Education Experience I	2			PT 620 Clinical Applications	1
		Optional Electives	+	Optional Electives	+
<b>Totals</b>	11		18+		17+

Year 3					
Summer Semester (6)	Credits	Fall Semester (7)	Credits	Spring Semester (8)	Credits
PT 641 Clinical Education Experience II	12	PT 642 Clinical Education Experience III	12	PT 643 Clinical Education Experience IV	12
		**PT 630 Science in Practice Seminar		**PT 630 Science in Practice Seminar II	1
		**PT 627 Professional Development		**PT 627 Professional Development III	2
		**PT 628 Case Management in PT Practice		**PT 628 Case Management in PT Practice	3
<b>Totals</b>	12		12		18

\*\* These classes meet for four weeks in fall and four weeks in spring, however, students register for them in spring. Classes involve integration and application of material presented throughout the program. They are seminar in nature and require small class sizes to be effective, so students may be divided into groups (A and B).

See all PT course descriptions here: <https://catalog.uic.edu/all-course-descriptions/pt/>

# PHYSICAL THERAPY OBSERVATION HOURS

This form is helpful when filling out your PTCAS application:

Physical Therapy Observation Hours						
Name of Facility						
Address						
PT Name						
PT License Number						
PT Email Address						
PT Phone Number						
State of PT License						
PT Setting						
# of Hours Completed						
# of Hours Planned						
Start Date						
End Date						
Notes						

- A variety of inpatient and outpatient settings and patient demographics/conditions helps your application
- 40 required, 100+ is recommended
- PTCAS will verify your hours by contacting the PT you observed in the verification process
- See [Before You Apply](#) for COVID Exceptions

## DPT Tuition and Fees 2023-2024

	Fall 2023		Spring 2024		Summer 2023	
	Illinois resident	Non-resident*	Illinois resident	Non-resident*	Illinois resident	Non-resident*
Tuition	\$9,530	\$16,474	\$9,530	\$16,474	\$4,649	\$8,036
Academic Facilities Maintenance Fund Assessment	359	359	359	359	175	175
Library and Information Technology Assessment	236	236	236	236	115	115
General fee	498	498	498	498	326	326
Service Fee	379	379	379	379	242	242
Student to Student Fee	3	3	3	3	0	0
Sustainability Fee	6	6	6	6	0	0
Health Service	108	108	108	108	71	71
Health Insurance <i>With proof of insurance, this fee can be waived.</i>	697	697	697	697	461	461
CTA U-Pass <i>Students must opt-in to be assessed this fee.</i>	163	163	163	163	125	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,119</b>	<b>\$18,063+</b>	<b>\$11,119</b>	<b>\$18,063+</b>	<b>\$5,578</b>	<b>\$8,695+</b>
<b>Total with optional insurance &amp; CTA U-Pass</b>	<b>\$11,979</b>	<b>\$18,923+</b>	<b>\$11,979</b>	<b>\$18,923+</b>	<b>\$6,164</b>	<b>\$9,551+</b>

<https://registrar.uic.edu/tuition/professional/index.html>

The DPT program is 8 semesters: 3 Fall, 3 Spring, and 2 Summer

**Total tuition-only estimate** (may rise annually): IL-Res: \$66,478 and for Non-Res\*: \$114,916

Email FAFSA/financial aid questions to [GradFinAid@uic.edu](mailto:GradFinAid@uic.edu).

See “Additional Program Costs” in [Accepted Applicant Requirements](#)

\* Students who enter with non-resident status typically are unable to become Illinois residents while in the program as a full time student, and must pay non-resident tuition rates for the duration of the program. To see the UIC policy on residency status, please see:

<https://www.uaps.uillinois.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=808247&pageId=812666>.

+International students will be assessed the International Student Fee of \$130 in fall and spring, and \$65 in summer.

# ORGANIZATION TABLE for APPLICANTS

Here's a summary of what it takes to have a successful, competitive application:

<b>Get organized, applicants!</b>					<b>Typical Successful Applicant</b>																	
Prerequisites	Credit Requirements	Course Taken	Grade	Credits	Mostly A's and B's																	
Biology	4 credits with a lab						Mostly A's and B's															
Human Anatomy*	4 credits with a lab								Mostly A's and B's													
Physiology*	4 credits with a lab										Mostly A's and B's											
Chemistry I	4 credits with a lab												Mostly A's and B's									
Chemistry II	4 credits with a lab														Mostly A's and B's							
Physics I	4 credits with a lab																Mostly A's and B's					
Physics II	4 credits with a lab																		Mostly A's and B's			
Applied Statistics	3 credits																				Mostly A's and B's	
Introductory Psychology	3 credits																					
Developmental or "Abnormal" Psychology**	3 credits				Mostly A's and B's																	
<i>UIC does a holistic review. Here are typical scores from successful applicants:</i>							<i>Mean</i>	<i>Ranges</i>														
<b>Cumulative GPA</b> – last 60 credit hours, no matter what the course or where taken							3.71	3.24-4.0														
<b>Prerequisite GPA</b> – averages all courses listed above, including retakes. Doesn't matter when or where taken.							3.49	2.84-4.0														
<b>GRE</b> – combined verbal and qualitative score							304	282-319														
<b>GRE</b> – writing score							4.0															

\* Or one year of combined Anatomy and Physiology

\*\* "Abnormal" Psychology may have a different name. It is now called "Introduction to Psychological and Behavioral Disorders" at UIC

For help calculating your GPA, visit <http://gpacalculator.net/college-gpa-calculator/>