



# Pre-Physical Therapy

## Quick Facts

**Average  
Matriculant  
Numbers**

**Overall GPA: 3.5**  
**Science GPA: 3.5**  
GRE: 303+ comb. &  
4.0+ writing

## Course Prerequisites

Chemistry - CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L  
Physics - PHYS 1111/L & 1112/L  
Biology - BIOL 1107/L BIOL 1108/L  
Anatomy & Physiology - CBIO 2200/L &  
2210/L  
Statistics - STAT 2000  
Psychology - PSYC 1101  
Behavioral Science - ANTH 1102 or SOCI 1101

## Recommended

Abnormal Psychology - PSYC 3230  
Lifespan Development - HDFS 2200  
Nutrition - NUTR 2100  
Medical Terminology - CLAS 1030

## Grade Trends

- Strong science and overall GPAs are essential.
- Positive grade trends matter
- Negative grade trends are cause for concern (repeated withdrawals, poor science grades, excessive science coursework outside UGA)

Show you can handle rigorous scientific content.

## Graduate Record Examination

Most PT schools require the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The GRE consists of three sections: Quantitative, Verbal, and Essay. There are no specific courses that you need to take prior to the GRE, but you should plan to dedicate roughly six to eight weeks to exam preparation. Self-study is often sufficient.

Students usually sit for the exam in January-May as they head into the application cycle in June. The GRE is offered via University Testing Services on a regular basis.

## General Information

There is no “best” major for pre-PT students. Instead, you are encouraged to pursue a major you are genuinely interested in as that will help you excel.

The main difference between PT and OT is that OT focuses on improving a client’s ability to perform activities of daily living (ADL), and PT focuses on improving a client’s ability to perform movement of the human body. You can earn a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree (3 years).

The Early Decision (ED) program is a binding option for applicants who have decided that a program is their first choice and that they will enroll if accepted. As an ED applicant, you can apply to only one PTCAS program until a decision on your application has been made the program. The ED deadline is typically in mid-August, so students must complete their PTCAS applications quite early to be eligible for this process.



## Volunteering & Extracurriculars

- Leadership and consistency matter
- Research is not a requirement, though if you have an interest in research it can help to diversify your experiences
- Diversity of experiences is most important for applications.
- Focus on strong engagement in few activities

## Shadowing

- Recommended: 100+ hours across 3–4 diverse settings
- Schools value depth and diversity in involvement— focus on quality, not quantity
- Always check what your target school requires. Shadowing requirements can vary among schools.
- You must record your hours on the official PTCAS form log and have the PT that you are shadowing sign off on them.

## Letters of Evaluation

- Large lecture classes make it harder to connect, so be intentional in building relationships with professors
- Attend office hours regularly
- Engage during class & labs
- Develop relationships over a period of time for a strong letter

Most PT schools require three letters of evaluation. Requirements can vary between schools, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have collected the correct letters for their program of interest.

Generally, programs expect students to provide:

- one letter from a Physical Therapist
- one letter from a faculty member (some schools require this to be a major professor)
- one professional (employer, research mentor, etc.)

## Choose Letter Writers Wisely

- Pick people who know you well
- Choose strong, specific letters over generic letters
- Ask early and give plenty of notice

Students should select what they believe will be the most compelling letter.

## Georgia Physical Therapy Program Application Dates

Institution	Application Period	Matriculation Date
Augusta University	July - December	May
Brenau University	July - March	May
Emory University	July - October	June
Georgia State University	July - October	June
GA Southern (Armstrong)	July - October	May
Mercer University	July - October	August
University of North Georgia	July - October	May
Georgia-PCOM	July - December	September