Physical Therapy (PT) is a health care specialty involved with evaluating, diagnosing, and treating disorders of the musculoskeletal system. The ultimate goal of Physical Therapy is to restore maximal functional independence to each individual patient. To achieve this goal, physical modalities such as exercise, heat, cold, electricity, and massage are utilized. Physical Therapy is useful in treating many different medical disorders. Sport and orthopedic injuries, neurological and muscular illness, as well as cardiopulmonary diseases are only a few pathologic conditions which Physical Therapy plays a treatment role in.

Physical Therapists are licensed health care professionals with a master’s or doctorate degree in Physical Therapy. These professionals evaluate, diagnose, and manage the Physical Therapy treatment plan, customizing it to each individual’s needs.

The Pre-Physical Therapy program at Pitt-Bradford prepares students for graduate studies in physical therapy at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Upon successful completion of a Bachelors degree (including the minimum pre-requisite requirements) students can pursue graduate studies in physical therapy.

Required Skills:
Active Listening
Communication (Oral & Written)
Critical Thinking
Problem Solving
Instruction
Organization
Customer Service

Possible Employers:
Hospital
Physical Therapist Office
Rehabilitation Facility
Health Care Facility
Home Health Care Service
Sports Team

The Pre-Physical Therapy program at Pitt-Bradford prepares students for graduate studies in Physical Therapy. After earning a bachelor’s degree students are eligible to apply to a graduate program like the University of Pittsburgh’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Pitt-Bradford students interest in this profession usually select an undergraduate major like Biology, Psychology or Exercise Science while completing the Pre-Physical Therapy course requirements (see back) in preparation for graduate school.

To be eligible for admission to the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, candidates must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree. No specific major is mandated, but specific prerequisite courses must be completed prior to application. The Physical Therapy program is three years in length, the last year being a full-time clinical affiliation. This curriculum prepares physical therapists to be self-directed, self-accountable generalists who are capable of practicing in a cost-effective manner in a variety of settings. Graduates with these capabilities will have a foundation on which to develop specialty theory and skills. We fully expect our graduates to contribute positively to the further development of the PT profession.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:
American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)  www.apta.org
Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)  www.fsbpt.org
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  www.aapmr.org
Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association (PPTA)  www.ppta.org

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CAREERS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY AT:
Career Services  www.upb.pitt.edu/career.aspx
The University of Pittsburgh’s program is a Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The student will complete a bachelor’s degree at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and then apply to the University of Pittsburgh’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS). No specific bachelor’s degree is mandated, but biology, psychology, exercise science, and athletic training are majors commonly chosen. Any bachelor’s degree must include the following courses:

**PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY PRE-REQUISITES**

- BIOL 0101 Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology
- BIOL 0102 Introduction to Biodiversity
- BIOL 0212/0222 Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL 0213/0223 Anatomy and Physiology II
- CHEM 0101 General Chemistry I
- CHEM 0102 General Chemistry II
- ENG 010 English Composition I
- PHYS 0101 Introduction to Physics I
- PHYS 0102 Introduction to Physics II
- PSY 0101 Introduction to Psychology
- PSY 0202 Child Psychology OR PSY 0206 Abnormal Psychology
- PSY 0201 Statistics OR ECON 0204 Statistical Methods or MATH 0133 Statistics

In addition to earning a bachelor’s degree and completing the required courses listed above, the student must:
- Earn a minimum overall quality point average (QPA) of 3.00
- Earn a 3.0 QPA in the prerequisite courses,
- Complete the Graduate Record Examination (GRE),
- Three letters of recommendation: 1 from a licensed physical therapist, 1 from college level professor, 1 from either of the following: a licensed physical therapist or a supervisor/employer,
- Demonstrate evidence of adequate exposure to the field of physical therapy and appreciation of the breadth, depth, and scope of practice. The can be accomplished through either volunteer or paid experience in a physical therapy setting.

Rehabilitation Sciences offers a freshman guarantee to the physical therapy doctoral program.

**Pitt Freshman Guarantee:** Students must apply for this guarantee the very first time they register as freshman at Pitt-Bradford by specifying physical therapy and then the Office of Enrollment Services will automatically review for granting of the guarantee. If all PT admissions criteria are met, the student is automatically accepted into the doctoral program and will not have to compete for admission, but they will have to apply for admission during the senior year of their undergraduate program.

University of Pittsburgh Freshman Guarantee in Physical Therapy in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences:
- Indicate PREPT Pre-physical therapy on the admissions application and/or on first registration as freshman at Pitt-Bradford,
- Minimum pre-2005 SAT score of 1410 (combined Critical Reading and Math) or 30 ACT Composite score,
- Complete an undergraduate degree at Pitt-Bradford with an overall QPA of 3.5 or higher, as well as a QPA of 3.5 or higher in the prerequisite courses,
- Achieve minimum scores at the 50th percentile on the verbal and quantitative sections and a score of 3.5 on the Analytical Section of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE),
- Demonstrate evidence of adequate exposure to the field of physical therapy.

Please note that transfer credits will be re-evaluated by the University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

**Program Contact:** Mr. Mark Kelley, 163 Sports & Fitness Center, mfk7@pitt.edu, 814.362.0984

**GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

2.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average, 120 Earned Credit Hours, 30 Hours of Upper Level Courses (1000 level or above)

NOTE: This guide is unofficial. Completing the requirements on this sheet does NOT guarantee degree completion. Official degree completion information can be found in [MY.PITT.EDU](http://MY.PITT.EDU). Contact your Faculty Advisor and/or the Registrar’s Office with questions or concerns.