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

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](http://www.apta.org)
- Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org)
- American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation [www.aapmr.org](http://www.aapmr.org)
- Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association (PPTA) [www.ppta.org](http://www.ppta.org)

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CAREERS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY AT:**
- Career Services [www.upb.pitt.edu/career.aspx](http://www.upb.pitt.edu/career.aspx)
Pre-Physical Therapy – Curriculum Guide

Student Name: ___________________________  Advisor: ___________________________

The University of Pittsburgh’s program is an entry-level 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 sports medicine are majors commonly chosen. Any bachelor’s degree must include the following courses:

**PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY PRE-REQUISITES**
- BIOL 0101 Introduction to Biodiversity
- BIOL 0102 Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology
- 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;
- Score 1000 or better on the Graduate Record Examination Verbal & Quantitative sections (a minimum of 500 on each) and a minimum score of 3.5 on the Analytical section;
- Have physical therapy experience in more than one setting.

(Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements for admission may be admitted provisionally if strong supporting evidence of their ability to complete a graduate program is provided.)

**Pitt Freshman Guarantee**

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 1200,
- Complete an undergraduate degree at Pitt-Bradford with an overall QPA of 3.3 or higher, as well as a QPA of 3.3 or higher in the prerequisite courses,
- Achieve a combined score of 1000 or greater on the Verbal, Quantitative sections and a minimum 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. Contact your Faculty Advisor and/or the Registrar’s Office with questions or concerns.