**PREPARING FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY TRAINING**

Most physical therapist education programs require applicants to earn a bachelor's degree prior to admission into a professional physical therapy program.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Certain coursework

Good GPA

Test scores (GRE)

Experience

Recommendations

A competitive applicant for PT programs will have taken the recommended coursework (see below), have a GPA of 3.3-3.5, taken the GRE, have good references, and have some PT experience (shadowing, observation, volunteer etc . . .).

There is some variation in the pre-requisite coursework needed at the undergraduate level. Below is a listing of LU courses that meet the minimum undergraduate coursework required by most programs. Also listed is some additional coursework that may be required by some programs.

**Minimum Pre-Requisites:**

Biol 130 – Cells to Organisms

Biol 150 – Organisms to Ecosystems

Biol 310 - Human anatomy

Biol 370 - Human physiology

Chem 116 – Energetics and Dynamics

(may need 115 Structure and Reactivity)

Phys 141 – Principles of Mechanics

Statistics (Math 107, 207, or Biol 170)

Psyc 100 – Principles of Psychology

Psyc 270 – Social Psychology

**Additional courses for some programs:**

Another biology course

Another chemistry course

Another physics course (req by UW-

Milwaukee)

Another math course

Another one or two psychology courses

Usually a biology major works well for preparing for physical therapy school. A psychology or chemistry major also works well.

**PROGRAM COST and LENGTH**

The length of professional physical therapy programs is typically 3 years and the average cost per year for programs in 2011 were as follows:

* Public: **$18,390**
* Private: **$37,041**

**LICENSING**

To practice as a physical therapist in the US, you must earn a PT degree from a CAPTE-accredited physical therapist education program and pass a state licensure exam.

**PROGRAMS attended by LU ALUMS**

Drexel University, Marquette University, Northwestern University, UW-La Crosse