Pre-Physical Therapy Program

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

4+2$^{1}/_{2}$ Program Leading to Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree

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Related Graduate Study at Arcadia University

Doctor of Physical Therapy

About the Pre-Physical Therapy Program

This is a 4+2$^{1}/_{2}$ year program leading to the Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degree from Arcadia University. Students frequently pursue an undergraduate major in a discipline such as Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Sociology, Business or Health Administration, but students can choose any major that captures their interest and that enables them to complete the prerequisite courses.

Prerequisite courses needed for graduate-level study include Biology, Human Physiology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology and Statistics. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) advocates a strong liberal arts background and doctoral training. Its Vision Statement says that by 2020, physical therapy "will be provided by physical therapists who are doctors of physical therapy and who may be board-certified specialists." The 4+2$^{1}/_{2}$ year program offered by Arcadia University—four years of study leading to a bachelor's degree plus 2$^{1}/_{2}$ years of graduate study leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy—meets these recommendations.

The Pre-Physical Therapy program emphasizes the sciences but also includes a well-rounded background in the liberal arts. This combination prepares students for a health care profession in helping people to overcome the effects of disease and injury and in the prevention of health problems.

Students who complete the program are prepared to work as physical therapists in a variety of settings, including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, sports medicine centers, private homes, nursing homes, schools, private practices, specialized pediatric facilities, and wellness/fitness centers. They also can work as educators, researchers and consultants in a wide variety of organizations.

Students in the Pre-Physical Therapy program pursue any major that enables them to complete the prerequisite courses. Students are strongly urged to work closely with the adviser from the chosen major to coordinate the requirements of the major and the prerequisite courses for graduate-level professional work. It is expected that the prerequisite courses listed below are taken at Arcadia University.

The graduate Physical Therapy program recommends that students take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) before their senior year. Arcadia undergraduate students who want to be considered for Assured Admission must have a completed application into Enrollment Management by **December 15, the academic year of graduation.**

What constitutes a completed application?

A completed application is the application and all of the supporting documents (recommendations, GRE scores, and transcripts). **Arcadia University students applying for assured admission must have their completed applications delivered to Arcadia University no later than December 15, the academic year of graduation.** Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete all components of their application well in advance of the priority deadline of December 15 to allow time for the centralized application service (PTCAS) to verify and forward the application to Arcadia. **THIS CAN TAKE AS LONG AS SIX WEEKS.** Applications are **NOT** reviewed until **ALL** materials are received by Arcadia. (This includes the PTCAS application, the required recommendations, and GRE scores.)

For those who are trying to meet the Assured Admission requirements, all of the criteria in the Arcadia University Undergraduate Catalog (by appropriate year of entry) must be met at the time of the application deadline; however, not all of the prerequisite courses need to be completed to apply or to be accepted. If

accepted any remaining prerequisite courses need to be completed with a "**C**" or better in order to start the Physical Therapy Program.

Upon acceptance into the program under the Assured Admission category, students will be required to pay a deposit by January 15 in order to reserve a seat in the class. Scholarships are based on merit and any offer of scholarships or other assistance will be made known to the student upon the offer of acceptance.

Students whose credentials do not meet the requirements that assure them automatic admission to the D.P.T. program still may apply. They will be considered in relation to other qualified candidates in the general applicant pool. To maintain the ongoing quality of the Physical Therapy program, the University reserves the right to limit the enrollment in all its offerings.

Pathways to Study Abroad in Physical Therapy

Pre-Physical Therapy majors are encouraged to spend a semester studying abroad. Many exciting opportunities are available. Sophomore year is the most convenient time for students to study abroad. Fall semester of the junior or senior year also is possible. Since 1997, students have taken a range of biology courses in Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition, students have completed Undergraduate Curriculum requirements while studying abroad at some of the top universities around the world through Arcadia's College of Global Studies. Students also have completed independent research projects or internships.

Visit the University's Web site for Pathways to Study Abroad (www.arcadia.edu/pathways) and suggested course sequences. Since it is important that students plan ahead for study abroad, they should consult with their advisers as soon as possible and make their intentions known to the Department Chair and the Associate Dean of International Affairs.

Minimum Requirements for Assured Admission to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

For Arcadia University Graduates

Prerequisite courses must be taken through the appropriate department; e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology.

Requirements for Students Who Enter Arcadia University as Freshmen

These requirements apply to students who begin their undergraduate education at Arcadia University as freshmen (first-year students).

1. Students must have completed the following courses at Arcadia University:
    - Four courses in Biology, including BI 206 Human Physiology
    - Two courses in Chemistry with lab
    - General Physics I and II with lab
    - One course in Psychology **and** one course from the following: Anthropology, Psychology, or Sociology
    - One course in Statistics
2. A minimum 3.2 overall GPA is required, calculated on all courses taken at any college or university.
3. A minimum 3.2 GPA is required in all courses taken in prerequisite areas at Arcadia and elsewhere. A grade of "**C**" or better must be earned in the minimum prerequisite courses listed above. (A "**C–**" is unacceptable for prerequisite credit.) When calculating the prerequisite GPA, the University includes all courses in the various areas. Courses taken in prerequisite areas that were graded on a pass/fail basis will not be calculated into the prerequisite GPA.
4. A minimum total score of 1,050 is required for the verbal and quantitative portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), with no single test score below 450. A minimum score of 4 is required for the analytic portion of the exam. **This exam should be taken** before **beginning the senior year**.

5. Students must have knowledge of the profession through work or volunteer experience in a clinical setting. Students must document exposure to more than one practice setting (e.g., hospital-based inpatient units, hospital-based outpatient departments, private or corporate-owned outpatient clinics, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools, and subacute units).
6. Students must provide one recommendation from a practicing physical therapist.
7. Students must complete the last four semesters as full-time students at Arcadia University. This requirement may be waived for students who choose to study abroad during one of their last four semesters.
8. Students must earn a bachelor's degree from Arcadia University.
9. Students desiring assured admission must apply by the December 15 deadline in the academic year of graduation from Arcadia University.

Requirements for Students Who Transfer to Arcadia University

Transfer students who pursue an interest in Pre-Physical Therapy with assured admission to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program must meet the criteria for freshmen students as well as the following:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 15 credits per semester and no fewer than 64 credits over the last four semesters of work at Arcadia University, excluding summers. This requirement may be waived for students who choose to study abroad during one of their last four semesters.
2. Seven courses in the prerequisite areas must be taken at Arcadia University.
3. Students must complete BI 206 Human Physiology at Arcadia University or a 300-level Biology course with a lab (if Human Physiology is already completed elsewhere). All courses used toward the minimum prerequisite biological and physical science requirements must be taken through the appropriate science departments (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Physics).
4. Students may transfer two Psychology courses for the Pre-Physical Therapy prerequisites. If students are transferring only one Psychology course, then they must either take a second Psychology course (other than PY 111) or a course in Anthropology or Sociology.
5. Students who transfer more than four prerequisite courses must take additional advanced courses to satisfy prerequisite requirements. These additional courses must be taken in one of the following areas: Biology, Chemistry, Statistics/Mathematics, Physics, or Psychology.
6. Students desiring assured admission must apply by the December 15 deadline in the academic year of graduation from Arcadia University.

International applicants should visit *www.arcadia.edu/international* for detailed information on admission requirements and application procedures. TOEFL/IELTS results are required for all students for whom English is a second language or who have not earned degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g., the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an independent evaluation service based in the United States also is required.

Students whose credentials do not meet requirements that assure admission to the doctoral program may still apply. They must meet the minimum requirements of the general applicant pool by the time of application and will be considered in relation to other qualified candidates. Please see the Graduate Catalog for the minimum requirements.