

PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAMS AT CALVIN COLLEGE

The training for physical therapy is undergoing a shift in the next several years to programs which award the Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degrees. Physical Therapists are expected to soon hold all privileges of autonomous practice in most states, providing direct access care to patients without requiring physician referral. Beginning in 2020, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association will accredit only D.P.T. programs, so most schools that currently offer Masters of Science (M.S.) degrees in physical therapy are currently developing D.P.T. programs. The traditional route (and that taken by most students) is one in which students complete a B.S. or B.A. degree with a major concentration in any area so long as the specific prerequisite courses for the program of interest are also taken. During the senior year, they apply for acceptance into the professional programs for the three-year professional training. Andrews University, a Seventh Day Adventist school in Berrien Springs offers an attractive alternative avenue. Minimally, three years of college prerequisite courses are required for acceptance into the program. After acceptance and completion of the fourth year (at Andrews University), a B.S. degree is awarded. Two years later, the D.P.T. is awarded (after the sixth and final year).

Calvin College has an articulation agreement with Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College for the Health Professions at Central Michigan University (CMU) to guarantee acceptance of up to two Calvin graduates per year who have a combined GPA of at least 3.25 and who have completed the prerequisite requirements. The PT program at CMU is an excellent one and represents a great opportunity for Calvin students. Opportunities to shadow Physical Therapists in various areas of Michigan can be obtained by contacting the Director of Admissions for the CMU program, Clint Fitzpatrick at fitzp1tc@cmich.edu. He maintains a database of CMU PT graduates who have offered the opportunity to shadow them in their work.

The prerequisite courses differ somewhat between professional schools; those for schools in Michigan are listed on the reverse side of this page. Students desiring to apply to other schools should obtain a catalog from the school and contact the program advisor at Calvin to evaluate the course equivalence requirements. Because Physical Therapy is a very competitive field, many programs require a 3.0 minimum grade point average and most require work or observational experience in the field of physical therapy. This work experience can be obtained through the Service-Learning Center (S-LC) on campus in which students are placed in non-profit hospitals or clinics for volunteer work to be conducted under the supervision of, and verified by, a registered physical therapist. This experience can also be obtained via a paid position as a PT aide. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Richard Nyhof (616-526-6347, e-mail: nyhr@calvin.edu), Department of Biology, Calvin College, 1726 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). CAPTE is nationally recognized as an accrediting agency by the US Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Graduation from an accredited program is required for licensure to practice physical therapy in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

More information is available from the web site of the American Physical Therapy Association at www.apta.org; a link from that site (Areas of Interest, Education, Accreditation, PT Programs, Accredited Programs, PT Programs) with a complete listing of U.S. educational programs is at:

http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?section=PT_Programs&template=/aptaapps/accreditedschools/acc_schools_map.cfm&process=3&type=PT

Canadian PT programs are listed at: www.physiotherapy.ca/univprogs.htm

PREREQUISITE COURSES FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAMS IN MICHIGAN

Grand Valley State University

(www.gvsu.edu/pt)

3 yr., 40 students, D.P.T.

Biology 141, 205 (or 323), and 206 (or 331)

Chemistry 103, 104 (as prerequisite for physiology)

Mathematics 143 (or Psychology 255 for Psych. majors), and 110 or a calculus course

Psychology 151 and 201

Sociology 151 or 314

Physics 221 and 222

Physical Education 325

50 hours minimum observational experience

GRE General Exam

The University of Michigan, Flint Campus

(www.umflint.edu/pt)

3 yr., 36 students, D.P.T.

Biology 141, 205, 206, + one Biology course

Chemistry 103, 104

Psychology 151 and 201

Sociology 151

Mathematics 110 (or equivalent) and 143 (or Psychology 255)

Physics 221 and 222

Medical Terminology - offered through HPERDS by independent study

CPR and First Aid certification

60 hours minimum observational experience

GRE General Exam

Oakland University

(<http://www2.oakland.edu/shs/pt/>) 3 yr., D.P.T.

Biology 141, 205 (or 323), and 206 (or 331)

Chemistry 103 and 104

Mathematics 110 (or equivalent) and 143 (or Psychology 255)

Physics 221 and 222

Psychology 151 and 201

Physical Education 325

CPR and first aid certification

GRE General Exam

Central Michigan University

(www.chp.cmich.edu/pt/facts.htm) 3 yr.,

about 40 students, D.P.T.

Biology 141, 205 (or 323), 206 (or 331)

Chemistry 103 and 104

Mathematics 110 or equivalent, and Math 143 or Psychology 255

Physics 221 and 222

Psychology 151, 201, 212

GRE General Exam

Wayne State University

(<http://pt.cphs.wayne.edu/>) 3.5 yr., 36 students, D.P.T. (need 90 semester hours of credits, B.S. or B.A. not required)

English 101 and 201

Biology 141, 242, and 331

Chemistry 103, 104, and 253

Mathematics 110 (or equivalent) and 143 (or Psychology 255)

Physics 221 and 222

Psychology 151, 201

Physical Education 325

+ a minimum of 6 additional credits in upper division (300 level or above) concentrated in ONE of the following areas: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, or Exercise Science
CPR and first aid certification

Andrews University

(www.andrews.edu/PHTH/)

D.P.T. (3 yr.) in Berrien Springs, M.S.O.T. (2 yr.) in Dayton, OH

Biology 141, 205, 206, a 300-level human Biology course, or 141, 242, and 331

Chemistry 103 and 104

Communication Arts and Sciences 101

English 101 and 201

Mathematics 110 (or equivalent) and 143 (or Psychology 255)

Medical Terminology - offered through HPERDS by independent study

Psychology 151, 201

Physics 221 and 222

Sociology 151 or 153, or Economics 151 or Political Science 101

IDIS 110 (RIT or FIT)