

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Summary of program

- Cohort size: 45 admitted per year
- Total program credits: 111 credits (with option for four additional elective credits)
- Curriculum length: 34 months
- Didactic study: 86 weeks (1708-1806 contact hours)
- Full time clinical study: 42 weeks (1680 contact hours)
- Terminal internships: 36 weeks

Program requirements

Admission

It is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Physical Therapy Program that all students who desire admission to the program must meet the requirements and complete the admission (<https://www.uwlax.edu/grad/physical-therapy/admission-requirements/>) process by the posted deadlines. Admission to the program is competitive. All applications will be carefully reviewed, adhering to the procedure detailed below. All applicants, regardless of professional or academic background, must meet the following requirements for admission.

- All required application materials must be submitted to PTCAS by the program's deadline.
- A non-refundable program application fee is required of all applicants.
- Complete an online asynchronous interview process. All interviews are conducted using an online learning platform called Canvas where students record their responses to a series of interview questions for review by the program's Admissions Committee.
- All ten prerequisite courses (listed below) must be completed prior to beginning the program. Students may apply with outstanding courses if they demonstrate a plan to complete those courses before matriculating in the program.
- Submission of official Graduate Review Exam (GRE) scores directly from ETS taken within the last five years. GRE minimums: 143 verbal, 143 quantitative, 3.0 written.
- Achieve an undergraduate cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0.
- Achieve a GPA of 3.0 in the prerequisites courses (listed below).
- Completed undergraduate degree by the time of entry into the program. Select students may be able to enter the program prior to receiving their undergraduate degree under dual-degree agreements. (At UWL, such agreements exist with the Departments of Physics and Biology.)

Prerequisite requirements

All applicants must successfully complete the following prerequisite courses:

Code	Title	Credits
	General Biology (Lab)	4
	Human Anatomy (Lab)	4
	Human Physiology (Lab)	4
	Chemistry (Lab)	8

Physics (Lab)	8
Statistics	3
Psychology	3
Psychology or Sociology	3

Admission to the Physical Therapy Program at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse is based on academic and personal qualifications considered necessary for a successful and competent entry level physical therapist. The UWL Physical Therapy Program grants the privilege of admission to applicants who have met the criteria set by the Physical Therapy Admissions Committee.

Curriculum

Classroom and laboratory learning (listed in order of enrollment)

110 credits (includes internship credits)

Courses are taken at UWL.

Code	Title	Credits
PTS 509	Human Gross Anatomy	3
PTS 510	Applied Human Gross Anatomy	3
PTS 512	Medical Physiology	4
PTS 520	Introduction to Physical Therapy Practice and Evaluation Techniques	1
PTS 521	Applied Introduction to Physical Therapy Practice and Evaluation Techniques	2
PTS 516	Physiological Regulation of Exertion and Disease	1
PTS 517	Applied Physiological Regulation of Exertion and Disease	1
PTS 527	Clinical Foundations of the Physical Therapy Examination	3
PTS 528	Applied Clinical Foundations of the Physical Therapy Examination	2
PTS 523	Physical Agents	1
PTS 524	Applied Physical Agents	1
PTS 525	Kinesiology and Biomechanics of Normal and Abnormal Movement	2
PTS 526	Applied Biomechanics and Kinesiology of Movement	1
PTS 535	Functional Neuroanatomy	2
PTS 536	Applied Functional Neuroanatomy	1
PTS 651	Fieldwork: Introduction to Clinical Learning	1
PTS 518	Motor Control, Learning and Development	1
PTS 519	Applied Motor Control, Learning, and Development	1
PTS 545	Foundations of Clinical Research	2
PTS 546	Applied Foundations of Clinical Research	1
PTS 611	Pathophysiology and Differential Diagnosis	3
PTS 619	Early Intervention and Acute Care Physical Therapy	2
PTS 620	Applied Early Intervention and Acute Care Physical Therapy	1
PTS 627	Therapeutic Exercise and Manual Therapy	1
PTS 628	Applied Therapeutic Exercise and Manual Therapy	1
PTS 625	Physical Therapy Management of the Cardiovascular/Pulmonary System	3
PTS 626	Applied Physical Therapy Management of the Cardiovascular/Pulmonary System	1

PTS 631	Professionalism and the Ethos of Care	2
PTS 542	Research and Applied Statistics	3
PTS 543	Instrumentation for Human Movement	1
PTS 544	Applied Instrumentation for Human Movement	1
PTS 623	Integument System	1
PTS 624	Applied Integument System	1
PTS 728	Musculoskeletal Evaluation and Treatment: Spine	2
PTS 729	Applied Musculoskeletal Evaluation and Treatment: Spine	1
PTS 751	Fieldwork: General Practice	2
PTS 701	Applied Adult Clinical Practice (required in two semesters)	2
PTS 709	Health and Wellness in Physical Therapy Practice	1
PTS 711	Pharmacology	2
PTS 712	Clinical Radiology	1
PTS 715	Musculoskeletal Examination and Intervention: Lower Extremity	2
PTS 716	Applied Musculoskeletal Examination and Interventions: Lower Extremity	1
PTS 717	Clinical Teaching	1
PTS 718	Applied Clinical Teaching	1
PTS 735	Adult Neurorehabilitative Physical Therapy I	2
PTS 736	Applied Adult Neurorehabilitative Physical Therapy I	1
PTS 739	Adult Neurorehabilitative Physical Therapy II	1
PTS 740	Applied Adult Neurorehabilitative Physical Therapy II	1
PTS 741	Evidenced Based Practice in Physical Therapy	2
PTS 742	Research Practicum	1
PTS 710	Applied Health and Wellness in Physical Therapy Practice	1
PTS 737	Musculoskeletal Examination and Intervention: Upper Extremity	2
PTS 738	Applied Musculoskeletal Examination and Interventions: Upper Extremity	1
PTS 730	Physical Therapy for Children	3
PTS 731	Applied Physical Therapy for Children	1
PTS 733	Health Administration	3
PTS 742	Research Practicum	1
PTS 702	Contemporary Practice in Neuromusculoskeletal Physical Therapy	1
Total Credits		92

Internships (taken off campus)

19 credits

Focus of internship may occur in different order per student.

Code	Title	Credits
PTS 851	Clinical Education Experience I	6
PTS 831	Clinical Decision Making	1
PTS 852	Clinical Education Experience II	6
PTS 853	Clinical Education Experience III	6

Total Credits **19**

Elective courses (optional)

Code	Title	Credits
PTS 700	Selected Topics in Physical Therapy	1-3
PTS 703	Clinical Anatomy Review	1
PTS 798	Independent Study	1-3
PTS 854	Capstone Project	1

University requirements

University graduate degree requirements

After being admitted to the program of one's choice, candidates for a graduate degree must:

1. Complete any preliminary course work and deficiencies.
2. Complete all courses and other program requirements, including residence requirements prescribed for the degree desired in the respective school or college within a seven-year period from the date of initial enrollment, with the exception of students enrolled in the Student Affairs Administration and Leadership Ed.D. (SAA Ed.D.) graduate program. SAA Ed.D. students must complete all degree requirements within ten years from the time of initial enrollment in the graduate program.
3. Earn a minimum of 30 credits for a master's degree; 54 credits for a doctorate or post-master's degree. Earn at least one-half of the minimum number of credits required in the program in graduate-only level courses (700, 800, 900, and non-slash 600 level courses). Some UWL graduate programs require more than 30 graduate credits. Please review the individual program requirements (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/graduate/programrequirements/>) listed in the catalog for the exact number of credits required.
4. Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00.
5. Satisfy dissertation, thesis, seminar paper, terminal/graduate projects and internships, or comprehensive examination, where applicable. A dissertation or thesis approved by the committee must be submitted to Graduate & Extended Learning for editorial review and approval by the Dean of Graduate & Extended Learning. The recommended initial submission date for review is two weeks before commencement. Ordinarily, a seminar paper or project report does not have to be approved by the Dean of Graduate & Extended Learning. However, if the seminar paper or project report is to be archived in Murphy Library, the student must follow the same rules as they apply to the dissertation/thesis requiring approval from the Dean of Graduate & Extended Learning. For further research/dissertation/thesis guidelines (<https://www.uwlax.edu/gel/graduate-education/thesis-and-dissertation/>), see Graduate & Extended Learning.
6. File a completed "Intent to Graduate" form online via the WINGS Student Center immediately following registration for the final semester or summer term in residence. December graduates and winter intersession should file by May 1. May and summer graduates should file by December 1.
7. Pay the graduation fee and remove all other indebtedness to the university. Payment of graduation fees does not imply readiness for graduation and does not take the place of applying for graduation.
8. Complete all requirements within 30 days after the official ending date of a term in order for a degree to be awarded for that term. (See #5 above for separate deadline for written capstone experience.)

Sample degree plan

Classroom and laboratory learning

Year 1

Summer (10 weeks)	Credits Fall (14 weeks)	Credits Winter Intersession (2 weeks)	Credits Spring (14 weeks)	Credits
PTS 509	3 PTS 516	1 PTS 651	1 PTS 518	1
PTS 510	3 PTS 517	1	PTS 519	1
PTS 512	4 PTS 523	1	PTS 535	2
PTS 520	1 PTS 524	1	PTS 536	1
PTS 521	2 PTS 525	2	PTS 545	2
	PTS 526	1	PTS 546	1
	PTS 527	3	PTS 619	2
	PTS 528	2	PTS 620	1
	PTS 611	3	PTS 625	3
			PTS 626	1
			PTS 627	1
			PTS 628	1
	13	15	1	17

Year 2

Summer (8 weeks):	Credits Fall (14 weeks)	Credits	Spring Credits (14 weeks)	Credits
PTS 542	3 PTS 701	1	PTS 701	1
PTS 543	1 PTS 709	1	PTS 702	1
PTS 544	1 PTS 631	2	PTS 710	1
PTS 623	1 PTS 712	1	PTS 711	2
PTS 624	1 PTS 715	2	PTS 730	3
PTS 728	2 PTS 716	1	PTS 731	1
PTS 729	1 PTS 717	1	PTS 733	3
August (4 weeks):	PTS 718	1	PTS 737	2
PTS 751	2 PTS 735	2	PTS 738	1
	PTS 736	1	PTS 739	1
	PTS 741	2	PTS 740	1
	PTS 742	1	PTS 742	1
	12	16		18

Year 3

Summer (12 weeks)	Credits Fall (14 weeks)	Credits	Spring Credits (14 weeks)	Credits
PTS 851 ¹	6 PTS 831	1	PTS 853 (12 weeks) ¹	6
	PTS 852 (12 weeks) ¹	6		
	6	7		6

Total Credits: 111

¹ Internship I, II, III: Inpatient, Outpatient, and Autonomous Practice. However, focus of internship may occur in different order per student.