

Admissions

The College of Health Sciences Physical Therapy Program considers for admission those students who possess the academic and professional promise necessary for development as competent, caring members of the healthcare community. To select these candidates, a competitive admissions framework has been established. Within this competitive admissions framework, multiple criteria are used to select the most qualified candidates from an applicant pool that exceeds the number of seats available.

The Midwestern University Physical Therapy Program uses the Centralized Application Service for Physical Therapy Schools (PTCAS) for students applying to the Program. All applicants to the Physical Therapy Program are required to submit their applications to PTCAS (<http://www.ptcas.org>) with all required materials by December 15. Please refer to the PTCAS website for instructions on submission of PTCAS application materials.

The Physical Therapy program operates on a rolling admissions basis in which completed applications are reviewed throughout the admissions cycle to determine applicant eligibility for interviews. Interviews are typically conducted during the winter and spring. Admission decisions are generally made within one month of the interview.

Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to the Physical Therapy Program must submit the following documented evidence:

1. Completion of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university
2. Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 and a minimum science GPA of 2.90 on a 4.00 scale
3. Completion of prerequisite courses totaling 40 semester/58 quarter credits as listed from regionally accredited colleges or universities
 - Grades of "C" or better (grades of "C -" are NOT acceptable) are required in each course
4. Minimum requirement of 30 hours of observation, volunteerism, or work in a physical therapy setting
5. Demonstration of a people or service orientation through community service or extracurricular activities
6. Motivation for and commitment to healthcare as demonstrated by previous work, volunteer work, or other life experiences
7. Oral and written communication skills necessary to interact with patients and colleagues
8. Commitment to abide by the Midwestern University Drug-Free Workplace and Substance Abuse Policy
9. Passage of the Midwestern University criminal background check

Prerequisite Courses

Science Courses

Biology with lab	4 Semester/6 Quarter hours
Human/Vertebrate Anatomy with lab	3 Semester/4 Quarter hours
Human/Vertebrate Physiology	3 Semester/4 Quarter hours
General Chemistry with lab	4 Semester/6 Quarter hours
General Physics with lab	8 Semester/12 Quarter hours

General Courses

Math (college algebra or above)	3 Semester/4 Quarter hours
Statistics (should include inferential statistics)	3 Semester/4 Quarter hours
English--must include at least one composition course (oral communication/public speaking is recommended)	6 Semester/9 Quarter hours
Social & Behavioral Sciences (at least one course in psychology)	6 Semester/ 9 Quarter hours

Application Process and Deadlines

1. **PTCAS Application**

Applicants are required to submit their applications to PTCAS at <http://www.ptcas.org> by December 15th. Please refer to the PTCAS application instructions for specific details about completing the application, required documents, and processing time. The PTCAS application should be available for applicants beginning during the summer months. Due to the large number of applications and the limited number of seats available, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete their PTCAS application early in the cycle. Midwestern University operates on a rolling admissions basis where applications are reviewed throughout the admissions cycle.

2. **Letters of Recommendation**

Applicants are required to submit a minimum of two letters of recommendation from professionals to PTCAS (<http://www.ptcas.org>). The Office of Admissions will only accept letters of recommendation received directly from PTCAS. It is preferred that one letter is written by a science professor who has actually taught the student or a pre-health advisory committee. The second letter can be written by any one of the following: pre-health advisory committee, pre-health advisor, college professor, or healthcare professional (preferably a physical therapist) who knows the applicant well. The applicant should refer to the PTCAS application instructions for specific guidelines and requirements for submitting letters of recommendation.

3. **Completed Applications**

The Office of Admissions will send letters verifying receipt of PTCAS applications with all required materials to all applicants who meet the minimum cumulative science GPA of 2.90 and overall GPA of 3.00. The letters will also include instructions on checking the status of the required application materials online. Applicants are responsible for tracking the receipt of their application materials and ensuring the submission of all required documents. Only applicants who submit completed applications with all required application materials will be considered for potential entrance into the Program.

Please Note: Applicants are responsible for notifying the Office of Admissions of any changes in their mailing address or email address. All application withdrawal requests must be made in writing via e-mail, fax, or letter to:

Midwestern University
Office of Admissions
555 31st Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: 630/515-7200 or 800/458-6253
Fax: 630/971-6086
e-mail: admissil@midwestern.edu

Interview and Selection Process

When applicants are considered eligible for interviews after review of their completed admissions files, they are notified of available interview dates and invited by the Office of Admissions to schedule an on-campus interview.

A typical interview day involves participation in the following activities, which are coordinated by the Office of Admissions: an interview with at least one interviewer, lunch with current Midwestern University students, a campus tour, and an opportunity to meet with an admissions counselor and a representative from the financial aid office.

During interview sessions, the interviewer questions applicants about their academic, personal, and professional aspirations and preparedness for admission to the Program. The interviewer rates prospective students on a standardized evaluation form. These evaluations are included in the applicant files provided to the Physical Therapy Admissions Committee. The Physical Therapy Admissions Committee meets periodically to review the files of applicants who have been interviewed. The Admissions Committee, which includes the Program Director, makes decisions for action with oversight from the Dean of the College of Health Sciences. The Dean, via the Office of Admissions, notifies each applicant in writing of the admission action/decision.

The Dean of the College of Health Sciences may recommend for an interview, applicants who meet the Program's minimum requirements for which they are applying (e.g. children of alumni, faculty, or staff). These applicants are not guaranteed admission into a Program and will have their application reviewed similarly to other applicants being considered for acceptance. All admissions decisions are made by the program Admissions Committee.

Technical Standards

The Technical Standards set forth the nonacademic abilities considered essential for students to achieve the level of competence required by the faculty to obtain the academic degree awarded by the college.

Candidates must be able to perform the following abilities and skills:

1. **Observation:** The candidate must be able to accurately make observations at a distance and close at hand, including those on a computer screen or electronic device. Observation necessitates the functional use of vision and sense of touch and is enhanced by the functional use of all of the other senses. The candidate must be able to accurately auscultate lung/breath, heart and bowel sounds to complete the curricular requirement to individually complete physical examination of a patient/client.
2. **Communication:** The candidate must be able to communicate in English, proficiently and sensitively, in verbal and written form, and be able to perceive nonverbal communication.
3. **Motor:** Candidates must be able to coordinate both gross and fine motor movements, maintain equilibrium and have functional use of the senses of touch and vision. The candidate must possess sufficient postural control, neuromuscular control and eye-to-hand coordination to perform profession-specific skills and tasks. Candidates must be able to move at least 50 lbs. vertically and horizontally.
4. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** The candidate must be able to problem solve, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, record and synthesize large amounts of information in a timely manner. The candidate must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand spatial relationships.
5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** The candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of the candidate's intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the consistent, prompt completion of all responsibilities, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships. Candidate must be able to tolerate physically, mentally and emotionally taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. The candidate must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, effective interpersonal skills, willingness and ability to function as an effective team player, interest and motivation to learn are all personal qualities required during the educational process. The candidate must agree to participate in touching/palpating on the skin and being touched/palpated on the skin by individuals regardless of gender in all academic settings, including manual techniques. These activities will take place in large and small group settings as directed in the College's curricular requirements.

Candidates are required to verify that they understand and are able to meet these Technical Standards at least 4 weeks prior to matriculation (or if admitted later, within 1 week of deposit). Candidates who may only meet Technical Standards with accommodation, must contact the Office of Student Services to make a formal request

for accommodation. The Dean of Students, in consultation with the College Dean/Program Director, will determine what reasonable accommodations can be provided. The College is not able to grant accommodations that alter the educational standards of the curriculum.

Students must meet the Technical Standards for the duration of enrollment at the College. After matriculation, if a student fails to continue to meet the Technical Standards during subsequent enrollment, the student may apply for accommodation by contacting the Office of Student Services. If the accommodation needed to meet the Technical Standards alters the educational standards of the curriculum, the student's ability to satisfactorily progress in the curriculum will be evaluated by the appropriate College's Student Graduation and Promotion Committee.

Transfer Policy

The Physical Therapy Program does not allow transfer students.

Dual Acceptance Program-University of Saint Francis

The Physical Therapy Program has a dual acceptance agreement with the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, IN. Students may inquire about the agreement through the Office of Admissions at the University of Saint Francis or Midwestern University.

Reapplication Process

Students who receive either a denial or an end-of-cycle letter may reapply for the following year's admissions cycle. Individuals contemplating reapplication should seek the advice of an admissions counselor, prior to reapplying.

To initiate the reapplication process, prospective students must complete and submit new applications and proceed through the standard application process.