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What is the physical therapy program?

The physical therapy program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is an entry-level doctoral program. This means that students must have a bachelor’s degree and have completed all of the pre-requisites prior to admission. Students who successfully complete the program will receive a doctor of physical therapy (DPT) degree and will be eligible to take the national licensure exam for physical therapists.

Where can I fulfill the prerequisite requirements?

You may complete the prerequisite requirements at any accredited community college, or university. However, it is recommended that the majority of the science and math prerequisites be completed at the University level. If you are a current UNLV student or plan to take the prerequisite courses at UNLV and have advising questions on prerequisite courses, please contact the Division of Health Sciences Advising Center first at (702) 895-5448. If you have additional questions after consulting the advising center, please direct them to the chair of the admissions committee, Dr. Keoni Kins, at keoni.kins@unlv.edu. To ensure a timely and accurate response you should provide Dr. Kins with the following information regarding any coursework you hope to apply towards the 11 UNLV PT prerequisite courses:

- Institution where you took the course?
- Was the course semester or quarter based?
- How many credits was the course worth?
- What year did you take the course?
- Supply either the course description from the institution’s course catalog or a course syllabus

What is the length of the physical therapy program?

The professional program is three years in length. This includes didactic coursework and clinical requirements.

Will observation or volunteer hours in health areas other than in a physical therapy department be counted toward admission requirements?

No, only the hours spent observing or volunteering in a physical therapy department, with a licensed physical therapist, (e.g., hospital or outpatient) will be counted toward the hours required for admissions.

How do I get an interview?

If you have submitted a complete application prior to the application deadline on November 1st, the admissions committee will evaluate your application materials including your grades, test scores, personal statement, recommendations and observation or volunteer hours in a physical therapy department. You will then be
notified if you are to have an interview. Interview notifications are typically sent via email during late December and throughout January. Mandatory on-campus interviews are typically conducted the last two Fridays in January each year.

**What GRE score do you require?**

We prefer a composite score of 300 or higher in the verbal and quantitative sections and a 4.0 in the writing section. However, each application is considered on a case-by-case basis for this category. You can take the GRE as many times as you need to obtain these scores. We will take the highest score and not an average. We recommend that the GRE be taken at least 1 month prior to the application deadline.
I am in college. How can I best prepare?

First, examine the courses you have taken to determine which ones could be credited towards completing our prerequisites. If you are unsure which courses to choose, please contact the advising center at (702) 895-5448.

Second, complete the necessary coursework to earn a baccalaureate degree in the field of your choice. Third, if you have not had volunteer work or observation experience in a physical therapy department, please make plans to do so.

Does it matter where I went to school as an undergraduate?

No, you may complete your undergraduate work at any accredited institution. If you have completed your baccalaureate degree outside of the United States or if you are a citizen of another country, you must apply as an international student.

Do Nevada State residents get preference?

Yes, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is a state school, therefore preference is given to residents of Nevada. However, Nevada residents do not receive automatic acceptance. Admission to physical therapy programs is fairly competitive and all completed applications are processed. Nevada residency of graduate students is in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Regents and the laws of Nevada. A full statement of the regulations is available at the Graduate College.

Are scholarships available?

Yes, several scholarships are available to first and second year students through the department of physical therapy. Second year students are also eligible for graduate assistantships. Contact the Financial Services office for more information at (702) 895-3424. See the scholarship resource page on the “current students” page.

Can I work while I am in PT school?

Due to the time intensive nature of the program, outside employment is discouraged.

Can I go to PT school part-time?

No. This is a three-year, full-time program.
Does my degree in physical therapy allow me to practice physical therapy?

No. The degree is a requirement to sit for the state licensure examination. Once the licensure examination has been passed, you are entitled to practice physical therapy in that state.

What If I have a disability?

Contact the Disability Resource Center at (702) 895-0866 for information concerning disabilities and reasonable accommodations.

What is the passing rate for UNLV graduates on the physical therapy licensure exam?

Since 1998, every student who has graduated from the program has passed the licensure exam.

In what area of study should I get my bachelor of science degree?

Many students receive a degree in kinesiology or exercise science to fulfill the prerequisites for physical therapy school in an efficient manner; however, you can get your degree in any area of study as long as you meet the minimum requirements needed to apply.

Do I need to do observation hours in a hospital as well as outpatient clinic, and how many hours are needed?

The minimum amount of observation is 100 hours. Observation must be in two or more different types of physical therapy settings. Examples of PT settings include but are not limited to: inpatient acute care hospitals, inpatient rehab hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, long term acute care facilities, home health, and outpatient clinics. When considering outpatient settings the following would be considered unique settings: orthopedic, a dedicated pediatric clinic, a vestibular/balance clinic, outpatient neuro rehab, and women’s health. Observation in two different orthopedic outpatient clinics does not fulfill this requirement.

How many students are accepted into the program each year?

48 students are accepted per year.

Where can I go for my clinical rotations while I am in physical therapy school?

The school has contracts with multiple clinics throughout the United States.
I have a cumulative GPA of 2.8, but my prerequisite GPA is 3.5, can I still apply?

Applicants must meet all of the minimum requirements to be eligible to be considered for admission to the program. The minimum requirement for your overall undergraduate GPA is 3.0. The minimum requirement for your prerequisite GPA is also 3.0. Last year the average overall GPA was 3.66 and the average prereq GPA was 3.69 among those students admitted to the program.