

Physical Therapists work to improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit the permanent disability of patients suffering from injuries or disease. They evaluate an individual's ability level, plan and implement a program for treatment, and observe and assess a patient's progress as treatment progresses. They may also work with patients who just want to become healthier or reach fitness goals. Note: There are also [Physical Therapy Assistant](#) (PTA) programs. These are Associate Degree programs. The PTA works under the supervision of a Physical Therapist (DPT).

## Degree

A Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) is required. Often this requires a bachelor's degree for acceptance and an additional two to three years of study. Some PT programs are 6 year, direct, first year student entry with limited seats for transfer students. Some do not accept any transfer students. Make sure to research each program for specific information.

***Most MCC students are advised to transfer to a 4-year college or university for Biology, Exercise Science, Kinesiology or another science major, and then apply to DPT programs.***

DPTs must also pass board exams and hold a license to practice.

## Admission

Criteria of importance for acceptance into physical therapy programs may include grade point average, recent work or documented volunteer experience in a direct patient care environment (a specific number of hours may be required), Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, a personal interview, and letters of recommendation. Ability to perform physical tasks may also be assessed. Colleges may have students apply using the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS).

Typical Minimum Prerequisite Courses: two semesters of biology with labs; two semesters of physics with labs; one year of chemistry with labs; one to three semesters of psychology; one semester of statistics, two semesters of anatomy and physiology; two semesters of English. Additional courses may be required by some programs (ex. microbiology, medical terminology).

## Examples of MCC Courses

- BIO 144 & 145 - A & P I and II
- BIO 155 - Intro to Cell & Molecular Biology
- BIO 156 - Intro to Organismal Biology & Ecology
- CHE 151 - General College Chemistry I
- CHE 152 - General College Chemistry II
- HIM 104 - Medical Terminology
- MTH 160 - Statistics I
- PHY 145 & 146 - College Physics I & II **or**
- PHY 154 & 155 - General Physics I & II **or** PHY 161 & 261 - University Physics I & II
- PSY 101 - Intro to Psychological Science
- PSY 206 - Adult Psychopathology
- PSY 212 - Developmental Psy: Lifespan

*\*Please note that all courses listed above may not be required to be completed at MCC prior to transfer. Students can take these courses while obtaining their bachelor's degree. Admission requirements vary. Research colleges for specific information and to verify course transferability.*

(See [American Physical Therapy Association](#) for a chart with all prerequisites listed and select the [Prospective Student](#) link.)

## Colleges in NYS Offering an Accredited DPT

- Clarkson University\*
- Columbia University \*
- D'Youville University\*
- Daemen University
- Dominican University of New York\*
- Hunter College (CUNY)\*
- Ithaca College (not open to transfer students)
- Long Island University - Brooklyn Campus\*
- Marist College
- Mercy University
- Nazareth University
- New York Institute of Technology\*
- New York Medical College \*
- New York University \*
- Russell Sage College\*
- SUNY Upstate Medical University\*
- Stony Brook University\*
- SUNY Downstate Health Science University
- The College of Staten Island (CUNY)\*
- Touro University
- University at Buffalo – SUNY
- Utica University

*\*Bachelor's degree required prior to admission into the DPT program*

## Additional Information

- [USDL, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Physical Therapist](#)
- [American Physical Therapy Association](#)
- [American Physical Therapy Association Accredited PT & PTA Programs Directory](#)

**Note:** *While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.*