Physical Therapy

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. 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.

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 Include

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

*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

SUNY University at Buffalo
Clarkson University*
College of Staten Island (CUNY)*
Columbia University *
D’Youville College*
Daemen College
Dominican College of Blauvelt*
New York University *
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
SUNY Stony Brook University*
The Sage Colleges*

Touro College
SUNY Upstate Medical University*
Hunter College (CUNY)*
Ithaca College (not open to transfer students)
Long Island University - Brooklyn Campus*
Mercy College
Nazareth College
New York Institute of Technology*
New York Medical College *
Utica College

*Bachelor’s degree required

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.

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