

Physical Therapy/Health Sciences

College of Health and Human Sciences

Northern Illinois University

Transfer Guide for Illinois Community College Students

The [physical therapy](#) program prepares entry-level physical therapists through a problem-solving approach. The curriculum is designed to encourage the development of critical thinking, clinical competence, and responsible leadership. Prior to entry into this limited admission program, students follow the pre-professional physical therapy program designed to prepare students for entrance into the professional program.

The masters program in physical therapy is an extremely competitive and limited admissions program which requires students to meet several admission requirements including submitting a program application directly in the physical therapy office. Students may enter the professional program in the fall only. All required application materials must be submitted to the Physical Therapy program by February 15. At the time of application, the student's overall GPA and prerequisite GPA must each be a minimum of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. In addition, applicants must have no more than four program prerequisites and no more than seven total prerequisites and general education courses remaining to be completed. All of the prerequisite and general education courses must be completed in order to begin the professional physical therapy program.

This transfer guide is designed as an advising tool to facilitate a smooth transition between institutions by identifying relevant course work recommended to be completed prior to transfer. Community college students are advised to also complete an A.A. or A.S. degree prior to transfer and to consult the [NIU Articulation Handbook](#) for information regarding the transferability of courses. To view course equivalencies, students are encouraged to review the [Limited Admissions Programs Transfer Course Equivalents](#) section provided by the NIU Transfer Center. All students planning to transfer are advised to consult with the College of Health and Human Sciences for detailed information.

Special Notes:

A maximum of 66 hours may be transferred from a community college, so all students should plan to complete a minimum of one semester at NIU prior to applying to the professional program. The prerequisite requirements include the selection of an "advisor-approved focus area" excluding required prerequisites and general education courses. These four courses (12 credit hours) can include, but are not limited to: anthropology; biology; community health; communications; economics; family, consumer and nutrition sciences; gerontology; history; psychology; sociology; women's studies; or foreign language. Transfer students are encouraged to consult with program advisors about options for this requirement.

The pre-physical therapy program does not lead to a degree in physical therapy unless the student is accepted into the professional phase of the curriculum, which has limited enrollment. Students admitted to the professional program in physical therapy will be admitted as undergraduate students. Courses that lead to the completion of the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences are only offered at NIU. Following successful completion of the first three semesters of the professional program, students will be awarded the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences. Following successful completion of the remaining professional curriculum, students will receive the Master of Physical Therapy degree.

Pre-Physical Therapy Program¹

Courses Recommended Prior to Transfer

Prerequisite Courses:

One year of general biology for science majors with laboratory (8)

BIOS 355 Human Physiology (4)

BIOS 357 Human Anatomy and Physiology (5)

BIOS 446 Gross Human Anatomy (6)

CHEM 210T General Chemistry I (3)

and CHEM 212 General Chemistry Laboratory I (1)

CHEM 211T General Chemistry II (3)

and CHEM 213 General Chemistry Laboratory II (1)

MATH 155 Trigonometry and Elementary Functions (3)

or MATH 229 Calculus I (4)

PHYS 210 General Physics I (4)

PHYS 211 General Physics II (4)

PSYC 102 Introduction to Psychology (3)

A lifespan development course (3)

An abnormal psychology course (3)

An introductory statistics course (3)

Course work in an advisor approved focus area excluding required pre-requisites and general education courses (12)

Major in Health Sciences

AHPT 400 Introduction to Physical Therapy (2)

AHPT 402 Physical Therapy and the Health Care System (1)

AHPT 403 Communication and Patient Education Skills for Physical Therapists (3)

AHPT 404 Case Studies in Physical Therapy I (1)

AHPT 409 Physical Therapy Research I (2)

AHPT 410 Physical Therapy Science I (4)

AHPT 411 Physical Therapy Science II (4)

AHPT 412 Physical Therapy Science III (2)

AHPT 413 Musculoskeletal Basis of Human Movement for Physical Therapists (2)

AHPT 417 Pathology and Pharmacology for Physical Therapists (3)

AHPT 425 Motor Development for Physical Therapists (3)

AHPT 440 Evaluation and Treatment of Musculoskeletal Disorders: Extremities (4)

¹ Based on requirements in the 2007/2008 *Undergraduate Catalog*

AHPT 442	Medical Management of Musculoskeletal Disorders (3)
AHPT 460	Clinical Experience I (1)
AHPT 461	Clinical Experience II (3)
AHPT 462	Clinical Experience III (4)
AHPT 465	Mock Clinic for Physical Therapists (1)
IHHS 450	Administration for Professionals in Health and Human Sciences (2-3)

Specific information about admission requirements to Northern Illinois University and to programs in the College of Health and Human Sciences can be found in the current [NIU Undergraduate Catalog](#). Contact the Office of Admissions to obtain an application for admission. For additional information on programs in the college, contact the department or school listed below or contact the director of academic advising in the college office: ssplansky@niu.edu

- ❖ Physical Therapy/Health Sciences (815) 753-1383
- ❖ College of Health and Human Sciences (815) 753-1891
- ❖ Department of Communicative Disorders (Voice or TDD) (815) 753-1484
- ❖ Department of Military Science (815) 752-7682
- ❖ School of Allied Health Professions (815) 753-1381
- ❖ School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences (815) 753-6350
- ❖ School of Nursing (815) 753-1231
- ❖ Gerontology Program (815) 753-0031
- ❖ Office of Admissions (815) 753-0446

Visit our website: <http://www.chhs.niu.edu/>