

**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Physical Therapy**

**ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

**Admissions Requirements:** Admission to the DPT program at TSU is a competitive process with admission to the program occurring once annually. A maximum of 36 students are enrolled in each class. A Bachelor's degree is required by the end of the spring semester in the year you expect to start the PT program.

The Department of Physical Therapy participates in the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service, known as PTCAS. Applicants applying to the entry-level professional physical therapist program will apply online using the PTCAS application.

In January 2020, PTCAS has eliminated the Early Decision Option. This means that all applicants to the program beginning with the 2020-21 cycle will apply using **Regular Application**.

The application submission period begins in July when PTCAS opens the application portal. The deadline for **regular application** is October 1.

To be considered for admission to the program, applicants must have:

1. A Baccalaureate Degree.
  - a. Official transcripts are required from all institutions attended. Transcripts are to be submitted to PTCAS, not the University.
  - b. Posting of the baccalaureate degree must appear on your final undergraduate transcript.
2. Payment of the \$35 TSU Graduate School [application fee](#). (Note: Because the program uses PTCAS, please do not submit transcripts or references as part of the Graduate School application. These items are submitted to PTCAS only.)
3. A minimal prerequisite GPA of 3.0 is required. We do not consider overall GPA in our admission decisions.
4. Successful completion (C or better) of the following prerequisite courses.
  - a. Two (2) Biology courses with corresponding labs
  - b. Two (2) Chemistry courses with corresponding labs
  - c. Two (2) Physics courses with corresponding labs OR One (1) Physics course and s Movement Science course (i.e., Biomechanics, Kinesiology)

- d. Anatomy and Physiology - Students can take Anatomy and Physiology I & II, or separate Anatomy (e.g., Human Anatomy, Anatomy for Health Care Professionals) and Physiology (e.g., Human Physiology, Exercise Physiology) courses
- e. Physiology (may be a general physiology or an exercise physiology course)
- f. Math—at least a level of math required to take Physics I
- g. Statistics/ Elementary Statistics
- h. Two (2) Psychology courses OR One (1) Psychology course and One (1) Philosophy/Logic (or equivalent) course.

**Note:** To assist you in determining successful completion of prerequisites, please complete the prerequisite calculation chart and upload the document into the application. Be sure to download the chart from TSU Resource [link](#) in PTCAS and upload the document into the Document section of the PTCAS application.

5. The Admissions Committee may consider the substitution of similar/upper level courses for the required prerequisites.

**Note:** Prerequisite Course Substitutions: For information regarding substitutions/specific courses that fulfill the above prerequisites, please visit the Tennessee State University [homepage](#) in PTCAS.

6. The GRE scores must submitted to PTCAS using the Code = 7759. Our program requires a score of 150 for the Verbal section and 150 for the Quantitative section; we do not consider the combined score. Applicants who meet the minimum GRE score for one section (but not the other) may still apply. However, preference will be given to candidates who meet the minimum scores for both sections.
7. A minimum of 40 hours of documented observation in at least two different physical therapy clinical settings. Settings may include acute, long-term rehabilitation, outpatient, skilled nursing facility, and/or home health. Your observation hours must be documented in your PTCAS application.
8. Minimum of 2 recommendations – One must be from a physical therapist. Recommendations must be submitted through PTCAS.
9. Interview with the faculty (Invitations for interview are based on applicant prerequisite GPA and GRE scores).
10. Written essay that assures proficiency in the ability to write, demonstrating analytical ability, appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Essay is completed during the onsite interview—Please do not send an essay with your application.

The deadline for **regular application** is October 1.

Students who expect to complete a Bachelor's degree in the spring semester just before beginning the program may be accepted pending the receipt of official transcripts including the degree earned. Incomplete applications may result in your application being declared incomplete and result in non- admittance to the program.

International Students: Applicants with international undergraduate degrees should review the information outlined in the [International Student Admission](#) page of the Tennessee State University website and consult the appropriate sections of the [Graduate Catalog](#).

Financial Assistance: Upon acceptance into the physical therapy program, students may apply for available stipends or other financial aid.

