

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Admissions

Admissions Requirements (Updated July 2026)

To be considered for admission to Tennessee State University Doctor of Physical Therapy program the following need to be Completed and Verified on the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Services (PTCAS) is a centralized application service that streamlines the admissions process for many PT program website. Please click the following link to learn more about the admission process and [PTCAS](#).

1. GPA Requirements

Our minimum required GPA is a 3.0 for application to our program, for both the **prerequisite GPA** and **the overall GPA**. If you do not meet this requirement, please contact the admissions chair prior to applying to our program.

2. Prerequisites & Coursework

What are the required prerequisite courses:

- **Anatomy & Physiology:** Two-course sequence in Anatomy & Physiology I and II with lab.
 - Or one course in anatomy with lab **AND** one course in physiology with lab.
 - An anatomy course with dissection is preferred but not required.
- **Biological Sciences (Biology):** Two courses in biological sciences (Biology not botany) with lab, at or above the level of General Biology I and II.
- **Chemistry:** Two courses in general chemistry with lab, at or above the level of General Chemistry I and II.
- **Physics:** Two courses in general physics with lab, at or above the level of General Physics I and II.
 - Non-calculus physics is accepted.
- **Psychology:** One course offered through a Psychology department.
 - Generally, PSY or PSYCH will be in the course prefix.
- **Research/Statistics:** One introductory-level course in research and/or statistics for research methodology.

We also recommend, though do not require, the following coursework to help prepare you for the DPT curriculum:

- **Medical terminology**

3. GRE Requirements

GRE is required; However, there is no minimum required GRE score, and no limit on how many times you may take the exam to achieve your best performance. We recommend aiming for at least 150 on both the Quantitative and Verbal sections.

4. Observation Hours

Applicants must complete and log a minimum of 40 hours of observation across two different physical therapy settings (e.g., inpatient, outpatient, home health). Hours worked as a PT Tech or Hospital Aide count toward this requirement. Please check our admissions requirements page online for full details.

5. Letters of Recommendation (References)

Applicants are required to have two letters of recommendation: one from a licensed Physical Therapist, and one from someone other than a PT (for example, an instructor, employer, or another professional reference).

6. Casper Exam

Casper is an online, open-response situational judgment test (SJT). It asks what you would do in a challenging situation, and more importantly, why. Casper is mandatory and is completed pre-interview. Rather than replacing academic metrics or carrying a fixed weight or percentage, Casper is considered alongside your academic record, experiences, letters of recommendation, and other application materials as part of our comprehensive, holistic review process. For more information, please visit the [Acuity Insights website](#).

7. Interview Process

After you complete your application on PTCAS and the admissions window has closed, the Admissions Committee identifies applicants who will proceed to the next step in our application process and be invited to participate in an in-person interview on campus. Interview dates will be announced at that time.

Still Have Questions?

Thank you for your interest in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Tennessee State University!

You can find our program information at tnstate.edu/pt/admission.aspx, and you can view and apply through our PTCAS directory listing at ptcasdirectory.apta.org.

We accept applications each cycle through PTCAS, typically opening in the summer with a fall deadline. Because exact dates can shift slightly from year to year, please confirm the current cycle's opening and deadline dates on PTCAS and our program website before you begin.

If you still have questions after reviewing this page, please visit our website and FAQs page. We look forward to reviewing your application and being a part of your academic and professional journey!