

# Welcome to UIC

Information for Prospective Students  
**2009**

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# WELCOME

Now is an exciting time to become a physical therapist. The profession continues to grow in stature. Potential applicants now face more rigorous standards than ever before, but we hope that you will not be frightened by the process or the competition. The University of Illinois at Chicago's first physical therapy class consisted of six individuals who graduated in 1973. We now admit up to 36 students. The UIC program is a professional doctorate (DPT) and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

The UIC program is unique and we take great pride in the efforts we have made to improve the quality of our program and our physical environment. Our faculty includes nationally (and internationally) recognized experts who are expanding the body of knowledge in physical therapy. UIC has one of the few PT educational programs where academic and clinical services are unified. University of Illinois Hospital (UIH) therapists teach in the UIC program and the hospital is used as a teaching laboratory. Our urban setting affords students a wide range of educational, cultural and entertainment opportunities.

We hope this information packet will help you understand our program and help you plan your pre-physical therapy course work and/or prepare your application to our program. We also hope that it helps allay some of your fears and makes the application process and career planning a little easier.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Physical therapy is in demand as a professional career choice. In an effort to provide service and information to prospective students, we offer counseling opportunities (*see below*), this information booklet and complete application materials and information online at [www.ahs.uic.edu/pt](http://www.ahs.uic.edu/pt) (*click on Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, click on Applying in left column*).

This information is provided as a courtesy to prospective students who inquire about our physical therapy education program. It is not possible to spend time on the telephone individually with prospective students due to the large volume of inquiries. General information about physical therapy as a profession is available through the American Physical Therapy Association (800-999-2782, [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)).

The physical therapy entry-level education program at UIC is a three-year professional program leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) professional degree in physical therapy. The Department of Physical Therapy seeks applicants who will contribute to the profession and society, and particularly encourages applicants who will increase the cultural and ethnic diversity of physical therapy. The prerequisites and admission requirements described here apply to the 2009-2010 application cycle for Fall 2010 admission (to the Class of 2013) and are subject to change for later admission dates. Application forms and related materials are valid for the year of issue only.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVISEMENT**

The Department of Physical Therapy offers group advising seminars for prospective students to hear about prerequisite information, the application process and evaluation criteria. Individual counseling is available at the conclusion of the seminar for those who have attended a seminar. Individual application status information is not available at these sessions. Sessions are held on the first Friday of every month at 1:00 pm and on selected Monday evenings at 5:00 pm, on the fourth floor of the Applied Health Sciences Building, 1919 W. Taylor. Consult our web site for Monday dates. ([www.ahs.uic.edu/pt](http://www.ahs.uic.edu/pt), click on *Doctor of Physical Therapy Program*, click on *Applying in left column*) No appointment is required. You may bring records of course work you have taken and a course catalogue for the college you wish to attend for pre-physical therapy course work. You may also contact our admissions coordinator, Demetra John, PT, PhD, at [demetra@uic.edu](mailto:demetra@uic.edu).

Pre-physical therapy students at the University of Illinois at Chicago are encouraged to attend an advising session in the Department of Physical Therapy. LAS students may also seek advice at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences advising office in University Hall, especially for guidance regarding LAS equivalents for courses taken elsewhere.

Pre-physical therapy students at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign may seek similar advice in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising office.

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY

The Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Illinois at Chicago participates in the new Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service, known as PTCAS. Applications for the class entering in fall, 2009 are closed as of October 15, 2008. Applicants to the entry-level professional physical therapist program, the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, for the 2010 entering class will apply online using the PTCAS application. Applicants can begin their PTCAS application in the summer of 2009. The start date for 2009 has not yet been announced. The PT program application deadline will likely be October 15, 2009, but may change. Please watch our web site for details. To learn more about the PTCAS application process, please visit the PTCAS web site at [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org)

To be considered for acceptance into the physical therapy program, the applicant must submit of:

- A **complete application to the PTCAS** including all required fees and attachments by the anticipated application deadline, October 15, 2009.
- A **complete supplemental application packet in one single envelope** including the UIC application fee, documentations of clinical experience (either UIC or PTCAS forms are accepted), and course outline by the application postmark deadline of October 15, 2009.
- **Completion of the GRE General Test** after January 1, 2004, and before October 15, 2009. The GRE reporting codes are: Institution code 1851 and Department code 619. *See GRE Scores under Elements of the Application Instructions for more information.*
- **Bachelor's degree** or reasonable plan for completion before entering the program
- **Three physical therapy clinical experiences.** These experiences must be complete and documented by October 15, 2009, for an application to be eligible. *See Clinical Experiences under Elements of the Application Instructions for more information.*
- **Successful completion of course prerequisites** as follows: a *grade of C or better*, at the time of application, or by the end of Fall 2009 semester, in a minimum of five of the science prerequisites, or four semester courses in science prerequisites and the calculus course.
- A reasonable **plan for completion of remaining course prerequisites.** (*All course prerequisites must be complete before entering the program.*)

**Course Prerequisites:** Prerequisites are expressed in terms of semester courses. Three quarter courses are regarded as the equivalent of two semester courses. Ideally, required science and math courses will have been taken within five years of application. Science and math courses taken before that time will be considered as meeting requirements for prerequisites but may weaken an applicant's potential for admission. Counseling is available; see *Opportunities for Advisement* above.

Science prerequisites	(must have lab components and qualify for majoring in the sciences)	Other prerequisites
general biology		statistics
human anatomy*		calculus**
human physiology*		introductory psychology
two semester courses of chemistry		developmental or abnormal psychology
two semester sequence of general physics		

\* Or a year of human anatomy/physiology combined.

\*\* Pre-calculus does not satisfy this prerequisite. Calculus for mathematics, engineering, or natural science is preferred, but business calculus is accepted.

**Advanced Placement** credit courses must appear on a college transcript to be considered for satisfaction of a prerequisite.

*For more information and descriptions of the prerequisite courses, go to [www.ahs.uic.edu/pt](http://www.ahs.uic.edu/pt), click on Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, click on Applying (in left column), and click on Prerequisites.*

### **Waive Policy**

The UIC Department of Physical Therapy does not accept transfer students from other physical therapy programs or other types of health professions programs for the Doctor of Physical therapy program. **All applicants to the Doctor of Physical therapy program must apply through the regular DPT admissions process.** If offered admission to the program, admitted students may petition the faculty for consideration to have courses in the DPT program waived. These petitions will only be considered if similar coursework was taken beyond the undergraduate level, such as from another physical therapy program or health professions program. Only courses with grades of B or better will be considered. The maximum number of credits hours that may be waived is 16 semester hours. If a student has DPT courses waived, the student will be required to complete the rest of the DPT curriculum courses and requirements, other than waived courses, for graduation.

## UIC COURSES THAT SATISFY PRE-REQUISITE COURSE WORK

*Course descriptions for prerequisite courses as taught at UIC are provided here to assist you in selecting courses at your chosen school and to assist your local school counselors in advising you on which courses to take that are most likely to be equivalent to the prerequisite courses.*

### **Introductory Psychology requirement.** PSCH 100 Introduction to Psychology

Survey of basic concepts of contemporary psychology. Introduction to the nervous system, perception, motivation, learning and memory, social behavior, personality, developmental and clinical psychology. Participation in research.

### **Abnormal or Developmental Psychology** PSCH 270 or PSCH 320

PSCH 270 Abnormal Psychology: Survey course covering the assessment, description, causes, and treatments of many psychological disorders, including depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis, sexual dysfunction and personality disorders.

PSCH 320 Developmental Psychology: Analysis of research and theory concerning social, cognitive, and biopsychological aspects of human development.

### **Statistics requirement,** PSCH 242 Introduction to Research in Psychology

Techniques and problems associated with the study of behavior. Emphasis on measurement, descriptive statistics, and the principles of experimental design. Exercises involving data collection. Participation in research.

Any basic statistics course will be accepted as long as it covers all the basic experimental statistical methods.

### **General Biology requirement,** BIOS 100 Biology of Cells and Organisms

Processes of cellular and organismic function. Cell structure, respiration, photosynthesis, molecular genetics and development, structure and physiology of plants and animals. Lecture, laboratory and discussion.

### **Human Anatomy and Human Physiology requirements,** MVSC 251/252 Human Physiological Anatomy I and II (only available to Movement Science majors)

MVSC 251: The structure and function of mammalian cells and tissues and human skeletal, muscular and nervous systems are discussed. Integrating the functions of the various systems is emphasized.

MVSC 252: The structure and function of the human endocrine, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, sensory, and reproductive systems are discussed. Integrating the functions of the various systems is emphasized.

### **General Chemistry requirement,** CHEM 112/114 General College Chemistry I and II

CHEM 112: Stoichiometry, periodicity, reaction types, the gaseous state, solution stoichiometry, chemical equilibria, acid-base equilibria, dissolution-precipitation equilibria. Includes a weekly three-hour laboratory.

CHEM 114: Phase transitions, thermochemistry, spontaneity and equilibrium, electrochemistry, kinetics, bonding theory, order and symmetry in condensed phases, coordination compounds, descriptive chemistry.

### **Calculus requirement,** MATH 180 Calculus I

Differentiation, curve sketching, maximum-minimum problems, related rates, mean-value theorem, antiderivative, Riemann integral, logarithm, and exponential functions.

### **General Physics requirement,** PHYS 105/106 and PHYS 107/108 Introductory Physics I and II

PHYS 105/106: A non-calculus course. Kinematics; Newton's laws; momentum; work and energy; torque and angular momentum; rotational dynamics; gravitation; oscillations; waves physical; optics; relativity.

PHYS 107/108: A non-calculus course. Electrostatics; electric current; magnetism; Farady's law; Maxwell's relations; electromagnetic radiation; geometric optics: quantum mechanics; the Heisenberg uncertainty principle; Bohr model; nuclear and particle physics.

## ELEMENTS OF THE APPLICATION

### I. PTCAS Physical Therapy Professional Application:

This document serves as both an application to the University and to the Department of Physical Therapy. If you are a UIC student enrolled in the Graduate College, a professional college, or if you are a non-degree student, you may need to fill out a transfer application.

**Application fee:** There is a PTCAS application fee; instructions for paying the fee will be available at [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org). There is a separate application fee for admission to the University Illinois at Chicago described below under II. Supplemental Application.

**Transcripts:** These are mailed to the PTCAS. Official, sealed transcripts are required from **each** college or university attended, even if only one course was taken, and even if the courses were transferred to another institution for which a transcript is being submitted. Transcripts must be in the original, sealed envelopes provided by the issuing schools, and must include grades posted through Summer 2009.

Applicants who are offered admission to the program must submit transcripts for courses taken from Fall 2009 through Summer 2010 as a condition of admission. (*Instructions for students enrolled in the University of Illinois system are below.*) These final transcripts are sent to the UIC Department of Physical Therapy.

College level course work completed outside of the United States may be documented with a subject analysis evaluation from Educational Credentials Evaluators (ECE) for advising purposes. UIC does not use World Education Services (WES). You may include an official evaluation in a sealed envelope from ECE in the application packet. ECE applications are available online at: [www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org). **However, we do not guarantee that the UIC Office of Admissions will accept the ECE as an acceptable equivalency. UIC will conduct its own evaluation.** International applicants have to provide an original transcript in the native language AND a translated copy in English. They DO NOT have to provide an evaluation of the transcript. They can use a translation agency (such as ATA) for a referral to a certified translator if their institution doesn't provide an English translation, but UIC requires a verbatim, literal translation, NOT an evaluation of equivalencies, even if an ECE evaluation is included.

University of Illinois students: The Department of Physical Therapy does not have access to students' transcripts. University of Illinois (UIC, UIUC, and UIS) students must include a UIC, UIUC, or UIS transcript in the application packet to the PTCAS. A separate transcript for each college attended is required even if the course work has already been transferred to a college in the University of Illinois system.

### II. Supplemental Application:

**This is mailed to the department of Physical Therapy at the University of Illinois at Chicago.**

**The application fee** for admission to the University Illinois at Chicago is \$40 for a domestic or immigrant applicant and \$50 for an international applicant. The fee is nonrefundable and must be submitted in a check or money order in U.S. currency payable to the University of Illinois. A University application fee may also be required from students who were previously enrolled as degree-seeking students at UIC or from students who attended UIUC the preceding academic term. There is a separate PTCAS application described above under I. PTCAS Physical Therapy Professional Application.

**Course Outline:** Documentation of prerequisite courses taken and the plan for completing any remaining prerequisites.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Two Letters of Recommendation are required, and can be submitted on-line on the PTCAS. Letters from friends or family members are not recommended. Letters of Recommendation from previous applications are not retained. New letters must be submitted with each application.

**Clinical Experiences prior to application:** Three physical therapy experiences of observing, volunteering, or working are required. The experiences must be at least 15 hours each and must be documented by different physical therapists licensed in the United States and practicing in differently-owned facilities. A lengthy experience at one or two facilities does not waive the requirement for the other experience(s). It is recommended that the experiences be of different specialties. The more extensive and varied the physical therapy experiences, the better the applicant will be prepared for elements of the program and that preparation may be reflected in application review.

Applicants may consult hospitals, nursing homes, community organizations (e.g., Easter Seals, United Cerebral Palsy, or March of Dimes), home health agencies (e.g., Visiting Nurses Association), health maintenance organizations, or stand-alone physical therapy clinics (consult Yellow Pages phone directory) for opportunities to observe physical therapy. The UIC Department of Physical Therapy does not assist applicants in finding a volunteer placement.

Three Documentation of Clinical Experience forms and instructions are to be included in the supplemental application package. Only properly documented experiences will satisfy the requirement. **Common defects** in the clinical experience documentation include the lack of the license number of the physical therapist, and attempts by personnel other than the physical therapist to certify the experience. Directors of volunteer services, office managers, medical doctors, athletic trainers, occupational therapists or other non physical therapists are not acceptable as documenters of physical therapy experience.

Documentations of Clinical Experience from previous applications are retained until after the application deadline for the subsequent year. If you wish to re-use a documentation from a prior application, please notify Demetra John before the application deadline (demetra@uic.edu).

**Additional Supplemental Application Elements for International, Immigrant or Non-Citizen Applicants**  
(also see *Transcripts* above):

Evidence of Immigration and Naturalization Service Documentation

Applicants granted immigrant, permanent resident, temporary resident, refugee, parolee or conditional entrant status must attach a clear photocopy (front and back) of their Alien Registration Card and/or other appropriate INS documentation with the Professional Application. Submission of these documents does not guarantee their acceptability. Additional documentation and/or review of original documents may be required.

Evidence of English Competency

Students who have completed the majority of their education in a country where English is not the native language or the language of instruction must submit to the Office of Admissions and Records official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) administered by the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ 08540 or the Michigan English Language Battery (MELAB) offered by the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Minimum scores: TOEFL 550 (paper based test) or 213 (computer based test), MELAB 84. Test scores may not be more than two years old. If a student has completed at least two years of full-time transferable study at the secondary or collegiate level in the United States, the Office of Admission may waive this requirement.

Evidence of Financial Support

Students who require an F-1/J-1 visa must submit evidence with the Professional Application Leaflet of financial support through (a) a notarized Declaration of Finances Form (available from the Office of Admissions and Records); (b) Immigration and Naturalization Services Affidavit of Support Form (1-134) executed by the sponsor; or (c) a notarized affidavit of support executed by the sponsor. All forms must be notarized and accompanied by a copy of a bank statement showing proof of sufficient funds in US dollars (checking accounts are unacceptable).

## THE ADMISSIONS DECISION

**Criteria for Application Evaluation:** Applicants are evaluated according to a set of criteria predictive of ability to succeed in the physical therapy program and become licensed physical therapists. The criteria include grade point averages, writing ability, knowledge of the field of physical therapy, academic preparation, and the applicant's profile (work history, talents and abilities, honors received, community service, etc.). Claims of extenuating circumstances and efforts since your last application (if you are a re-applicant) will be considered. The UIC Department of Physical Therapy seeks academically well-qualified students whose talents and background bring diversity to the program. Any applicant who submits a complete application showing evidence of minimum requirements will be considered. Due to the large number of applicants, however, not all will be offered admission into the program. For more information, see Opportunities for Advisement, above.

The following are definitions of the elements of the evaluative criteria that have been used in the past by the Department of Physical Therapy Admissions Committee when reviewing applicants. We anticipate using a similar equation in the future, but warn the applicant that the equation may change in future admission cycles.

The admissions equation:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{Total Selection Index Points} = \text{TSIP} = 100 \text{ points} & = & \\ \text{GRE Verbal and Quantitative sections (15\%)} & + & \\ \text{GRE Analytic Writing section (5\%)} & + & \\ \text{Cumulative GPA (15\%)} & + & \\ \text{Prerequisite GPA (25\%)} & + & \\ \text{Academic preparation (15\%)} & + & \\ \text{Additional factors (25\%)} & & \end{array}$$

- **GRE Verbal and Quantitative (15%)** based upon the sum of the scores in the verbal and quantitative sections.
- **GRE Analytic Writing (5%)** based on the score of the GRE Writing Assessment.
- **Cumulative GPA (15%)** computed based on the two most recent years of undergraduate courses: for applicants applying in their senior year it is based on grades earned in sophomore and junior years; for applicants who have already earned a bachelor's degree it is based on grades earned in junior and senior years.
- **Prerequisite GPA (25%)** computed by PTCAS based on grades earned in a common set of prerequisite courses that will likely include all of the UIC pre-requisites except calculus.
- **Academic preparation (15%):** based upon
  - School attended: competitive vs. non-competitive
  - Course load taken/factors affecting course load (e.g. full time work)
  - Number of credit hours per term
  - Whether more than one science/math was taken per term
  - Additional science courses taken; caliber, type, grade, relevance, lab
  - Recentness of prerequisite science courses; update of old prerequisite science courses; work experience refreshing old sciences
  - Type and amount of prerequisites left to complete and plan for completion
  - Graduate course work taken and grades

- **Additional Factors (25%):** based upon
  - Mitigating circumstances issue
  - Efforts since last application to program: additional course work, additional work/volunteer experience
  - Specific facts presented in personal statement and letters of recommendation
  - Work/volunteer experience
  - Cultural diversity
  - Other language fluency
  - Generic abilities

Reliability of the scoring system for Academic Preparation and Additional Factors and any potential for bias will be controlled. If the scores from the two reviewers differ by more than 40% of the weight of a category, a third reviewer will provide a score. The three scores will be averaged. If one of the criteria proves to be more or less predictive of success, its relative weight may be increased or decreased in future years.

**Application Status Notification:** The Department of Physical Therapy will notify applicants of their status by mail. The target date for notification is January 15. Later notification is possible. **Please do not call for application status. We will notify you as soon as decisions are made. An e-mail notification may precede written notification.**

## OTHER INFORMATION

**Urban Health Program:** UIC's Urban Health Program (UHP) represents a major effort to increase minority student enrollment and to improve health care services in Chicago's under served communities. As one of its services, the College of Applied Health Sciences' UHP staff offers prospective students assistance in planning for the completion of prerequisite courses or in the completion of the application for admission. For further information: Urban Health Program, College of Applied Health Sciences (M/C 528), University of Illinois at Chicago, 1919 W. Taylor, Chicago, IL 60612. Phone 312-355-3011.

**Immunizations:** Illinois law requires incoming new students to document immunity to measles, rubella, mumps, and tetanus/diphtheria. In addition to this requirement, as a health professions student, additional documentation of polio immunity and tuberculosis status is also required. Documentation of immunity to Hepatitis B or a signed waiver of liability for contracting Hepatitis B is required. Additional immunizations may be required by physical therapy internship sites before students are allowed access to patients. The costs for these immunizations are the responsibility of the student and may not be covered by the student's health plan.

**CPR and First Aid Certification:** Since applicants must have current Health Care Provider CPR and First Aid certification before performing field work, it is recommended that initial certifications be obtained before entering the program.

**Students with Disabilities:** The College of Applied Health Sciences encourages and accommodates the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs. Please advise the Department of your specific needs upon admission.

**Tuition and Fees** are set annually by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Different rates apply to Illinois residents and out of state residents. The schedule of Professional Tuition and Fees is available at [www.uic.edu/depts/oar/rr/tuition.shtml](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/rr/tuition.shtml). Tuition and fees are adjusted annually. For a discussion of the University policy on residency, please see [www.usp.uillinois.edu/residency.asp](http://www.usp.uillinois.edu/residency.asp).

**Additional Program Costs:** Applicants should plan for the cost of required text books and supplies which are estimated at \$3,000 for the three academic years in addition to tuition and fees. Students may be assigned to physical therapy internships which require additional transportation or housing costs. These costs are the responsibility of the student. (Students' input is considered regarding out of town assignments.)

**Financial Aid:** The Financial Aid Office accepts applications for Financial Aid after January 1. Priority consideration is given to those applications received by March 1, and aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for financial aid may be submitted prior to notice of acceptance in the program. Contact the Financial Aid Office at 312-996-3126 or [www.vcsa.uic.edu/MainSite/departments/financial\\_aid/home/](http://www.vcsa.uic.edu/MainSite/departments/financial_aid/home/).

**Housing:** Contact Campus Housing (312) 413-5400 for information. The Physical Therapy program is on the west side of campus. The west side dorms are SSR, SRH, and WRH. A housing option available for health profession students is the Wellness Floor in SRH. Information on this is available by calling 312-355-6300.

**Change of Address, Email Address or Phone Number:** Notify, in writing or by email, both the University of Illinois at Chicago Office of Admissions and Records and the Department of Physical Therapy of any change in your address, email address or phone number.

**Licensing:** Physical Therapy is a licensed profession. Upon successful completion of the professional physical therapy program students are eligible to sit for the physical therapy licensing exam. The following questions appear on the application for the Illinois exam and are provided for your information. These questions are not a part of the program application and are not to be answered in the application for the physical therapy program.

1) Have you been convicted of any criminal offense in any state or in federal court (other than minor traffic violations)?

*If yes, attach a certified copy of the court records regarding your conviction, the nature of the offense and date of discharge, if applicable, as well as a statement from the probation of parole office.*

2) Have you ever had or do you now have any disease or condition that interferes with your ability to perform the essential functions of your profession, including any disease or condition generally regarded as chronic by the medical community, i.e., (1) mental or emotional disease or condition; (2) alcohol or other substance abuse; (3) physical disease or condition that interferes with your ability to practice your profession?

*If yes, attach a detailed statement, including an explanation whether or not you are currently under treatment.*

3) Have you been denied a professional license or permit, or privilege of taking an examination, or had a professional license or permit disciplined in any way by any licensing authority in Illinois or elsewhere?

*If yes, attach a detailed explanation.*

4) Have you ever been discharged other than honorably from the armed service or from a city, county, state or federal position?

*If yes, attach a detailed explanation.*

## ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** *How many apply? How many are accepted?*

**A:** In the last two years, the number of applicants has grown dramatically, reaching 385 last year. We are limited by space and other resources to accepting 36 students annually. Applicants' chances for being accepted depend on their academic and other qualifications relative to others in the applicant pool of the particular application year.

**Q:** *What is the profile of a typical successful applicant?*

**A:** While we will consider any applicant who meets the minimum admission requirements and who submits a complete application, because of the large number of applicants we offer admission to the most qualified students in the applicant pool for a given year. For the past few years, successful applicants typically completed most pre-physical therapy course work before the application deadline, and achieved a GPA of over 3.5 (A=4.0). The mean combined GRE score for admitted students has been around 1200. They carried heavy course loads that at times included more than one science or math as well as other courses. Most applicants offered admission have taken science courses related to the human body that are not required for admission, for example, neuroscience, organic chemistry, biochemistry, etc. Successful applicants are well rounded. They are involved in volunteer or community activities.

**Q:** *What does your admissions committee look for?*

**A:** The University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Physical Therapy Admissions Committee seeks students with the academic ability and personal resolve to successfully complete our rigorous program and become licensed physical therapists. A number of success indicators are evaluated for each applicant and applicants are then ranked relative to each other. A class of 36 is selected from this list. See ***Criteria for Application Evaluation***, above.

**Q:** *Do I have to complete all of the prerequisites before I apply to the UIC program? Must my bachelor's degree be completed before I apply?*

**A:** Academic qualifications are major factors considered in admissions decisions. While it is not necessary for you to have completed **every** prerequisite course before you apply, you must have completed a minimum number of the science prerequisites (four of six semesters) and calculus, or five science courses. The remainder of the prerequisites and your bachelor's degree, if you haven't completed it, must be completed before the start of the program. The greater the number of prerequisites completed at the time of admission, the greater the number of factors to be evaluated. Students who have completed more course work are given more consideration in the admissions process. If you are not able to present a realistic plan for completion of the remainder of your prerequisites, you will compare unfavorably to others in the applicant pool.

While your bachelor's degree does not have to be complete before you apply, it must be complete before enrolling. If you are offered admission and your degree is not yet complete, your offer of admission will be withdrawn if you do not complete the degree before the start of the program.

If you are unable to complete prerequisite courses or your degree before the start of the program to which you are offered to admission, your offer is withdrawn and you will have to reapply. An offer of admission is not guaranteed upon reapplication, you will be ranked with the new group of applicants.

**Q:** *Do you accept non-residents?*

**A:** Yes. About 10% of each entering class are non-residents. Please note that all non-citizens of the United States are considered non-residents for admissions purposes regardless of how long they have resided in Illinois and regardless of their immigration status.

**Q:** *Do you give preference to UIC students?*

**A:** UIC students receive the same consideration as any students who have attended high quality four year institutions. They are not given any extra consideration because they already attend UIC.

**Q:** *Do you accept course work completed at community colleges?*

**A:** We accept course work from accredited institutions of higher education, including community colleges. The critical factor in determining whether a course is acceptable is that it is similar in nature, content and level to courses taught at UIC. However, the admissions committee prefers to see some of the science prerequisite courses from a four-year school.

**Q:** *My GPA is not all that good. Do I have any chance to be admitted?*

**A:** Yes, provided you satisfy the **minimum** requirements noted above. If there were extenuating circumstances at the time you were earning that GPA (e.g., working full time and raising a family, or dealing with a medical or personal problem) check "yes" to the question on the application regarding extenuating circumstances, and provide a statement correlating the circumstance with instances of poor grades and offering proof of ability to perform adequately when the circumstance is absent. Applicants may also provide a personal statement or letter from someone with knowledge about the circumstances attesting to the circumstance. The adverse circumstance must be over (problem solved) in order for the applicant to be considered for admission.

**Q:** *What if I don't get accepted? How do I find out why? What should I do?*

**A:** Many students who are not accepted the first time they apply take additional courses (preferably science courses) to demonstrate that they can perform successfully in the physical therapy program and reapply in subsequent years. Applicants may review their unsuccessful application with an adviser on the first Friday of any month at the conclusion of an advising seminar. Usually the seminar concludes at 2:00 pm. The adviser can help the applicant find opportunities for improvement in a subsequent application. This type of advising is available only to applicants who were not accepted for admission at the conclusion of an application cycle.

**Q:** *How long is the program? Is it full or part time? When does it start?*

**A:** The course of study is thirty three months long: two full academic years (including summers) plus an additional year of physical therapy internships. The program is full time and very time intensive. There is no part-time option. The program starts with the Fall Semester only. It should be thought of as "9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday." Although some students hold jobs, the schedule is not very adaptable to outside work commitments. Students should plan to work only minimal hours. Evenings and weekends are needed for study and recreation.

**Q:** *Where are courses held? Where will I be assigned for my clinical internships?*

**A:** Anatomy and Physiology courses are taught by the College of Medicine. Physical therapy courses are held in the College of Applied Health Sciences, principally in the Department of Physical Therapy space. Clinical internships sites are located all over the country, but principally in the Chicago metropolitan area. If a student is assigned to an out of town internship, extra costs for transportation and housing are the responsibility of the student. The student is consulted about internship selection.

**Q:** *Does UIC have dormitories?*

**A:** There are several dormitories on campus. The UIC Housing Office (312-413-5410) will provide information. The Housing Office also keeps a courtesy list of off-campus private housing opportunities.

# UIC Documentation of Clinical Experience

2009-2010 application cycle

Physical Therapy Admissions (M/C 516)

University of Illinois at Chicago

1919 W. Taylor, Chicago, Illinois 60612 – 7251

## Applicant

| | | | - | | - | | | | |

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Former \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### **Release of access to this letter of documentation:**

The applicant must complete and sign the following before submitting this form to the recommender. This request is in compliance with federal law P.L. 9380, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

- I waive my right of access to this letter of documentation.
- I do not waive my right of access to this letter of documentation.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Clinical experience references are destroyed at the completion of each application processing period in compliance with the Office of Admissions and Records nonessential documents retention and destruction policy.*

## Physical Therapist

Name \_\_\_\_\_ License # \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Name of facility \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please affirm that the applicant has spent at least 15 observation, volunteer or employment hours at a physical therapy facility. The purpose of the affirmation is to document the applicant's exposure to clinical experiences. This form will not be used to assess the applicant's performance in the clinic or to assess the nature of the clinical experience.

Applicant has spent at least 15 hours at our facility in:  observation  volunteer  employment

Applicant had the following experience at our facility (check all that apply):

- inpatient  acute care  geriatrics  orthopedics
- outpatient  rehab  pediatrics  sports medicine

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Return the completed form to the applicant to include in his or her application packet.  
The applicant must submit a complete packet by November 15th.*

## **PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM**

Our students complete three full calendar years of didactic and clinical education. Educational experiences include traditional lecture courses, laboratory courses, seminar series, nontraditional short intensive courses and clinical internships. Students will have some laboratory instruction in the University of Illinois Hospital. Students experience extended clinical internships as well as shorter introductory clinical experiences. Nationally known experts may be invited to supplement faculty expertise. Every effort is made to provide expert, thorough instruction.

The clinical education program consists of two components. The first component consists of half day experiences for the student, integrated within the class work portion of physical therapy education, and the second component is the full time clinical rotations. The overall purpose of these experiences is to expose the student to a variety of clinical settings and patient populations prior to the full time clinical rotations.

In clinics, students are exposed to a variety of traditional and nontraditional service delivery models, including acute and rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient clinics, private practices, school system physical therapy, pediatric and geriatric residential facilities, and introducing the student to different patient populations such as pediatrics and geriatrics, as well as patients with neurological, orthopedic, and medical conditions who require physical therapy services. In addition, students are able to see first hand the application of clinical practices discussed in class, such as evaluations and the use of modalities and exercises, and occasional exposure to other aspects of clinical practice such as patient care conferences and rounds.

The UIC Department of Physical Therapy currently has affiliations with 125 clinical facilities. While the majority of these facilities are located in Illinois and the Midwest, there are facilities in the East, the South, and the West. Facilities are in urban, suburban, and fairly rural locales. The Department is continually expanding its affiliations across the country.

Types of facilities include hospital and medical centers (offering inpatient acute, inpatient rehab, and outpatient rotations), outpatient centers and clinics (adult and pediatric, orthopedic and neurological), freestanding rehabilitation hospitals, school systems, private practices, children's hospitals, geriatric rehab centers, home health, veterans and military facilities. With the changing climate of health care, the Department is looking to further enhance its repertoire of nontraditional and community-based clinical affiliation sites.

### Course Sequence for the First Year

Fall Semester (Semester 1)	Credits	Spring Semester (Semester 2)	Credits
PT 600 Introduction to Physical Therapy	4	PT 616 Biophysics	4
ANAT 441 Gross Human Anatomy	5	PT 617 Joint Function and Movement	4
GCLS 500 Physiology	3	ANAT 414 Neuroanatomy	3
PT 629 Science and Practice Seminar I	3	PT 605 Functional Histology	4
		PT 625 Professional Development I	2
		PT 618 Posture and Movement Across the Lifespan	2
		PT 620 Clinical Applications	1
<b>Totals</b>	15		20

### Course Sequence for the Second Year

Summer Semester (Semester 3)	Credits	Fall Semester (Semester 4)	Credits	Spring Semester (Semester 5)	Credits
PT 624 Therapeutic Applications	5	PT 636 Applied Pathophysiology	4	PT 634 Neuromuscular Dysfunction II	5
PT 635 Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction	4	PT 633 Neuromuscular Dysfunction I	5	PT 622 Psychosocial Theory and Practice I	2
PT 640 Clinical Internship I	2	PT 631 Musculoskeletal Dysfunction I	5	PT 632 Musculoskeletal Dysfunction II	5
		PT 626 Professional Development II	3	PT 623 Psychosocial Theory and Practice II	3
		PT 638 Integration and Assessment I	1	PT 639 Integration and Assessment I	1
		Optional Electives	(1-5)	Optional Elective	(1-5)
<b>Totals</b>	11		18 (18-23)		16 (16-21)

### Course Sequence for the Third Year

Summer Semester (Semester 6)	Credits	Fall Semester (Semester 7)	Credits	Spring Semester (Semester 8)	Credits
PT 641 Clinical Internship II	12	PT 642 Clinical Internship III	12	PT 643 Clinical Internship IV	12
				PT 630 Science in Practice Seminar II	1
				PT 627 Professional Development III	2
				PT 628 Case Management in Physical Therapy Practice	3
<b>Totals</b>	12		12		18

During the eighth semester all classes involve integration and application of material presented throughout the program. The advanced classes in the eighth semester are seminar in nature and require small class sizes to be effective. Students in the last semester of the program may be divided into groups (A and B).

## Course Descriptions for Required Courses

Course Titles	Course Descriptions	Credits
<b>General Area: Orientation</b>		
PT 600 Introduction to Physical Therapy	Introduction to the profession of physical therapy, legal and ethical concepts affecting physical therapy practice, professional behavior, concepts of diversity, and medical terminology. <b>Laboratory:</b> 2 hours per week	4
<b>General Area: Foundations</b>		
ANAT 441 Gross Human Anatomy	Functional and structural anatomy of the human body, including some aspects of embryology. Gross morphology and function of the human body. <b>Laboratory:</b> 9 hours per week	5
ANAT 414 Neuroanatomy	Basic development and gross features of the central nervous system, motor, sensory, and integrative functional areas. <b>Laboratory:</b> 1.3 Hours Per Week	3
GCLS 500 Physiology	Lectures in human physiology. Emphasis is on an integrated approach to systems physiology. <b>Laboratory:</b> None	3
PT 605 Functional Histology	Basic embryology, epithelial tissue, integument, blood, muscle, connective tissue in development and methods of studying cells will be examined. Issues related to injury, repair, disease and disuse will be emphasized. <b>Laboratory:</b> none	4
PT 616 Biophysics	Application of physical properties to the human body and biological tissues. Clinical and diagnostic applications of Newtonian physics, tissue mechanics, dynamics, light, acoustics, electricity, heat and electromagnetic energy. Bioinstrumentation and diagnostic imaging. <b>Laboratory:</b> 3 Hours Per Week	4
PT 617 Joint Function and Movement	Emphasis of the study of human movement including biomechanics; a regional approach including functional anatomy, pathokinesiology, and palpation; basic joint and muscle performance, range of motion; posture; ergonomics and gait.. <b>Laboratory:</b> 4 Hours Per Week	4
PT 618 Posture and Movement Across the Lifespan	The general concepts pertaining to the normal control and learning of movement and posture, as well as the development of these abilities.	2
PT 622 Psychosocial Theory and Practice I	Prepares therapists to work with persons and families from diverse backgrounds, different cultures and a variety of socioeconomic groups. Concepts of culture and personal experience relevant to health, well-being, illness, disability, adaptation, and rehabilitation are discussed. <b>Laboratory:</b> None	2
PT 623 Psychosocial Theory and Practice II	Human behavior, cognition and development as it relates to physical therapy practice. Psychosocial adaptations to illness and physical dysfunction. The role of the therapist in working with patients with mental illnesses will be explored. <b>Laboratory:</b> None	3
PT 624 Therapeutic Applications	The laboratory course is designed to develop skill in the application of physical therapy modalities and procedures. <b>Laboratory:</b> 6 Hours Per Week	3

<b>Course Titles</b>	<b>Course Descriptions</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PT 629 Science in Practice Seminar I	The course presents an introduction to methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to clinical problem solving. <b>Laboratory:</b> None	3
PT 630 Science in Practice Seminar II	Scientific inquiry will be applied to selected cases in clinical problem solving. <b>Laboratory:</b> None	1
<b>General Area: Musculoskeletal</b>		
PT 631 Musculoskeletal Dysfunction I	Focus on the spine. Medical and surgical management of diseases and injuries of the musculoskeletal system. Physical therapy management of musculoskeletal problems by region. Differences across the life span will be considered as will the therapist's role in health promotion and screening. <b>Laboratory:</b> 4 Hours Per Week	5
PT 632 Musculoskeletal Dysfunction II	Focus on the extremities. Medical and surgical management of diseases and injuries of the musculoskeletal system. Physical therapy management of musculoskeletal problems by region. Prosthetics and orthotics (theory, principles, and clinical problem solving). Differences across the life span will be considered as will the therapist's role in health promotion and screening. <b>Laboratory:</b> 4 Hours Per Week	5
<b>General Area: Neuromuscular</b>		
PT 633 Neuromuscular Dysfunction I	Medical, surgical, and physical therapy management of persons with congenital neurological dysfunction. Normal motor development from a life span perspective and concepts of neuromuscular dysfunction utilizing a disablement framework. Management of infants in neonatal intensive care units. The therapist's role in health promotion, screening, and early detection of developmental delays. <b>Laboratory:</b> 4 Hours Per Week	5
PT 634 Neuromuscular Dysfunction II	Medical, surgical, and physical therapy management of persons with acquired neurological dysfunction will be covered. Principles of motor learning, motor control, and life span motor development in the context of a disablement framework will be discussed. <b>Laboratory:</b> 4 Hours Per Week	5
<b>General Area: Organ Systems</b>		
PT 635 Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction	Pathophysiology, medical management, physical therapy management and health promotion for persons with cardiopulmonary disorders will be examined. In addition, students will learn how to screen for disorders of the cardiopulmonary system. <b>Laboratory:</b> 4 Hours Per Week	4
PT 636 Applied Pathophysiology	Pathophysiology, medical management, physical therapy management and health promotion for persons with disorders of gastrointestinal, hepatic, renal, endocrine, integumentary and autoimmune systems will be examined. In addition, students will learn how to screen for disorders of these systems that may be encountered during physical therapy practice. <b>Laboratory:</b> 2 Hours Per Week	4

<b>General Area: Professional and Administration</b>		
PT 620 Clinical Applications	Students are trained to make decisions relative to their clinical learning and to analyze professional decisions from multiple perspectives.	1
PT 625 Professional Development I	Overview of health care delivery systems with emphasis on the changing roles of physical therapists. The special roles and responsibilities of professionals will be discussed in the context of today's society. <b>Laboratory:</b> None	2
PT 626 Professional Development II	An introduction to management theory and practice, health care economics, and methods of assuring quality. The role of the physical therapist as a supervisor will be examined and issues related to professional and legal responsibilities explored. Models of management and their relationships with changes in the health care system will be considered. <b>Laboratory:</b> None	3
PT 627 Professional Development III	Ethical and legal issues in practice are the focus of this course. Principles and practices of health planning and education and introduction to computer assisted management are also covered. <b>Laboratory:</b> None	2
<b>General Area: Integration</b>		
PT 628 Case Management in Physical Therapy Practice	This course examines comprehensive patient care management strategies that address the physical therapy, medical and psychosocial needs of patients. <b>Laboratory:</b> None	3
<b>General Area: Clinical Fieldwork</b>		
PT 638 Integration and Assessment I	Simulated clinical experience	1
PT 639 Integration and Assessment II	Simulated clinical experience	1
PT 640 Clinical Internship I	A 2-week supervised practicum, in a clinical setting to prepare for entry-level physical therapist practice.	2
PT 641 Clinical Internship II	12 weeks of full time supervised clinical experience. Application of physical therapy theory and clinical skills, as well as administrative, educational and supervisory skills. Practice areas to include: acute, rehabilitation/neurological, musculoskeletal, and atypical or unconventional settings and settings in which there is a need for physical therapists.	12
PT 642 Clinical Internship III	12 weeks of full time supervised clinical experience.	12
PT 643 Clinical Internship IV	12 weeks of full time supervised clinical experience.	12