

Pre-professional Studies

College of Applied Health Sciences – University of Illinois at Chicago

Pre-professional studies in the College of Applied Health Sciences are designed for students who intend to pursue their undergraduate or graduate education in professional programs of the AHS College. Pre-professional students in AHS typically are Kinesiology majors. Advisors for students in pre-occupational therapy and pre-physical therapy are available in the AHS College Office of Student Affairs and the department offices. Students are also encouraged to participate in the preadmission information sessions which are held monthly within the OT and PT departments. Scheduling information for these sessions can be found on the AHS Web site <http://www.ahs.uic.edu>.

Completion of the required course work or attainment of the minimum grade point average does not guarantee admission to a professional program. Pre-OT and pre-PT students must complete all the requirements for a bachelor's degree, including a major, in addition to the pre-professional studies.

Pre-Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists provide services to maximize the function and satisfaction of persons whose daily life performance has been interrupted and jeopardized by disease, disability, life stress, and other factors. The occupational therapist provides the individual with opportunities for involvement in carefully chosen work, play, or self-care activities. The occupational therapist also uses various methods of mutual problem solving, environmental modification, adaptive devices, technology, and biomechanical and sensorimotor treatment methods to support and enhance performance.

Many occupational therapists work within hospital settings, but there is growing emphasis on prevention and treatment of the disabled in nonclinical settings. As a result, many new areas of employment are now available. For example, occupational therapists are increasingly employed in school systems where they work with handicapped children, enhancing their ability to perform as students. Working with in-home health organizations, occupational therapists help individuals and families function more adequately at daily tasks. In industrial settings, they aid disabled or injured workers' return to gainful employment. In addition, occupational therapists have developed private practices.

The pre-professional course work listed below prepares students to apply to the professional program in the Department of Occupational Therapy in the College of Applied Health Sciences after completion of the undergraduate degree. Students should contact OTDept@uic.edu or (312) 413-0124 for further information.

Pre-occupational therapy students may choose any major but should work with a pre-professional advisor to plan a course of study that fulfills pre-occupational therapy studies requirements as well as the requirements for the major.

The pre-occupational therapy requirements follow and should be completed as part of the undergraduate degree program. The courses listed below must be completed with a grade of C or better.

UIC Courses^a (SVCC Courses)

BIOS 100 Biology of Cells and Organisms^b (BIO 105)

KN 251 Human Physiological Anatomy I^{cd} (BIO 109)

KN 252 Human Physiological Anatomy II^{cd} (BIO 110)

PSCH 100 Introduction to Psychology^e (PSY 103)

PSCH 242 Introduction to Research in Psychology (--)

PSCH 270 Abnormal Psychology^{de} (PSY 217)

PSCH 320 Developmental Psychology^d (--)

PSCH 343 Statistical Methods/ Behavioral Science (--)

One course in anthropology or sociology (SOC)

Although not required, it is recommended that students complete a medical terminology course. Alternatively, students are expected to complete a self-study computerized course in medical terminology upon acceptance. (NRS 116 recommended)

Total UIC Hours—Pre-Occupational Therapy 35

^a Students completing an undergraduate degree at UIC must complete the General Education requirements. Students should consult the General Education section and their college/department sections of the catalog for more information on fulfilling these requirements.

^b This course is approved for the Analyzing the Natural World General Education category.

^c KN 251/252 sequence begins in the fall semester only at UIC.

^d These courses must be taken within five years of admission to the program.

^e This course is approved for the Understanding the Individual and Society General Education category.

Other minimum admissions requirements include an earned bachelor's degree in any field, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) certification with Health Providers Status, 3.00/4.00 GPA for the last 60 semester hours earned for the baccalaureate degree, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of at least 1000 combined verbal and quantitative parts, three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement. Applicants with a GPA of below 3.00 or GRE score below 1000 who display strengths in other areas may be considered for admission. Students must apply for admission to the program approximately one year before planned enrollment.

Pre-Physical Therapy

Physical therapy is a health profession whose primary purpose is the promotion of optimal human health and function through the application of scientific principles to prevent, identify, assess, correct, or alleviate acute or prolonged movement dysfunction. Physical therapy encompasses areas of specialized competence and includes the development of new principles and applications to more effectively meet existing and emerging health needs. Other professional activities that serve the purpose of physical therapy are research, education, consultation, and administration.

The physical therapist, working in cooperation with other health professionals, serves the individual needs of the client and the health needs of society. The physical therapy profession depends heavily on knowledge and application of the basic medical and behavioral sciences, coupled with specialized knowledge and skills in the clinical arts and sciences.

Physical therapists may work as staff, supervisors, or self-employed practitioners who serve clients directly; as administrators of clinical departments, health agencies, or educational programs; as healthcare agency consultants; as clinical or academic teachers; or as researchers.

They may work in hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, schools for handicapped children, neighborhood health centers, physicians' offices, nursing homes and convalescent centers, private and public health agencies, sports settings, and universities.

Pre-physical therapy students may choose any major but should work with an advisor to plan a course of study that fulfills the pre-physical therapy studies requirements as well as the requirements for the major. Students are advised to declare an educational goal of pre-physical therapy upon entering UIC which will alert them to specific workshops and other pertinent information.

The pre-physical therapy requirements follow and should be completed as part of the undergraduate degree program.

UIC Courses^a (SVCC Courses)
BIOS 100—Biology of Cells and Organisms^b (BIO 105)

One of the following general chemistry sequences:

CHEM 112—General College Chemistry I (5)^b (CHE 105)

CHEM 114—General College Chemistry II (5)^b (CHE 106)

OR

CHEM 116—Honors General Chemistry I (5)^b (—)

CHEM 118—Honors General Chemistry II (5)^b (—)

MATH 180—Calculus I (MAT 203)

PHYS 105—Introductory Physics I—Lecture^{bc} (PHY 201)

PHYS 106—Introductory Physics I—Laboratory^{bc}

PHYS 107—Introductory Physics II—Lecture^{bc} (PHY 202)

PHYS 108—Introductory Physics II—Laboratory^{bc}

PSCH 100—Introduction to Psychology^d (PSY 103)
PSCH 242—Introduction/ Research in Psy (--)

One course in developmental or abnormal psychology, choose from the following:

PSCH 270—Abnormal Psychology (3)^d (PSY 217)
PSCH 320—Developmental Psychology (3) (--)

KN 251—Human Physiological Anatomy I^c (BIO 109)
KN 252—Human Physiological Anatomy II^c (BIO 110)

Total UIC Hours—Pre-Physical Therapy 50

^a Students completing an undergraduate degree at UIC must complete the General Education requirements. Students should consult the General Education section and their college/department sections of the catalog for more information on fulfilling these requirements.

^b This course is approved for the Analyzing the Natural World General Education category.

^c Each of the following pairs of courses will be considered one course in meeting the LAS General Education requirements: PHYS 105/106; PHYS 107/108.

^d This course is approved for the Understanding the Individual and Society General Education category.

^e KN 251/252 sequence begins in the fall semester only at UIC.

In addition, applicants must complete a minimum of 45 hours of documented volunteer or observation experiences in three different physical therapy facilities; at least 15 hours must be completed at each facility. Current certification in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) with Health Provider Status is recommended prior to beginning the professional program. Students must also have earned a bachelor's degree prior to enrolling in the program.

The minimum GPA for application to the program in physical therapy is 2.50/4.00 in science and nonscience courses. The competitive GPA, however, is considerably above this level. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within five years of the date of application. Students must apply for admission to the program approximately one year before planned enrollment.