How do I Become a Physical Therapist

- Graduate from an accredited program
  - UNM Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

- Pass the NPTE
  (national physical therapy examination)
UNM Program Length

- Begins in August
- Spans 34 months
- Several 2 to 4-week breaks
Three Year Curriculum

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<td>Foundations I</td>
<td>MS Concepts &amp; Mgmt I</td>
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<td>Evidence Based PT I</td>
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<td><strong>Y2</strong></td>
<td>Neurological Evaluation &amp; Treatment I</td>
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<td>Patient Management &amp; Clinical Decision Making II</td>
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#1 Get as much diverse exposure to the profession as you can

Volunteer experience is considered the same as paid work experience.

20 hours required
- “the more the better”
- quality vs quantity
- diversify settings

Primary goal:
“Is P.T. the profession for me?”

Wanting to help people is a noble cause however there are many types of jobs where you can help people. Being a PT is wonderful, but it is not for everyone. Observation hours help you to understand the immense knowledge needed to treat patients and some of the complicated issues that go into being a PT. Knowing you have considered the career in its entirety and can talk about your ideas and goals as a future PT helps our program have confidence you have the grit to make it through the program.

Helpful to observe in a variety of PT settings
#2 Learn about the mission/vision of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)

- Source of information about the physical therapy profession.
- 1-800-999-APTA
- www.apta.org
#3 Take 30 hours of science prerequisites

Prerequisites:
May be taken at any accredited college or university
- Chemistry (8 hrs.)
- Physics (8 hrs.)
- 2 Anatomy & Physiology (8 hrs.)
- Statistics (3 hrs.)
- Upper-level Psychology (3 hrs.)

- You should have all prerequisites completed by December 2021.
- You are permitted to have one final prerequisite to be taken during the 2022 Spring Semester.
- If you have more than one (1) outstanding prerequisite class yet to take after the December 2021 academic update, your application will be considered incomplete and will not move forward.

- You must have a grade of C or better in all prerequisite courses
- Must have a prerequisite GPA as defined by PTCAS of at least a 3.0
Restrictions on prerequisites

- Pass/Fail or CR/NC options are only acceptable for the Spring and Summer 2020 semesters.
  - NOT acceptable for pre-requisite courses taken other semesters.

- If you are trying to use Advanced Placement credits for a prerequisite class, please contact us so we can verify that it meets the specific class requirements and is listed appropriately on your transcript.

- Anatomy/physiology prerequisites must be taken within the last 5 years. There is no expiration date on the other prerequisite classes that meet the acceptable course, credit and lab criteria.

- Psychology must be upper level.
  - For a complete list of classes that are accepted please visit the UNM PTCAS directory page under course prerequisites. Not accepted: Sports Psychology or Psychology of Human Sexuality.

Please use the highest course grade possible for your prerequisite selection. You may substitute a higher-level class for the prerequisite as long as you have taken the lower level required class.

- As an example: you took Chemistry 1 + lab (4 cr.) your sophomore year and earned a B. Your junior year you took biochemistry + lab (4 cr.) a higher-level chemistry that had a prerequisite requirement of Chemistry 1 and you earned an A. You may use that higher-level chemistry class with the A, to match our prerequisites.
For the University of New Mexico (and PTCAS) to accept credits earned from a web-based course, that course must appear on a transcript from an accredited college or university. Therefore, if the online course you have taken or plan to take is offered by UNM or CNM (or any other accredited college or university), and it satisfies our requirement, the course will be accepted.

All course work is verified through PTCAS. If you have questions regarding validity of an institution, please contact PTCAS directly.
#3 Get a Bachelor’s Degree

Any Degree is Acceptable

Applicants must have a cumulative/overall GPA as defined by PTCAS of at least a 2.67
#4 Take the GRE

General test must be taken within 5 years of application.

Minimum Score Requirement:

- Quantitative 20th percentile
- Verbal 25th percentile

We will still accept the at-home GRE testing through ETS for the 2021-2022 cycle.

Submit scores to UNM PT Program Institution Code: 7670

Deadline for taking the GRE:
October 1st, 2021

GRE: [www.gre.com](http://www.gre.com)
GRE Assistance

Prep classes and books are helpful

GRE Intensive Prep Course offered throughout the year at Anderson School of Business
https://mba.mgt.unm.edu/testprep/

Other classes offered on line and in person
  - https://www.princetonreview.com
  - https://www.kaptest.com

HSC Office for Diversity Test Prep Programs- Apply Online!
  - https://hsc.unm.edu/programs/diversity/student-programs/test-prep.html
#6 Apply on PTCAS

http://www.ptcas.org

Application portal opens in June/July

Completed application due October 1st, 2021.
If you are taking courses in Fall 2021/Spring 2022

All classes being taken in the Fall of 2021 should be listed in PTCAS as in progress

- You will update the grades for the classes being taken in the Fall of 2021 during the Academic Update in December 2021

All classes you are planning to take in the spring of 2022 should be listed in PTCAS as in progress

- only 1 of these can be a prerequisite class

Must complete Bachelor degree by May of 2022

- June of 2022 for trimester curriculum
Total Admission Requirements

- Baccalaureate degree in any field
- Overall/cumulative GPA of > 2.67
- 30 hours prerequisite classes with a GPA ≥ 3.0
- GRE: Quant ≥ 20%, Verbal ≥ 25%
- 20 observation hours
- Essays on PTCAS
- 2 Letters of Reference  
  (1 must come from a PT)
- In person interview in January
How competitive am I?

- Average PREREQUISITE GPA Class of 2024: 3.79
- Average CUMULATIVE GPA Class of 2024: 3.74
- Average GRE Scores Class of 2024:
  - Verbal Percentile  63
  - Quantitative Percentile  47
- Essays
- LOR
- Interview
How to Apply
Application Process

Individuals applying to the Physical Therapy Program must apply through the PTCAS

http://www.ptcas.org/home.aspx (Central Application Service) by October 1st, 2021
Application Materials

1. Complete online application
2. Enter all college courses taken and GRE scores
3. Send an official transcript from each school attended (update December 2021 when transcript is available for courses in progress during time of application) to PTCAS
4. Complete PTCAS essays & documents
5. Upload your reference contact information
5. $140 Application fee (financial assistance may be available through PTCAS)
1. PTCAS Application Home – Create a profile
2. Complete your personal information
3. Complete supporting information
4. Select programs you want to apply to

Verify you meet requirements for each individual program. We are not all the same!
5. Enter all colleges attended
6. Enter your coursework from every transcript of every college attended
7. Match pre-requisites from your transcripts. Choose the best fit with the highest grade!
8. Create reference request

Please inform the people you select to write your reference letters that the UNM Division of Physical Therapy cannot contact them for more information about you, they need to be thorough and include everything they want the UNM Division of Physical Therapy to know about you in their reference letter.
9. Enter your GRE – make sure you have your official scores sent to our program (7670)

You are required to take the GRE by October 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2021 however we know it will take a few weeks for the scores to arrive in PTCAS.

If your official scores have not been received in PTCAS by November 1\textsuperscript{st} please call ETS and PTCAS to identify the cause of delay.
10. If Applicable, complete the NM Residency Application found in PTCAS

If you are a New Mexico Resident please complete the NM Residency form found on our web site

Upload the needed documents (3) on PTCAS
  1. The completed form
  2. A copy of your driver's license
  3. A copy of your vehicle registration or other verification of residency.

***IF YOU ARE NOT A RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, YOU NEED NOT COMPLETE THE RESIDENCY FORM
11. Check Status Often

Make sure that your official GRE are received and that your transcripts are verified by PTCAS. If your transcripts are not verified or your official GRE is not received it can cause delays in processing your application.
Academic Update in December

Complete an academic update in PTCAS in December 2021, to update any classes listed as in progress in the Fall semester, if applicable.

- If you are enrolled in classes in Spring of 2022, they should also be listed in PTCAS as in progress. Remember only one of those classes can be a prerequisite.

[https://help.liaisonedu.com/PTCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Submitting_and_Monitoring_Your_PTCAS_Application/Before_and_After_You_Submit_Your_PTCAS_Application/03_Update...](https://help.liaisonedu.com/PTCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Submitting_and_Monitoring_Your_PTCAS_Application/Before_and_After_You_Submit_Your_PTCAS_Application/03_Update...
In Person Interview

- January 2022
- Student panel (3 students from 2nd year)
- Panel of 3 interviewers (faculty & clinicians)
- Knowledge of Physical Therapy issues and problem-solving abilities
- Volunteer experience helpful
- Only the top 75-80 applicants will be offered an interview

Interview format is subject to change at any time.
Final Selection

Offers are made to the top 30 applicants with up to 20 alternates

Strong preference is given to residents of the State of New Mexico
Nondiscrimination Policy

The admission procedure in the Physical Therapy Program at the University of New Mexico does not discriminate against any student on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, race, color, religion, age, national origin or physical handicap.