

# PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY

## Biology (Life Sciences Degree) Track

Physical therapy, or PT, is a branch of medicine that helps patients recover from physical injury. It focuses on correct movement of the body for the best mobility, function, and quality of life for patients of all activity levels. To become a physical therapist, you'll need to first obtain a bachelor's degree. Biology is a recommended program of study and is the required undergraduate degree for RHOP students. After getting your undergraduate degree, you'll be ready to enter a professional physical therapy program at graduate school to obtain your physical therapy degree. The University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University, and the University of South Dakota are popular choices for PT students, but there are many others. Information about the prerequisites for other PT schools can be found at [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org).

## fast facts

**Degrees offered:** This program is set up so you can receive your B.S. in a field of study offered by WSC. Then you'll be ready to move on to graduate work in a professional physical therapy program.

**GPA required to enter physical therapy school:** 3.5 or better

**Department:** Life Sciences

**School:** Science, Health, and Criminal Justice

**Suggested program of study:** Biology

**Popular minors:** Psychology, Exercise Science, Spanish

## focus on results

### Skills Learned

- Human anatomy and physiology
- Evolutionary processes
- Biological systems and structures
- Research, data collection, and analysis
- Modern lab techniques
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Observation
- Communication

### Possible Careers

- Physical therapist
- Pediatric physical therapist
- PT program director
- Research lab tech
- Rehabilitation specialist
- Physical therapy educator

### Types of Employers

- Hospitals
- Outpatient clinics
- Nursing homes
- Sports clinics
- Fitness centers
- Sports teams or clubs
- Home health agencies
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Non-profit organizations
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Wellness centers

## outside the classroom

### Activities/Opportunities

- Conduct research projects
- Conferences and presentations
- Peer mentoring and tutoring
- Service-Learning
- Study Abroad

### Clubs/Organizations

- Biology Club
- Health Science Club
- Pre-Physical Therapy / Pre-Occupational Therapy Club



Visit [www.wsc.edu/clubs](http://www.wsc.edu/clubs) to learn more about clubs and organizations on campus.

# Sample program of study

2021-22 Academic Year

Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. There is no substitute for developing a careful course registration plan in consultation with your advisor. The class sequence listed is suggested only. The final decision rests with the student and academic advisor.

This recommended sequence of courses includes completing a B.S. degree in biology and is intended for those students who also may be interested in other medical fields.

## Freshman - 1st semester

BIO 110 Biology Concepts (General Studies CAT 7)	4
CHE 106 General Chemistry I	4
ENG 102 Composition Skills (General Studies CAT 1)	3
General Studies CAT 2	3

## Freshman - 2nd semester

*BIO 104 Environmental Concerns (General Studies CAT 10)	3
BIO 200 Zoology	4
CHE 107 General Chemistry II	4
ENG 200 Expository Writing	3
General Studies CAT 9	3

## Sophomore - 3rd semester

BIO 220 Human Anatomy	4
BIO 320 Molecular Genetics	4
PSY 101 General Psychology OR SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (General Studies CAT 5)	3
General Studies CAT 4	3

## Sophomore - 4th semester

BIO 340 Human Physiology	4
CHE 208 Intro to Organic Chemistry	4
MAT 180 Applied Probability and Statistics (General Studies CAT 3)	3
**PSY 230 Lifespan Development	3
General Studies CAT 6	3

## Junior - 5th semester

BIO 300+ Level elective	4
BIO 434 Advanced Cell Biology	3
PED 275 Prevention and Care of Athletic Injury	3
PHY 201 General Physics I	3
PHY 321 General Physics I Lab	1

## Junior - 6th semester

BIO 210 Experimental Plant Science	4
BIO 370 Intro to Research	2
PHY 202 General Physics II	3
PHY 322 Physics Laboratory II	1
**PSY 450 Abnormal Psychology	3
Elective	3

## Summer

Take Graduate Records Exam (GRE)	
BIO 397 Internship	1

## Senior - 7th semester

BIO 301 Biology Seminar	1
BIO 469 Senior seminar	1
300+ electives	8
General Studies CAT 8	3

## Senior - 8th semester

BIO 330 Histology	4
BIO 425 Evolution	3
Electives	7

\*Recommended, but not required, to fulfill General Studies CAT 10

\*\*PSY 230 or 450 is required for UNMC PT school; an upper level elective may be substituted for one of these courses.

## pre-physical therapy faculty



Visit [www.wsc.edu/life-sciences](http://www.wsc.edu/life-sciences) to learn more about the Department of Life Sciences.

Doug Christensen, Ph.D.  
Department Chair  
Carhart Science 207G  
402-375-7345  
[dochrist1@wsc.edu](mailto:dochrist1@wsc.edu)

Mark Hammer, Ph.D.  
Shawn Percy, Ph.D.  
Danielle Peekenschneider, Ph.D.  
Jillian Wormington, Ph.D.

Revised on: 5/1/21