

# PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY, MINOR IN

The pre-physical therapy minor provides foundational courses for students that are preparing to be competitive applicants for Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T) programs after completing their bachelor's degree at VCU. The pre-physical therapy minor can be completed as a part of any undergraduate degree. Completing this minor does not guarantee admission into any physical therapy program. This minor is structured to academically prepare students to apply for physical therapy programs broadly. In addition to this minor, students should participate in clinical and non-clinical experiences to develop a competitive application for physical therapy programs. Visit the VCU Career Services - Pre-Professional Health Career Advising (<https://careers.vcu.edu/majors-and-careers/career-pathways/health-care/>) website for more information and to schedule an appointment with a pre-professional health and STEM career counselor.

Physical therapy programs across the U.S. have different prerequisites for admission. The list below shows courses that may be required by various programs including the VCU physical therapy program. It is always recommended that you visit each program's webpage and/or attend an information session to obtain requirements for specific programs. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic adviser to integrate these courses into their academic plan. In addition, students are encouraged to discuss career plans with their pre-professional health academic minor adviser and career counselor for additional guidance.

For the pre-physical therapy minor, a minimum of nine credits in upper-level (300-level or higher) courses must be taken at VCU. All upper-level courses at a 300-level or higher listed in this minor are strongly recommended to be completed at VCU. It is encouraged to demonstrate future academic success in physical therapy programs through a rigorous course schedule. Physical therapy programs may prefer students complete these courses at a four-year institution in order to demonstrate future academic success in physical therapy program course work.

## Declaring the pre-physical therapy minor

To declare the pre-physical therapy minor:

- Students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours at VCU to be eligible to declare the minor
- Students must obtain a minimum cumulative VCU GPA of 3.0
- Students must complete BIOL 151 and BIOZ 151 with minimum grades of C

## Maintaining the pre-physical therapy minor (progression policy)

- Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 VCU cumulative GPA.
  - If a student's VCU cumulative GPA drops below 3.0, they will be placed on probation in the minor and allowed one semester to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 – provided it is mathematically possible to do so. If it is not mathematically possible to do so, or if the student fails to raise their minimum cumulative GPA to 3.0 during their probationary semester, they will be removed from the pre-physical therapy minor and can re-declare the minor once

eligible. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their minor adviser to discuss their academic plans/progress.

- Students cannot exceed more than three attempts of any course within the minor including withdrawals and historical repeat attempts. If a student exceeds three attempts for any course within the minor, they will not be eligible to maintain and graduate with the minor.

## Required courses

Course	Title	Hours
BIOL 151 & BIOZ 151	Introduction to Biological Sciences I and Introduction to Biological Science Laboratory I	4
BIOL 152 & BIOZ 152	Introduction to Biological Sciences II and Introduction to Biological Science Laboratory II	4
BIOL 205	Basic Human Anatomy (includes lab)	4
BIOL 300	Cellular and Molecular Biology	3
CHEM 101 & CHEZ 101	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Laboratory I	4
CHEM 102 & CHEZ 102	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry Laboratory II	4
MATH 151 or MATH 200	Precalculus Mathematics Calculus with Analytic Geometry I	4
PHIS 206 & PHIZ 206	Human Physiology and Human Physiology Laboratory	4
PHYS 201 or PHYS 207	General Physics I <sup>1</sup> University Physics I	4-5
PHYS 202 or PHYS 208	General Physics II <sup>2</sup> University Physics II	4-5
PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology	4
PSYC 304 or PSYC 407	Life Span Developmental Psychology Psychology of the Abnormal	3
STAT 210	Basic Practice of Statistics <sup>3</sup>	3
Select one course from the following 300-level or higher elective options:		
BIOL 310 or BIOL 448 or BIOL 449 or HPEX 332 or HPEX 353 or HPEX 375 or HPEX 440	Genetics <sup>4</sup> Neuroscience Stem Cells in Disease and Therapy Motor Learning and Performance Disease Trends, Prevention and Control Physiology of Exercise Chronic Disease and Exercise Management	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>52-54</b>

1

MATH 200 is a prerequisite for PHYS 207.

2

MATH 201 is a prerequisite for PHYS 208.

STAT 208 or STAT 212 can be used to fulfill this requirement for students who complete one of these courses prior to declaring the minor or are required to complete either course for their major

BIOL 300 is a prerequisite for BIOL 310. BIOL 448 prerequisites: BIOL 300 with a minimum grade of C, and pre- or corequisite: BIOL 310. BIOL 449 prerequisites: BIOL 152, BIOZ 152 and BIOL 300, each with a minimum grade of C, and BIOL 310. HPEX 353 pre- or corequisite: HPEX 250. HPEX 375 prerequisite: PHIS 206 and corequisite:HPEZ 375. HPEX 440 prerequisites: HPEX 375 and HPEZ 375.

Additional recommended courses and information

Physical therapy programs across the U.S. have different prerequisites for admission. Students should discuss career plans with a pre-professional health career counselor for additional guidance. If the 300-level science course requirements have been completed, students are encouraged to continue taking upper-level science courses to demonstrate academic rigor and success. The list below shows courses required by various physical therapy programs beyond the courses listed above for the pre-physical therapy minor. Completing courses from the list below will not contribute to the pre-physical therapy minor requirements.

Course	Title	Hours
BIOL 310	Genetics <sup>1</sup>	3
BIOL 448	Neuroscience <sup>2</sup>	3
BIOL 449	Stem Cells in Disease and Therapy <sup>3</sup>	3
HPEX 332	Motor Learning and Performance	3
HPEX 353	Disease Trends, Prevention and Control <sup>4</sup>	3
HPEX 375 & HPEZ 375	Physiology of Exercise and Physiology of Exercise Laboratory <sup>5</sup>	4
HPEX 440	Chronic Disease and Exercise Management <sup>6</sup>	3
UNIV 191	Student Success Special Topics	1-3

Prerequisite: PHIS 206; corequisite: HPEZ 375

Prerequisite: BIOL 300 with a minimum grade of C; pre- or corequisite: BIOL 310

Prerequisites: BIOL 152, BIOZ 152 and BIOL 300, each with a minimum grade of C; and BIOL 310

Pre- or corequisite: HPEX 250

Prerequisite: PHIS 206; corequisite: HPEZ 375

Prerequisites: HPEX 375 and HPEZ 375