

## PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPIST (PT) PLANNING GUIDE

### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name:	Email:
Major(s):	Minor(s):
GPA:	State of Residence:
Expected Graduation Date:	Expected Application Date:
Previous Degree(s):	Are you applying as an international student?

### PART 1: IDENTIFY TARGET SCHOOLS.

Identify the PT schools to which you might be interested in applying. The American Physical Therapy Association maintains [a list of PT schools with links to their websites](#). Use this chart to record information about your target schools.

SCHOOL NAME	MINIMUM GRE	MINIMUM GPA	MINIMUM SCIENCE GPA	REQUIRED EXPERIENCES	NON-RES. INTL.*

\*Use this column to record whether this school admits non-resident (of the state) and/or international students (if this applies to you).

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**PART 2: CHECK PREREQUISITE COURSES.**

Required prerequisite courses vary from school to school. Use this chart to record prerequisites for your target schools. Copy this page as needed.

SCHOOL	PREREQUISITE	TAKEN (DATE)	PLANNED (DATE)	GRADE

**PART 3: RECORD YOUR EXPERIENCES**

Record work, shadowing, volunteer, research, study abroad, student organization, and other experiences here. Copy this page as needed.

EXPERIENCE AND/OR POSITION TITLE	ORGANIZATION	SUPERVISOR NAME AND CONTACT INFO.	RESPONSIBILITIES	DATES

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**PART 4: PREPARE FOR AND TAKE THE GRE.**

About half of PT programs require applicants to take the [Graduate Record Exam](#) (GRE). Check with your target programs to see which standardized tests they require.

I TOOK/PLAN TO TAKE THE GRE ON THE FOLLOWING DATE(S):			
PRACTICE TEST(S)	SCORE	GRE	SCORE
Composite Score		Composite Score	
Verbal Reasoning		Verbal Reasoning	
Quantitative Reasoning		Quantitative Reasoning	
Analytical Writing		Analytical Writing	

**PART 5: REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.**

Identify three to five people who might be willing to write a letter of recommendation for you. Check the requirements of the school(s) to which you are applying to find out how many and what kind of letters are required. The Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) maintains a [list of the types of references accepted by its member programs](#).

NAME	TITLE/POSITION	CONTACT INFORMATION	ASKED (DATE)	LETTER SUBMITTED

**PART 6: PLAN AND WRITE YOUR PERSONAL ESSAY.**

Your PT school application (which, depending on your target programs, you may submit through [PTCAS](#)) will contain a prompt for and space to write a personal essay that is approximately 4,500 characters long. The 2023 prompt is, “Every person has a background, an identity, interests, or talents which they feel their application would be incomplete without having mentioned. Describe the traits or experiences that make you unique and explain how they will help you be a successful physical therapist.”

As early as possible in your academic career, open a Google Doc to use to collect your thoughts about this prompt. Jot down ideas about your statement whenever they occur to you. Don’t worry about grammar or structure at first. You can take care of those details later. When the time comes to write your essay, you will have some ideas with which to begin. The American Physical Therapy Association publishes [a helpful guide to writing your application essay](#).

**PART 7: COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION.**

If you are applying through PTCAS, you will submit your application approximately one year before you hope to begin PT school. PTCAS allows you to complete one application to apply to each of the programs in which you are interested. PTCAS publishes a [quick start guide to the PT school application process](#). If your target schools do not participate in PTCAS, you will want to check with them for specific information about how and when to submit your application.