Physical therapists, sometimes called PTs, help injured or ill people improve their movement and manage their pain.

Entry-level physical therapists require a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degree. A D.P.T. program typically requires four years of study after completion of the undergraduate prerequisites. The median salary for Physical Therapists in 2012 was $82,390 and the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that the number of jobs in physical therapy will grow much faster than average through 2024.

The prerequisite coursework for DPT programs varies from college to college. Some DPT programs require completion of a 4-year undergraduate degree before admission, while others primarily accept students who began their undergraduate preparation at the same college, but will accept some transfer students with the correct pre-requisites. Interested students are encouraged to thoroughly research prospective DPT programs in order to best prepare for their programs of choice. The guide below lists the most common pre-requisite courses.

### Curriculum Guide*

*note cautions in paragraph above

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Required Coursework**</th>
<th>St. John Fisher Courses</th>
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| 2 semesters of Biology | BIOL 120, BIOL 127L: General Biology  
BIOL 128: Zoology |
| 2 semesters of General Chemistry | CHEM 103/103L, CHEM 104/104L |
| 2 semesters of Physics | PHYS 121, PHYS 122, OR  
PHYS 131, PHYS 132 |
| 2 – 3 semesters of Psychology | PSYC 100, other non-statistics psychology courses |
| 1 semester of Statistics | PSYC 201 OR ECON 221 OR STAT 220 OR  
MATH 260 |
| 2 semesters of Anatomy and Physiology | BIOL 105 OR BIOL 320; AND  
BIOL 106 OR BIOL 314 |

**A “C” grade or better is required in all pre-requisites. A competitive GPA is about 3.3. **

Required* Pre-Professional Exam

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

*not all programs require a pre-professional exam

Clinical Experience

Most programs require at least 50 hours of documented shadowing, volunteer experience, or employment in a Physical Therapy setting.

Additional Information: American Physical Therapy Association ([www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org))

*Health Professions Advisor: Virginia Borden Maier  
vmaier@sjfc.edu  585-385-7394*