

Pre-Therapy Option (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, or Speech Therapy) with Major in Communication Disorders & Sciences



A graduate degree (masters or clinical doctorate) is the entry-level degree to be a Physical, Occupational, or Speech Therapist. Most Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) graduate programs accept students with a variety of undergraduate majors if students have met the pre-requisite courses in Biology (e.g. Anatomy & Physiology), Chemistry, Psychology, Statistics & Medical Terminology and other possible requirements such as observation hours, CPR training, etc. Most Speech-Language Pathology (speech therapy) graduate programs also require undergraduate coursework in Psychology, Statistics, Anatomy/Physiology and observation hours, but they also require undergraduate courses in Communication Disorders & Sciences. EIU undergraduate students can keep all options open and be eligible to apply to graduate programs in OT, PT, or Speech Therapy by completing the study plan on the following page with the major in Communication Disorders.

Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech Therapists often collaborate and provide services to children and adults who have physical, cognitive, speech, language, and hearing/sensory deficits (e.g. children with cerebral palsy, adults with Parkinson's, adults post-stroke or a traumatic brain injury, etc). In fact, EIU's Speech & Hearing Clinic/Autism center in CDS conducts multidisciplinary evaluations with children with suspected Autism – the team includes an Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, ABA behavioral therapist, and Special Education faculty. Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists also need to effectively communicate with their clients, many of whom will have a speech, language or hearing disorder. Choosing a major in Communication Disorders and Sciences with required Pre-OT and PT coursework will enable you to learn about the science of speech, language and hearing problems, how to communicate effectively with individuals with hearing, speech, and language difficulties, and basic evaluation and treatment techniques for communication disorders. This plan of study contains prerequisite courses required by Illinois graduate programs in OT and PT, suggested electives in Kinesiology or Psychology related to PT and/or OT, an independent study for guided shadowing of licensed OTs or PTs, CDS 3900 Clinical Techniques for guided shadowing in the EIU Speech & Hearing clinic, and CDS 4900 Clinical Practicum in Speech or Hearing (this practicum can be waived or substituted if preferred). This plan of study gives you options of applying to master's programs in Speech-Language Pathology, masters or clinical doctoral programs in Occupational Therapy or clinical doctoral programs in Physical Therapy or Audiology. Faculty in Communication Disorders & Sciences at EIU get to know our students well in small class sizes and as advisors. They give advice on types of part-time jobs and volunteer experiences that make strong graduate applications. Faculty write very personalized strong letters of recommendation which are essential for all of the therapy graduate programs.

All of these therapy professions have shortages/high employment, good salaries, job flexibility, and help people. U.S. News & World Report (January 2021) lists them all as Top Health Care Jobs of 2021: Speech-Language Pathologist is #4, Occupational Therapist is #10, and Physical Therapist is #11. According to the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics the job outlook predictions for 2019-2029 for Occupational Therapy is 16% growth (rated much faster than average, 2020 median pay was \$86,280), for Physical Therapy is 18% (rated much faster than average, 2020 median pay was \$91,010 per year), and for Speech-Language Pathologist is 25% (rated much faster than average, 2020 median pay was \$80,480; pay is a bit lower because half of SLPs choose to work 9 months in schools rather than 12 months in clinics or hospitals).

If you have questions about these options contact Dr. Rebecca Throneburg, rmthroneburg@eiu.edu (217-581-7447).

BLUE= Communication Disorders major/ Speech Therapy requirements

GREEN = Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy requirements

RED= Physical Therapy only requirements (OT does not require)

BLACK = EIU General Education Requirements, if required by Therapy program noted in () or elective

Freshman					
SH	FALL SEMESTER	SH	SPRING SEMESTER		
1	CDS 2000 INTRO to CDS (can enroll any term FA or SP freshman or sophomore year)	3	CMN 1310G Intro to Speech Com (or other Gen Ed)		
3	PSY 1879G Intro to Psychology (CDS requirement, OT & PT Req, Gen Ed) (or other Gen Ed)	3	PSY 3515 Child Psych (CDS Major, PT & OT req)		
3	BIO 1500 General Biology I (can count as gen ed)	4	BIO 2210 Anatomy & Physiology I		
3	ENG 1001G College Comp I (or other Gen Ed)	3	ENG 1002G College Comp II (or other Gen Ed)		
4	MAT 2250-G Elementary Statistics (a stats class required by CDS, PT, & OT and is a Gen Ed)(or other Gen Ed)	3	SOC 1838G Intro to Sociology (or other Gen Ed)(PT &OT)		
14		16		Total Hours - 30	
Sophomore					
SH	FALL SEMESTER	SH	SPRING SEMESTER		
3	CDS 2200 LANGUAGE ACQUISITION	3	CDS 2100 PHONETICS/PHONOLOGY DEV		
3	CDS 2800 SPEECH SCIENCE	3	CDS 2500 ANATOMY/PHYSIOLOGY of Speech & Hearing		
3	CHM 1310G/1315G General Chemistry I & Lab (Gen Ed PT & OT) (all PT schools require, 2 IL OT schools req, need to take a chemistry or physics course for CDS)	4	CHM 1410G/1415G General Chemistry II & Lab		
4	BIO 2220 Anatomy & Physiology II	2	CDS 4850 Independent Study- Shadowing a Certified PT or OT		
3	Gen Ed (Hum or Fine Art or Anthropology/Soc Beh)	3	Gen Ed or other Elective (e.g. KSR 2440 Structural Kinesiology, or PSY 3820 Cognitive Neuroscience)		
16		15		Total Hours – 31	
(note: recommended to take grad school GRE test summer between sophomore & junior year)					
Junior					
SH	FALL SEMESTER	SH	SPRING SEMESTER		
3	CDS 3100 PHON ASSESS/TREATMENT	2	CDS 3300 SIGN LANGUAGE AND DEAF CULTURE		
3	CDS 3200 LANGUAGE DISORDERS	3	CDS 3500 NEUROLOGY/EMBRYOLOGY		
3	CDS 3700 DIAGNOSIS/TREATMENT	3	CDS 4300 INTRO TO AUDIOLOGY		
3	PSY 3780 Abnormal Psychology	3	Gen Ed or Other Elective (e.g. KSR 2135 Basic Care & Prevention of Athletic Injuries or PSY 3830 Cognitive Psychology)		
4	PHY 1151G/1152G Principles of Physics (note: PT needs, required or recommended by 2 OT programs in Illinois but not required by other 6 OT programs)	4	PHY 1161/1162 Principles of Physics II		
16		15		Total Hours 32	
Senior					
SH	FALL SEMESTER	SH	SPRING SEMESTER		
3	CDS 4350 AURAL REHABILITATION	2	CDS 4815 AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMM (AAC)		
3	CDS 3900 CLINICAL TECHNIQUES* (clinic shadow in speech pathology/audiology & class)	3	CDS 4600 SEMINAR IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS		
3	NUR 2613 Medical Terminology	1	CDS 4900 CLINICAL PRACTICUM in Speech or Hearing		
3	Gen Ed or other Elective (e.g. KSR 3800 Biomechanics of Human Movement, PSY 3525 Psych of Maturity & Old Age.)	3	MAT 2110G Brief Calculus (2 IL PT schools require, others don't, could take elective course here)		
3	Gen Ed or other Elective (e.g. KSR 4340 Principles of Exercise Physiology or PSY 3710 Human Memory)	3	Gen Ed or other Elective (e.g. KSR 4440 Physical Fitness Appraisal and Performance Assessment or PSY 3760 Psychology of Judgement & Decision Making)		
	Apply to Grad School for Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and/or Physical Therapy (or Audiology) Applications open in summer and close by mid fall- Dec or Jan.	3	Gen Ed or other Elective (or don't take any and have a lighter semester with 12 credits)		
15		15		Total Hours 30	

GENERAL EDUCATION Checklist (40 semester hours)

Language ("C" or better) 9 hrs			Social Behavior Sciences 9 hrs			Mathematics ("C" or better) 3 hrs		
Course	cr	Semester Taken	Course	cr	Semester Taken		credits	Semester Taken
ENG 1001G Comp I	3		PSY 1879G Intro Psychology	3		MAT 2250G Stats		
ENG 1002G Comp II	3		SOC 1838G Intro Sociology	3		Senior Seminar		3 hrs
CMN 1310G Speech Com	3			3		EIU (CDS 4600?)		
Humanities/FineArts* 9 hrs			Scientific Awareness 7 hrs			Foreign Languages** 0-8 hrs		
HU	3		BIO 2001G	4		Exempt? 2 yrs high school Foreign Lang		
FA	3		CHM 1310G/1315G	4				
HU/FA	3							

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRE-REQUISITES FOR ILLINOIS PROGRAMS

	HRS	C	E	G	L	M	N	R	I
CHEMISTRY									
CHM 1310G General Chemistry I	3			✓		*			
CHM 1315G General Chemistry I Lab	1			✓		*			
CHM 1410G General Chemistry II	3								
CHM 1415G General Chemistry II Lab	1								
PHYSICS									
PHY 1151G Physics I	3			✓		*			
PHY 1152G Physics I Lab	1			✓		*			
PHY 1161G Physics II	3								
PHY 1162G Physics II Lab	1								
MATH									
MAT 2110G Brief Calculus	3								
MAT 2250G Statistics QR PSY 2610 Statistical Methods	4	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
BIOLOGY									
BIO 1001G QR BIO 1004G QR BIO 1500	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BIO 2210 Anatomy & Physiology I *	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BIO 2220 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BEHAVIORAL/SOCIAL SCIENCES									
PSY 1879G Intro to Psychology	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ANT 2200G Intro Anthropology	3	a		✓			a	a	a
SOC 1838G Intro to Sociology	3	b		✓	✓		b	b	b
PSY 3515 Child Psychology**	3	a	a	a	a	✓	a		✓
PSY 3521 Psych of Adolescence & Young Adulthood**	3		b	b	b		b		
PSY 3525 Psych of Maturity and Old Age**	3		c	c	c	✓	c		
HSL 1800 Human Development	3	b	d	d	d		d	✓	
PSY 3780 Abnormal Psychology**	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS									
MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY		✓		1	*				✓
INTRO TO OT		✓		✓					
CPR - BLS for Health Care Professional						✓			✓
FIRST AID						✓			
MINIMUM GPA		3.0	3.2	3.0	3.25	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
GRE			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
OBSERVATION HOUR REQUIREMENT		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Note: Choose one option

* BIO 1001G, 1004G, or 1500 is prerequisite

** PSY 1879G is prerequisite

x: Recommended

NOTE: Programs may not require BIO 1001G, BIO 1004G, BIO 1500 or PSY 1879G but require courses with those as a prerequisite.

ILLINOIS OT PROGRAMS:

C - CHICAGO STATE
 E - ELMHURST
 G - GOVERNOR'S STATE UNIVERSITY
 L - LEWIS UNIVERSITY - ROMEVILLE
 M - MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY
 N - NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE
 R - RUSH
 I - UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

American Occupational Therapy Association
www.aota.org

Governors State University
www.govst.edu

Midwestern University
www.midwestern.edu

University of Illinois at Chicago
www.ahs.uic.edu

Rush University
www.rushu.rush.edu

Chicago State University
www.csu.edu

Elmhurst College
www.elmhurst.edu

Lewis University
www.lewisu.edu

North Central College
www.northcentralcollege.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING
 Eastern Illinois University
 Life Science Building
 600 Lincoln Avenue
 Charleston, IL 61920
 Phone: 217-581-3126

PHYSICAL THERAPY PRE-REQUISITES FOR ILLINOIS PROGRAMS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

	HRS	B	G	M	NI	N	R	I
ENGLISH								
ENG 1001G Composition & Language	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ENG 1002G Composition & Literature	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CMN 1310G Speech Communication	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHEMISTRY								
CHM 1310G General Chemistry I	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHM 1315G General Chemistry I Lab	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHM 1410G General Chemistry II	3	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
CHM 1415G General Chemistry II Lab	1	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
PHYSICS								
PHY 1151G Physics I	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PHY 1152G Physics I Lab	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PHY 1161G Physics II	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PHY 1162G Physics II Lab	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MATH								
MAT 2110G Brief Calculus	3					✓		✓
OR MAT 1441G Calculus I	5					✓		✓
AT 2250G Statistics	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
OR PSY 2610 Statistics	4					✓		✓
BIOLOGY								
BIO 1500 General Biology	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BIO 2210 Anatomy & Physiology I	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BIO 2220 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BIO XXXX See Course Options (right)	4-8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
BEHAVIORAL/SOCIAL SCIENCES								
PSY 1879G Intro to Psychology	3		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PSY 3515 Child Psychology OR FCS 1800 Life Span Human Dev.	3		✓		✓	✓		a
PSY 3780 Abnormal Psychology	3		✓		✓	✓		b
SOC 1838G Intro to Psychology	3			✓		✓		
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS								
CPR		✓		✓		✓		
FIRST AID				✓				
MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY		✓	✓		✓	✓		

a / b: Choose a or b

Physical Therapists work with patients to regain mobility and strength after accidents or injury. Training to become a physical therapist requires a doctorate consisting of 2-3 years of training beyond the baccalaureate degree. A Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences includes most of the physical therapy (PT) prerequisites; however any academic baccalaureate degree will be acceptable that includes these prerequisites. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required for entry into most PT programs. To be accepted into a PT program, a GPA of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale and high GRE scores are needed. Most programs also require 45+ job shadowing/experiential hours in the health care field (preferably PT).

Each PT program has different requirements. It is very important to identify early which programs you plan to apply to and to plot out their requirements accordingly.

American Physical Therapy Association www.apta.org

REGIONAL PT SCHOOLS:

B - BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

G - GOVERNOR'S STATE UNIVERSITY

M - MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

NI - NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

N - NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

R - ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE & SCIENCE

I - UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

BIO XXXX COURSE OPTIONS:

BIO 3120 Molecular and Cellular Biology
 BIO 3200 Genetics
 BIO 3210 Immunology
 BIO 3300 Microbiology
 BIO 3520 Animal Physiology
 BIO 3620 Functional Comparative Anatomy
 BIO 3622 Embryology
 BIO 3624 Histology
 BIO 4834 Neurobiology
 BIO 4964 Entomology
 CHM 3450 Biochemistry

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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