



# Pathway to Physical Therapy Programs

## BS in Biology

A BS in Biology from Young Harris offers all prerequisite courses typically required to apply to a Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. Graduates will also benefit by meeting additional qualifications, and many students also complete a psychology minor. This pathway details the steps to take in developing a competitive resume and application, based on the observations of faculty who have successfully mentored accepted students. Please note that these requirements and recommendations are based on those of physical therapy programs in Georgia and the region.

### Recommendations for admission to DPT programs:

- Coursework or minors that may be helpful in a healthcare setting, such as foreign language and/or business
- Additional hours of physical therapy experiences (shadowing) beyond the application minimum
- Experience with multiple physical therapists in different settings is preferred
- Undergraduate research experience
- Demonstrated written and verbal communication skills
- Leadership experiences and community involvement

For more information on opportunities within the B.S. in Biology program, contact Department Chair Dr. Andrea Kwiatkowski ([alkwiatkowski@yh.edu](mailto:alkwiatkowski@yh.edu)) or visit [www.yhc.edu/academics/math-science/biology](http://www.yhc.edu/academics/math-science/biology).

Common prerequisites for admission to DPT programs (applicants must have a minimum grade of C on all prerequisites):

- One year of General Biology courses with 2 semesters of labs
- One year of General Chemistry with 2 semesters of labs
- One year of Physics courses with 2 semesters of labs
- One year of Human Anatomy and Physiology courses with 2 semesters of labs
- One semester of introductory statistics
- Advanced biology coursework
- Coursework in psychology that includes Introduction to Psychology, Human Growth and Development, and Abnormal Psychology
- Multiple letters of recommendation with at least one from a physical therapist
- Recent GRE score, typically completed early in the fall of the year of application
- A strong GPA, 3.0 or higher
- Shadowing experience under direct supervision of a physical therapist

# GROW forward GROW knowledge

## Pathway to Physical Therapy Programs

### Freshman (1st) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 1107 Introductory Biology I
- BIOL 1108 Introductory Biology II
- CHEM 1211 General Chemistry I
- CHEM 1212 General Chemistry II

Spring: Apply to summer internship positions or volunteering opportunities.

Summer: Begin collecting relevant field and lab experiences through paid summer internships or volunteer work.

### Junior (3rd) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 3101 Genetics
- BIOL 3102 Cell Biology
- BIOL 3201 Conservation Biology
- BIOL 4101 Ecology
- Additional BIOL coursework as offered\*

Spring: Schedule and prepare for GRE exam so that it is completed by application deadlines. Apply to summer internship and fellowship programs. Discuss possible undergraduate research opportunities with faculty.

Summer: Continue to gain experience through internships, fellowships, and volunteer work.

### Sophomore (2nd) Year Recommended Courses

- CHEM 2211 Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 2212 Organic Chemistry II
- PHYS 1111 College Physics I
- PHYS 1112 College Physics II
- MATH 2000 Elementary Statistics

Spring: Apply to summer internship and fellowship programs, such as REUs (Research Experiences for Undergraduates, sponsored by the National Science Foundation). Application deadlines are often in January and February and often require a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Summer: Participate in a summer internship or fellowship or continue volunteering.

### Senior (4th) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 4980 Independent Research
- BIOL 4990 Senior Research Capstone
- Additional BIOL coursework as offered\*

Fall: Conduct independent research with a faculty member. Search out graduate opportunities at universities and contact professors about research opportunities. Apply to graduate schools by the end of the semester.

Spring: Present undergraduate research at a conference. Continue to search out opportunities. Interview for graduate assistantship positions. Apply to internships, fellowships, and temporary or full time positions.

\*Many BIOL 3000+ courses are offered once every two years. Students should enroll in any relevant course when offered during the junior and senior years.

For more information, contact Department Chair Dr. Andrea Kwiatkowski ([alkwiatkowski@yhc.edu](mailto:alkwiatkowski@yhc.edu)).