

Frequently Asked Questions

Application Questions:

Question: How do I apply?

Answer: You must complete two applications, which are available online:

1. The Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service ([PTCAS](#)) application; and,
2. The Idaho State University [Graduate School](#) application. Click on the "Apply Now" button. When completing the Graduate School application, select the Fall semester of the year **after** you submit your application.

Question: When are applications available?

Answer: Applications are available from PTCAS the beginning of July. Applications for the Graduate School may be accessed online at anytime. Remember, you are applying for entrance the year **after** you submit your application.

Question: When are applications due?

Answer: The application deadline is October 1. Both the application to PTCAS and to the ISU Graduate School must be submitted by this date.

Question: What documents do I need to submit?

Answer: The PTCAS application requires official transcripts, 3 letters of recommendation, an application essay and an application fee. PTCAS's application cycle opens up in early July and the application deadline is October 1.

The Graduate School application requires transcripts, GRE scores and an application fee. When completing the Graduate School application, select the Fall semester of the year **after** you submit your application. At the time of application, transcripts submitted through the Graduate School application may be unofficial, however certain features must be present for them to be accepted, including: The student's name, the institution's wordmark or logo in the header, courses, credits, terms, grades, and the date(s) of any awarded degrees. Once an applicant is accepted to the PT Program, the Graduate School will require official transcripts to be sent.

Question: How do I apply for a specific campus?

Answer: The application through PTCAS and the Graduate School submits your application for consideration on both campuses. Both locations pull from the same applicant pool. If admitted, you will be given an opportunity to select a preference for attending at either location. Campus assignments are made with consideration for the student's request, and in accordance with class size requirements.

Prerequisite Questions:

Question: What are the prerequisite courses required for admission?

Answer: See the PT Program [Admission Requirements](#) for the prerequisite course information.

Question: Is online prerequisite coursework accepted?

Answer: Online course work is accepted as long as it is taken from a US regionally accredited institution.

Question: What courses at Idaho State University meet the prerequisite requirements?

Answer: A list of Idaho State University courses that meet the prerequisite requirements can be reached from the Admission Requirements page via [the link](#) in section #2.

Question: What kinds of statistics courses will meet the Statistics prerequisite requirement?

Answer: Statistics in any field such as Psychology, Sociology, Biology or Mathematics will meet this requirement. Generally, Research Methods courses do not meet this requirement.

Question: Can prerequisite courses be substituted with other/similar courses? Answer:

Typically the answer is no. Please call the Program if you have specific questions at 208-282-4095.

Question: Will Organic Chemistry, Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry, or Introduction to Bio-Organic Chemistry meet the Chemistry prerequisite?

Answer: Only a General Chemistry course can fulfill the Chemistry I requirement. Organic or Biochemistry can be used to fulfill the Chemistry II requirement. Introductory courses will **not** meet the Chemistry prerequisite requirements.

Question: What do I need to take to fulfil the humanities requirement?

Answer: All students must have an Introductory Psychology or Sociology course as well as any 300-400 level upper division Psychology course. Typically, these are Abnormal Psychology or Developmental Psychology. Sports Psychology will NOT meet the requirement.

Question: May I have prerequisites in progress at the time of application to the program?

Answer: You may have up to 9 credits of courses in progress by the time your application is submitted. This may only include 1 course in each of the required prerequisite categories. All prerequisite coursework and degree coursework must be completed by August 1st of the year you wish to start our program. Proof of registration and progress may be required to verify course enrollment.

Question: What grades on prerequisite courses are required in order to apply?

Answer: Prerequisite courses are divided into Major categories. The GPA in each category must be 3.0 or higher.

Question: Where should I send my Medical Terminology waiver statement?

Answer: A letter noting competency from a professor or employer may be emailed to dptadmit@isu.edu before the application deadline.

Observation Hours Questions:

Question: Will it improve my chance to have more than the 80 hour minimum observation hours?

Answer: No, as long as a student hits the minimum requirement any extra hours are not considered.

Question: May I shadow another medical specialty for my observation hours?

Answer: No, you must observe at at least two separate physical therapy locations.

GRE Questions:

Question: Do I need to take the GRE?

Answer: Yes. The GRE with specific scores is required for admission to the ISU PT Program. See [ETS](#) for information about testing locations and scheduling the exam.

Please note: While the Graduate Catalog states that applicants with a GPA of 3.5-4.0 for the last 60 credits taken may have the GRE waived, the PT Program **always** requires the GRE. It is up to individual ISU graduate programs to determine whether or not the GRE is required. The PT program does require the GRE!

Question: What are the minimum scores required for the GRE?

Answer: The program requires a minimum score of 148 in the Verbal section, 4.0 in Analytical, and a Combined Score of 295 from a single GRE exam.

Question: Do I need to take a subject test for the GRE?

Answer: No, just the general test of the GRE is required. The GRE School Code for ISU is 4355. See [ETS](#) for testing locations and exam scheduling.

Question: Will the MAT be accepted in place of the GRE?

Answer: No. As of the 2018 application cycle, the MAT cannot be substituted for the GRE.

Question: If I have taken the GRE more than once, can I count the highest score in each category?

Answer: No. All qualifying scores must be received on a single GRE occurrence.

Program Cost and Financial Aid:

Question: How much does the program cost?

Answer: Cost is subject to change. See the [Tuition and Fees](#) page for estimated cost.

Question: Is financial aid available?

Answer: Please contact the University [Financial Aid](#) office for information about available types of aid.

Question: Is there on-campus housing?

Answer: Campus housing is available at the Pocatello campus. See [Housing](#). The Meridian campus does not have on-campus housing.

General Information:

Question: Who should I contact with questions about my application?

Answer: Please contact dptadmit@isu.edu or (208)282-4095

Question: Is the ISU PT Program accredited?

Answer: Yes. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). CAPTE's statement regarding the ISU PT Program's accreditation may be found on the [Accreditation and Licensing](#) page.

Question: What degree does the Idaho State University Physical Therapy program offer?

Answer: Graduates of our program receive a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (DPT).

Question: Must I have a bachelor's degree to enter the program?

Answer: Yes. Your bachelor's degree must be completed by August 1st of the year you are applying to enter (the year after you submit your application).

Question: What major degree does the Program prefer?

Answer: Virtually all bachelor's degrees from regionally accredited institutions are accepted. Our prerequisite courses will prepare you for our Program's curriculum.

Question: How many students / graduates have passed the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) examination?

Answer: This varies from year to year. See the [Program Information](#) for details.

Question: How many people apply to the ISU PT program each year? **Answer:** This also varies from year to year. This can also be found at [Program Information](#).

Question: How many open positions are available in the ISU PT program each year?

Answer: Twenty-four seats are offered at the Meridian campus and 24 seats are offered at the Pocatello campus.

PT Admissions FAQ: Updated 11/29/18

Question: How important is one's GPA?

Answer: You must have a minimum cumulative prerequisite GPA of 3.0 or higher and a grade of C or better in each prerequisite course in order for your application packet to be considered for review. As with any other university or college, higher GPAs are more competitive. Your goal is to be competitive and academically prepared to successfully handle the demands of the Program's curriculum. Although the Admissions Committee does not base its decision solely on grade point averages, the initial application review is based on prerequisite GPA and GRE scores.

Background Checks:

Question: Will a felony, misdemeanor, or withheld judgment prevent me from applying to the program?

Answer: As part of the clinical year program students are placed in off-campus sites for clinical training. Clinical training sites may require criminal background checks prior to placement at that facility. Conviction of a felony, misdemeanor or withheld judgment may result in a student being denied a clinical assignment which, in turn, may cause the student to be unable to complete the program. Further, conviction of a felony, misdemeanor or withheld judgment may prevent a student from obtaining licensure as a Physical Therapist. Licensure laws vary by state.

For example, some clinical sites specify the following regarding student background checks:

The student may not have a history or criminal record (including conviction, plea agreement, withheld judgment, or pending charges) concerning any of the following crimes (felony or misdemeanor): (1) sexual assault, rape, indecent exposure, lewd and lascivious behavior, or any crime involving non-consensual sexual conduct; (2) child abuse or neglect, sexual exploitation of children, child abduction, contributing to the delinquency or neglect of a child, enticing a child for immoral purposes, exposing a minor to pornography or other harmful materials, incest, or any other crime involving children as victims or participants; (3) vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation; (4) homicide or manslaughter; (5) assault or battery occurring within the prior seven years; (6) drug trafficking or other offenses involving narcotics, alcohol or controlled substances during the prior five years; (7) theft, embezzlement, fraud, or other crimes involving dishonesty committed during the prior five years; (8) driving under the influence during the prior two years if the Student's duties in the Program may involve driving; and (9) any felony conviction.