PURDUE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DISTINGUISH *yourself*

PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY

"Physical therapists help restore clients to normal functioning of the musculoskeletal and other systems through interventions utilizing therapeutic exercise, physical agents, and assistive devices. Needs are determined through evaluation and examination of the client. Physical Therapists are concerned with health promotion and disease prevention as well as restoration of function following disease, injury, or loss of a body part. They also participate in administrative, teaching, and research activities and provide consultative services." – IUPUI Advisor's Academic Handbook

Pre-Physical Therapy at Purdue University:

All physical therapy programs in the country are offered at the master's level or higher. Many programs offer a three-year Doctor of Physical Therapy as their entry-level program. Purdue University does not have a physical therapy school. Students interested in pursuing this profession complete their undergraduate degree at Purdue and take the prerequisite courses needed to meet the entrance requirements. Students need to make early contact with schools that offer accredited programs and obtain a list of requirements, prerequisites, and application deadlines and procedures. Students are strongly encouraged to visit potential schools during their junior year. Your advisor, the Internet, and the OT/PT Club on campus can facilitate this research.

Suggested Plan:

Complete a bachelor's degree in a related field with a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Suggested majors in Liberal Arts include Athletic Training, Movement and Sport Sciences, Public Health Promotion, Health and Fitness, or Psychology. Complete the physical therapy prerequisites and obtain several field experiences in different physical therapy settings. Apply for admission to several accredited physical therapy schools. (See web site below for list of accredited schools.)

Plan B:

Any student interested in a professional program where admission is by selection should have a back-up plan in case they do not meet the admission criteria or are not selected. The choice of an undergraduate major should therefore be in an area of interest and academic strength that will also provide for an alternative career.

Selection Criteria:

Most professional schools are highly competitive in selecting their students. The selection criteria weigh heavily on both cumulative and math/science grade point averages, as well as experience and references.

Indiana University – Indianapolis Campus (IUPUI): for complete info see: http://shrs.iupui.edu/physical_therapy/
Listed below are the current requirements for application to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at IUPUI.
Completion of requirements does not guarantee admission into the program.

- Baccalaureate Degree — BS or BA in any major
- Minimum Grade Point Averages — Cumulative 3.20 (weighted 50%), Math/Science 3.20
  - *Courses in statistics, chemistry, physics, human anatomy and physiology will be used to calculate M/S GPA.*
  - *Mean Cumulative GPA for class of 2011 was a 3.5, Mean Math/Science GPA was a 3.4*
- Minimum grade needed in prerequisites — C (2.0)
- Prerequisite Completion — No more than 2 prerequisites can be remaining at time of application.
- Application Timeline — August 1st – October 15th
- Personal Essay — Why did you decide to pursue a career in PT?
- Interview required — No; Statement of Values Essay required
- GRE Exam required (www.ets.org) — No required minimum
- Clinical Observation Experience Forms — Submit the Generic Abilities Form reflecting completion of a minimum of 16 hours total of documented volunteer or paid experiences in a variety of physical therapy settings (two or more)

Course Prerequisites for IUPUI: *Other physical therapy schools may have additional Biology or Calculus requirements.*

Credits	Courses	Purdue Equivalent
3	Statistics **	STAT 30100 or SOC 38200
6	Humanities or Social Sciences	Art, Classics, History, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Sociology
6	Intro Psychology & Life Span Dev.	PSY 12000 & CDFS 21000
8	Human Anatomy and Physiology **	BIOL 20300 & 20400
8	Chemistry (at the Science major level) **	CHM 11500 & 11600 (prerequisite - MA 15300, 15400)
8	Physics **	PHYS 21800 & 21900 or PHYS 22000 & 22100

** Courses must not be over 7 years old.

Other Suggested Electives: Medical Terminology (HSCI 13100), Computer Literacy (CS 11000 or CIT 13600), Biomechanics (HK 26300), Kinesiology (HK 26100), Exercise Physiology (HK 36800), Abnormal Psychology (PSY 35000)

For more information on the profession of Physical Therapy and accredited programs throughout the United States:
American Physical Therapy Association http://www.apta.org *(updated 5/28/09)*