

# Preprofessional Studies

Preprofessional studies in the College of Applied Health Sciences are designed for students who intend to pursue their undergraduate or graduate education in professional programs of the AHS College. Preprofessional students in AHS can be Disability and Human Development, Kinesiology, Nutrition Science, or Rehabilitation Sciences majors. Advisors for students in pre-occupational therapy and pre-physical therapy are available in the AHS College Office of Student Affairs and the department offices. Students are also encouraged to participate in the preadmission information sessions which are held monthly within the OT and PT departments. Scheduling information for these sessions can be found on the [AHS website](#).

Completion of the required course work or attainment of the minimum grade point average does not guarantee admission to a professional program. Pre-OT and pre-PT students must complete all the requirements for a bachelor's degree, including a major, in addition to the preprofessional studies.

## Pre-Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists provide services to maximize the function and satisfaction of persons whose daily life performance has been interrupted and jeopardized by disease, disability, life stress, and other factors. The occupational therapist provides the individual with opportunities for involvement in carefully chosen work, play, or self-care activities. The occupational therapist also uses various methods of mutual problem solving, environmental modification, adaptive devices, technology, and biomechanical and sensorimotor treatment methods to support and enhance performance.

Many occupational therapists work within hospital settings, but there is growing emphasis on prevention and treatment of people with disabilities in nonclinical settings. As a result, many new areas of employment are now available. For example, occupational therapists are increasingly employed in school systems where they work with children with disabilities, enhancing their ability to perform as students. Working with in-home health organizations, occupational therapists help individuals and families function more adequately at daily tasks. In industrial settings, they aid workers' with disabilities or injuries return to gainful employment. In addition, occupational therapists have developed private practices.

The preprofessional course work listed below prepares students to apply to the professional program in the Department of Occupational Therapy in the College of Applied Health Sciences after completion of the undergraduate degree. Students should contact [OTDept@uic.edu](mailto:OTDept@uic.edu) or (312) 413-0124 for further information.

Pre-occupational therapy students may choose any major but should work with a preprofessional advisor to plan a course of study that fulfills pre-occupational therapy studies requirements as well as the requirements for the major.

The pre-occupational therapy requirements follow and should be completed as part of the undergraduate degree program. The courses listed below must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses <sup>a</sup></b>		
BIOS 110	Biology of Cells and Organisms	4

PSCH 100	Introduction to Psychology	4
KN 251	Human Physiological Anatomy I <sup>c,d</sup>	5
KN 252	Human Physiological Anatomy II <sup>c,d</sup>	5
PSCH 270	Introduction to Psychological and Behavioral Disorders <sup>d,e</sup>	3
PSCH 320	Developmental Psychology <sup>d</sup>	3
Choose from one of the following courses in statistics: <sup>f</sup>		4
PSCH 343	Statistical Methods in Behavioral Science	
KN 200	Statistical Methods	
STAT 101	Introduction to Statistics	
STAT 130	Introduction to Statistics for the Life Sciences	
SOC 201	Introductory Sociological Statistics	
One of the following:		3
ANTH 101	World Cultures: Introduction to Social Anthropology	
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology (strongly preferred)	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>31</b>

- Students completing an undergraduate degree at UIC must complete the General Education requirements. Students should consult the [General Education](#) section and their college/department sections of the catalog for more information on fulfilling these requirements.*
- This course is approved for the Analyzing the Natural World General Education category.*
- KN 251/KN 252 sequence begins in the fall semester only.*
- If prerequisites were completed **more than three years** prior to beginning occupational therapy course work, it is highly recommended that applicants review a current text prior to enrollment so that they have up-to-date knowledge. If prerequisites were completed **more than eight years** ago, it is recommended that applicants retake the course(s) or complete an intensive self-study prior to enrollment.*
- This course is approved for the Understanding the Individual and Society General Education category.*
- PSCH 343 is limited to psychology majors. Other options include SOC 201 (for sociology majors), KN 200 (for KN majors) and STAT 101 and STAT 130.*

Other minimum admissions requirements include an earned bachelor's degree in any field, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) certification with Health Providers Status, 3.00/4.00 GPA for the last 60 semester hours earned for the baccalaureate degree, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of at least 300 combined on the verbal and quantitative sections, three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement. Applicants with a GPA of below 3.00 or GRE combined score below 300 who display strengths in other areas may be considered for admission. Students must apply for admission to the program approximately one year before planned enrollment.

## Pre-Physical Therapy

Physical therapy is a health profession whose primary purpose is the promotion of optimal human health and function through the application of scientific principles to prevent, identify, assess, correct, or alleviate acute or prolonged movement dysfunction. Physical therapy encompasses areas of specialized competence and includes the development of new principles and applications to more effectively

meet existing and emerging health needs. Other professional activities that serve the purpose of physical therapy are research, education, consultation, and administration.

The physical therapist, working in cooperation with other health professionals, serves the individual needs of the client and the health needs of society. The physical therapy profession depends heavily on knowledge and application of the basic medical and behavioral sciences, coupled with specialized knowledge and skills in the clinical arts and sciences.

Physical therapists may work as staff, supervisors, or self-employed practitioners who serve clients directly; as administrators of clinical departments, health agencies, or educational programs; as healthcare agency consultants; as clinical or academic teachers; or as researchers.

They may work in hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, schools for children with disabilities, neighborhood health centers, physicians' offices, nursing homes and convalescent centers, private and public health agencies, sports settings, and universities.

Pre-physical therapy students may choose any major but should work with an advisor to plan a course of study that fulfills the pre-physical therapy studies requirements as well as the requirements for the major. Students are advised to declare an educational goal of pre-physical therapy upon entering UIC which will alert them to specific workshops and other pertinent information.

The pre-physical therapy requirements follow and should be completed as part of the undergraduate degree program.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses<sup>a</sup></b>		
BIOS 110	Biology of Cells and Organisms <sup>b</sup>	4
Select one of the following general chemistry sequences:		10
CHEM 122	Matter and Energy	
CHEM 123	Foundations of Chemical Inquiry I <sup>b,c</sup>	
CHEM 124	Chemical Dynamics	
CHEM 125	Foundations of Chemical Inquiry II <sup>b,c</sup>	
<b>OR</b>		
CHEM 116	Honors and Majors General and Analytical Chemistry I <sup>b</sup>	
CHEM 118	Honors and Majors General and Analytical Chemistry II <sup>b</sup>	
Choose from one of the following statistics courses:		3-4
PSCH 242	Introduction to Research in Psychology	
PSCH 343	Statistical Methods in Behavioral Science <sup>d</sup>	
KN 200	Statistical Methods	
SOC 201	Introductory Sociological Statistics	
STAT 101	Introduction to Statistics	
STAT 130	Introduction to Statistics for the Life Sciences	
PHYS 131	Introductory Physics for Life Sciences I <sup>b</sup>	4
PHYS 132	Introductory Physics for Life Sciences II <sup>b</sup>	4
PSCH 100	Introduction to Psychology <sup>e</sup>	4

Select one course in developmental or abnormal psychology from the following: 3

PSCH 270	Introduction to Psychological and Behavioral Disorders <sup>e</sup>	
PSCH 320	Developmental Psychology	
KN 251	Human Physiological Anatomy I <sup>f</sup>	5
KN 252	Human Physiological Anatomy II <sup>f</sup>	5
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>42-43</b>

- a *Students completing an undergraduate degree at UIC must complete the General Education requirements. Students should consult the [General Education](#) section and their college/department sections of the catalog for more information on fulfilling these requirements.*
- b *This course is approved for the Analyzing the Natural World General Education category.*
- c *Each of the following pairs of courses will be considered one course in meeting the LAS General Education requirements: CHEM 122/CHEM 123; CHEM 124/CHEM 125.*
- d *PSCH 343 is limited to psychology majors. Other options include SOC 201 (for sociology majors), KN 200 (for KN majors), STAT 101 and STAT 130.*
- e *This course is approved for the Understanding the Individual and Society General Education category.*
- f *KN 251/KN 252 sequence begins in the fall semester only.*

In addition, applicants must complete a minimum of 40 hours of documented volunteer or observation experiences in a variety of physical therapy facilities. Current certification in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) with Health Provider Status is recommended prior to beginning the professional program. Students must also have earned a bachelor's degree prior to enrolling in the program.

The minimum GPA for application to the program in physical therapy is 2.50/4.00 in science and nonscience courses. The competitive GPA, however, is considerably above this level. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within five years of the date of application. Students must apply for admission to the program approximately one year before planned enrollment. Students should call (312) 996-6646 for additional information.