



## **Physical Therapy Priority Acceptance Program**

### **Pre-Admission Requirements**

In the first 2 years it is expected that students interested in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Priority Acceptance Program (DPT-PA) be enrolled in the Honors Program and have declared a major in which they will attain a BA or BS Degree. The Major is not critical to the Acceptance Program (i.e. there is no defined specific major). It is also expected that students and their faculty academic advisor (from the Major Department) are aware of the DPT pre-requisites and that students are making good progress towards degree completion.

### **Admission Requirements**

Students in the Honors Program with a minimum 3.40 overall GPA and a 3.20 GPA in required prerequisite PT hours are eligible to apply for the DPT-PA. The application process takes place in two phases.

---

### **Phase One**

Must be completed by the end of an applicant's sophomore year.

1. Submit a letter of intent to the Chair of the Admissions Committee at the Department of Physical Therapy (PT).
2. Submit a written essay to the Chair of the Admissions Committee of no more than 500 words describing educational plans, overcoming challenges (academic and personal), career objectives, and personal goals. The essay should be typed in 12-point font with one inch margins. It will be used in making the priority acceptance decision, so careful consideration should be given to its preparation.
3. Complete a minimum of 20 observation hours with a licensed physical therapist (applicants will need to complete at least a total of 100 observation hours before formally applying to the DPT program).
4. Complete an oral interview with the Chair of the Admissions Committee, Chair of the PT Department, and the PT Department Honors Program liaison, which will be scheduled by the Chair of the Admissions Committee.
5. Submit two letters of reference
  - a. One letter from a physical therapist
  - b. One letter from an academic reference (professor who has taught in one or more courses or academic advisor)

Applicants will be notified of acceptance or rejection into the DPT-PA pipeline by the Chair of the Admissions Committee.

*Admittance to Phase One does NOT guarantee acceptance in the Augusta University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program*



## **Undergraduate Program Completion within the Priority Acceptance Program**

Once accepted, a student must maintain the following to remain in the DPT-PA:

- Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.40 as a member of the Honors Program.
- Complete all pre-requisite Physical Therapy course requirements and achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better in the required physical therapy science/statistics [prerequisite courses](#).
- Meet with the Chair of the Admissions Committee, the Admissions Coordinator, and the PT Department Honors Program liaison during the spring semester of the junior year to discuss progress on pre-requisite courses and preparation for admission.
- Successfully complete all Honors Program seminar requirements.
- Successfully complete an Honors Thesis, which may be through the Major Department or through the PT Department. Students are required to submit a copy of their approved thesis proposal to the PT Department Honors Program liaison once approved by the Honors Program Director.
- Successfully graduate as a member of the Honors Program.

---

## **Phase Two**

Must be completed during the summer prior to an applicant's senior year.

1. Submit the [PTCAS Application](#) and all required documents.
2. Present letters of reference written on letterhead and with the reference's original signature.
  - a. One letter should be from an Honors Program faculty member who can serve as a character reference.
  - b. Three professional letters of reference: one from a Physical Therapist and two from other health care professionals (these may include Physical Therapists).
3. Submit an application essay.
4. Earn GRE verbal, quantitative, and analytical scores at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile requirement must be met in a single sitting of the GRE. Applicants can take the GRE multiple times, if needed, to meet this percentile requirement.
5. Volunteer Hours Form (at least a total of 100 hours accumulated during undergraduate studies), and official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended.
6. Successfully complete an on-site interview process.

*Students must meet ALL of the above-stated criteria required for acceptance into the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, including the on-site interview process. If at any time a student does not meet the criteria, he/she is NOT eligible for admittance via the DPT-PA program but may apply via the Early Decision or Regular Application processes offered. Refer to the Augusta University Doctor of Physical Therapy website for additional information.*