

# WELCOME LETTER!

Dear Applicant,

We thank you for your interest in the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Performance at Florida Gulf Coast University. This letter is provided to guide you through the application process.

The Department of Physical Therapy and Human Performance offers an eight-semester program culminating in a Professional Entry-Level Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (DPT). The program consists of 115 semester credit hours at the graduate level. Students enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in the Fall of each year.

Students are required to earn a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution, and to complete all of the Florida State University System (SUS) Common Prerequisite Courses for Physical Therapy prior to entering the program. The SUS Common Prerequisite Courses for Physical Therapy are outlined on the program information sheet on our website. Contact the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Performance (239-590-7530) if you have questions about these requirements. Only those students who demonstrate that they will complete the baccalaureate degree and all of the common prerequisite coursework by the end of the summer semester for the year in which the application is made are considered for admission to the Program. If an applicant is denied admission based on failure to complete requirements, the applicant may reapply when requirements are completed.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at FGCU utilizes the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). The process of applying via PTCAS can be time consuming. We suggest that you begin now with the application process through this service. Applicants are also required to apply to the Graduate School at Florida Gulf Coast University. Academic Transcripts and GRE scores are not required to be submitted to FGCU until applicants are offered admission.

The Physical Therapy Program at FGCU conducts a competitive admissions process. For priority consideration all application materials must be submitted to PTCAS prior to December 15th of the year in which entry is sought. Applications submitted after the December 15th deadline will be considered on a space available basis. Admissions decisions are made based on materials and coursework completed at the time of application.

The Department of Physical Therapy and Human Performance Admissions and Recruitment Committee reviews all completed applications. Applicants meeting all minimum admissions criteria are rank ordered to select applicants offered admission to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Florida Gulf Coast University. Notification of the applicant's admission status will be emailed to the applicant. Enrollment is limited; therefore, all qualified applicants may not be admitted.

We have included several forms in this packet to assist. Included is a Prerequisite GPA Calculation Worksheet for your personal use and a Course Equivalency form. We have also included the Essential Functions which provide minimum physical and cognitive requirements needed to practice as a physical therapist. If you have additional questions or need assistance, please contact the Department of Physical Therapy at (239) 590-7530 or [mcoffey@fgcu.edu](mailto:mcoffey@fgcu.edu). Best of luck in your academic endeavors and we look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Arie J van Duijn, EdD, PT, OCS  
Program Director  
Department of Physical Therapy and Human Performance

Enclosures:

- ◇ *Prerequisite GPA Calculation Sheet*
- ◇ *Course Equivalency Form*
- ◇ Essential Functions

# SUS COMMON PREREQUISITES FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY

BSC 2010C	General Biology I with lab *	4 semester hours
BSC X085	Anatomy & Physiology I with lab *	4 semester hours
BSC X086	Anatomy & Physiology II with lab *	4 semester hours
CHM X045C	General Chemistry I with lab	4 semester hours
CHM X046C	General Chemistry II with lab	4 semester hours
PHY X053C	College Physics I with lab **	4 semester hours
PHY X054C	College Physics II with lab **	4 semester hours
PSY X012 or PSY X013	Introductory or General Psychology	3 semester hours
DEP XXXX	Developmental Psychology	3 semester hours
STA 2XXX	Introductory Statistics	3 semester hours

\* These three courses constitute the Program's preferred Biology sequence; however, this sequence may be replaced by the following *sequence*: BSC 2010C (General Biology I with lab, 4 semester hours), BSC 2011C (General Biology II with lab, 4 semester hours), and BSC 2XXX (Human Physiology, 3 semester hours). Also, BSC X093 and BSC X094 may substitute for BSC X085 and BSC X086; and ZOO X010C may substitute for BSC 2011C.

\*\* These two courses constitute the Program's preferred Physics sequence; however, this sequence may be replaced with PHY 2004C (College Physics I with lab, 4 semester hours) and PHY2005C (College Physics II with lab, 4 semester hours).

## Course Substitution Requests:

Requests for all other equivalent substitutions must be made in writing to the Department of Physical Therapy at the time of application. In order to request that a course be accepted as an equivalent to one of the prerequisite requirements, an applicant must submit in writing:

1. Course Substitution Form
2. a copy of the course description from the course catalogue
3. a copy of the course syllabus

FGCU faculty reviews these materials and a decision about course equivalence is made by the faculty of the Department of Physical Therapy. The applicant is notified in writing of the decision.

Use the form on the back of this page to calculate the prerequisite GPA, and submit the form **and** requests for any course substitutions at the same time. However, the Physical Therapy Program reserves the right to determine the validity of any course being suggested by the applicant as equivalent to a prerequisite before admission. Complete page 3, indicating courses in which you are currently enrolled and/or will complete by August of year of application.

# PREREQUISITE GPA CALCULATION SHEET

The following are instructions for calculating the prerequisite grade point average (GPA). These instructions apply to all institutions that use a 4-point scale. Courses in which you earned “Pass/Fail”, “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory”, or “Incomplete” do not generate grade points, so do not include them in your calculation. Please complete the table below:

1. indicate the institution at which you took the prerequisite course in the column, “College/University”
2. if you have not yet completed a course, add no information to that line and move down to the next course
3. if you have written approval from the Dept. of Physical Therapy at FGCU for a course to serve as an equivalent to one of these prerequisites, write in the course prefix and number for the course being used as the equivalent in the space following the related prerequisite course (for example: ~~BSC 2010C~~ BIO 101), and fill in the appropriate information for the equivalent course
4. indicate the earned semester credit hours for the course in the column, “Credit Hours”
5. indicate the earned letter grade for the course in the column, “Letter Grade”
6. indicate the value of the grade\* for the course in the column, “Grade Value”
7. multiply the number of credit hours by the grade value for that course and place the value of the product in the column, “Grade Points”
8. if a course has a separate credit (and grade) allocation for the lecture and lab, use both lines for that course (lecture on one line and lab on the other). If the lecture and lab are combined in the credit (and grade) allocation, use only the first line
9. add the figures in the column, “Credit Hours” and indicate the total
10. add the figures in the column, “Grade Points” and indicate the total
11. divide the total number of grade points by the total number of credit hours and indicate the “Grade Point Average”

*Grade:	A+	A	A-	AB	B+	B	B-	BC	C+	C	C-	CD	D+	D	D-	DF	F
Value:	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.0

Special notes: If your institution used a 3.0 or 5.0 scale, a Pass/Fail system, numeric grades such as percentages or points, or uses a quarter instead of semester system, this form does not apply. In these cases the FGCU Office of Admissions, Registration and Records will be asked to determine the GPA, and you do not need to complete this form.

Course (or equivalent)	College/University	Semester/ Year	Credit Hours	Letter Grade	Grade Value	Grade Points
BSC 2010C*						
Lab:						
BSC X085*						
Lab:						
BSC X086*						
Lab						
CHM X045C*						
Lab:						
CHM X046C*						
Lab:						
PHY X053C*						
Lab:						
PHY X054C*						
Lab						
PSY XXXX						
PSY XXXX*						
STA 2XXX						
Totals						
<b>Grade Point Average</b>						

## COURSE EQUIVALENT FORM

**Instructions to the applicant:**

A request for any course to be accepted as a substitute for a prerequisite or required course must be made in writing to the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Performance. In order to request that a course be reviewed for equivalency to one of the prerequisite or required courses, an applicant/student must:

1. complete Part 1 of this form with your request, including specification of the prerequisite or required course, and identification of the course being suggested as an equivalent to the prerequisite or required course with the course number, course title and institution where the course was taken
2. attach to this form a copy of the course description from the course catalogue for the course being suggested as an equivalent to the prerequisite or required course
3. attach to this form a copy of the course syllabus for the course being suggested as an equivalent to the prerequisite or required course

These materials are reviewed by FGCU faculty and a decision about course equivalence is made by the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Performance. The applicant/student is notified in writing of the decision.

**PART 1: (To be filled out by Applicant)**

Applicant's/Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's/Student's request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Prerequisite or required course: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested equivalent course: \_\_\_\_\_  
(course number and title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(institution where the course was taken)

**(Please do not write below this line)**

**PART 2: (To be filled out by Admissions Committee)**

The applicant/student has had the equivalent of \_\_\_\_\_  
(prerequisite course)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(FGCU faculty member reviewing the course equivalence)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chair, Admissions Committee)

One copy of this completed form will be provided to the applicant/student, a second copy placed in the applicant's/student's file, and a third copy is kept in a central Department of Physical Therapy file.

# ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The following are essential functions needed for successful completion of the Athletic Training, Exercise Science, and Physical Therapy programs at Florida Gulf Coast University. Students must be able to perform, with or without reasonable accommodations, each of these essential functions in order to fully participate in the program and successfully complete the requirements of the program in which they are enrolled. A student requesting accommodation in regard to carrying out any of these essential functions must realize that although he/she may meet program requirements to graduate, he/she may not meet some requirements of licensure and employment in the profession.

Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university's guiding principles, provides classroom and academic accommodation to students with documented disabilities. Students are responsible for providing documentation of disability to the Office of Adaptive Services. Whether or not a requested accommodation is reasonable will be determined on an individual basis in consultation with the Office of Adaptive Services. (See current FGCU Student Guidebook).

## Essential Functions

### Cognitive Functions

1. Comprehend, retain, and retrieve complex information from the social sciences, humanities, natural and movement sciences, and apply this information to professional course work.
2. Comprehend, synthesize, and integrate information from extensive written materials, demonstration, group facilitation, lectures, class discussion, laboratory practice sessions, and simulated patients/clients.
3. Apply information obtained from classroom, laboratory, and written materials to the examination, evaluation, and intervention of real and simulated patients.
4. Critically analyze information taken from written materials, demonstration, group facilitation, lectures, class discussion, laboratory practice sessions, and simulated patients/clients to develop and support the rationale for appropriate examinations, evaluations, prognoses, and interventions.

5. Integrate information from multiple simultaneous sources in a timely manner.

### **Affective and Communication Functions**

1. Speak in English effectively and with sufficient volume to convey information to and instruct other individuals and groups from a variety of backgrounds, ages, and needs in a professional, respectful, and non-judgmental manner.
2. Understand and interpret the verbal, non-verbal, and written communication of others and respond in an appropriate professional manner.
3. Write clearly, concisely, and effectively in English.
4. Effectively attend to people, information, and tasks in a complex, highly stimulating environment during an entire workday.
5. Practice as a student in a safe, ethical, and legal manner.
6. Meet externally imposed deadlines and time requirements.
7. Effectively and consistently manage personal stress and the stress of others.
8. Respond to medical crises and emergencies in a calm, safe, and professional manner.

### **Psychomotor Functions**

1. Physically move or support patients/clients/classmates/equipment in a variety of situations and safely and skillfully supervise/instruct the movement/support of patients/clients/classmates utilizing a minimally trained technical support person.
2. Demonstrate the ability to observe and practice universal precautions.
3. Demonstrate the ability to perform emergency first aid and Health Care Provider CPR (American Heart Association BLS, including defibrillator).
4. Safely and reliably read meters, dials, and printouts.

5. Manipulate and operate examination and intervention equipment, monitoring devices, and computers.
6. Demonstrate appropriate body mechanics and react safely and appropriately to sudden or unexpected movements of patients/clients/classmates.
7. Demonstrate the ability to work in an environment which requires significant physical activity and mobility throughout the workday and which does not compromise patient or therapist safety.
8. Hear and comprehend the spoken word and auditory signals from equipment.
9. Write legibly and clearly by hand and by computer.
10. Safely, reliably, and efficiently perform appropriate examinations and interventions. See appendix for listing of sample (incomplete) examinations and interventions, listed by program.



## Appendix A Essential Functions for Physical Therapy

Safely, reliably, and efficiently perform appropriate examinations and interventions. See appendix for listing of sample (incomplete) examinations and interventions, listed by program.

### Sample Examinations

- cognitive/mental/emotional status
- endurance
- skin integrity
- sensation
- strength
- joint mobility
- joint motion and play
- muscle tone and reflexes
- movement patterns
- coordination
- balance
- developmental skills
- pain
- posture
- gait
- functional abilities
- assistive devices and equipment
- cardio-pulmonary status
- segmental length, girth, and volume for patients

### Sample Interventions

- therapeutic exercises to improve strength, ROM, or endurance
- developmental activities
- gait activities
- prosthetic and orthotic training
- wound care
- wheelchair training
- neurosensory techniques
- thermal agents
- physical agents and mechanical modalities
- massage
- electrotherapy
- balance and coordination training
- positioning techniques
- cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation
- manual therapy techniques
- functional activities, bed mobility, and transfers
- airway clearance techniques