

Pre-Physical Therapy
Associate of Science
2025-2026

General Areas of Service: Physical therapists find employment in hospitals, public and private health agencies, physicians' offices, special schools, research organizations, sports programs, rehabilitation centers, and private practice. Physical therapists are concerned with treating disease, injury and disability, using activities and devices to increase or restore their patients' strength, flexibility, endurance, coordination and balance, reduce pain and discomfort, and to prepare the patient physically and emotionally to return to the activities of daily living. Their patients include accident victims and disabled individuals with conditions such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, nerve injuries, burns, amputations, head injuries, fractures, low back pain, arthritis, and heart disease.

Professional Training: Physical therapists must be licensed by the state. By 2020, physical therapy will be provided by physical therapists who are Doctors of Physical Therapy (DPT). Because of this change, clinical programs that have not already changed to prepare students with a DPT are in the process of doing so. Entry into a clinical physical therapy program requires high grade point averages on pre-requisite coursework along with well-rounded extracurricular activities. Andrews University offers DPT training programs. Andrews accepts applicants after three years of pre-requisite college coursework. (A bachelor's degree is awarded to those students after the first year of clinical physical therapy study.)

Job Outlook: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Employment of physical therapists is projected to grow 17 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 15,400 openings for physical therapists are projected each year, on average, over the decade." The BLS reports that job growth is expected due to the aging of the baby boomer generation and increased numbers of people with chronic health conditions. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings: In their May 2021 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for physical therapists as \$95,620 with the lowest 10 percent earning less than \$61,930 and the highest 10 percent earning more than \$127,110 (see www.bls.gov). Salaries will be somewhat dependent on geographic location and type of employment desired.

Note: The clinical portion of this degree cannot be completed at Walla Walla University.

PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY

Winter Education Complex
(509) 527-2325

Websites

[Walla Walla University](#)
[University Bulletin](#)

[Pre-Profession: Physical Therapy](#)

Faculty

Advisor
[Ruth Meltzer](#)

Professional Organizations

[American Physical Therapy Association](#)

Professional Organizations

[Andrews University: Department of Physical Therapy](#)

Suggested Degree Path

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 96 cr. [See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details](#)

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete an associate's degree in Pre-Physical Therapy. Cognates are listed in *italics*.

Freshman Year		Junior Year	
Fall Courses		Fall Courses	
Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 121)		*Option	
College Writing I (ENGL 121)		4	
Religion General Studies		General Physics & Lab (PHYS 211 & 214)	
General Studies		4	
<i>P.E. Courses</i>		Biomechanics (PETH 325)	
Total		General Studies	
16		4	
Winter Courses		Total	
Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 122)		16	
College Writing II (ENGL 122)		*Option	
Religion General Studies		4	
General Studies		General Physics & Lab (PHYS 212 & 215)	
<i>P.E. Courses</i>		4	
Total		Physiology of Exercise (PETH 426)	
16		4	
Spring Courses		General Studies	
Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 123)		Total	
General Psychology (PSYC 130)		16	
<i>Fundamentals of Speech Comm.</i> (SPCH 101)		*Offered even years only	
General Studies		- Offered odd years only	
Total			
16			
Sophomore Year			
Fall Courses		Fall Courses	
General Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 141 & 144)		*Select one of the following: (4 credits)	
Research Writing (ENGL 223)		Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 225)	
Health Option (HLTH 110 OR 220)		American Government (PLSC 224)	
General Studies		Health Psychology (PSYC 370)	
Total		General Sociology (SOCI 204)	
16			
Winter Courses			
General Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 142 & 145)			
Intro to Statistics (MATH 106)			
Developmental Psychology (PSYC 215)			
General Studies			
Total			
16			
Spring Courses			
General Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 143 & 146)			
Religion General Studies			
General Studies			
Total			
16			