

# ADVISING GUIDE

# FROM PRE-PT TO DPT

## Prerequisite Coursework

- Ensure Pre-Physical Therapy has been declared and is on your Degree Progress Report. If you need to declare Pre-Physical Therapy email your academic adviser.
- Review the undergraduate **prerequisite coursework** that is required to apply for the DPT program(s) you are interested in. While these often consist of the same core courses, it is important to check for program-specific requirements as they may slightly differ. Minimum GPAs are also required and may differ by program. The UWSP DPT Program requires both a cumulative undergraduate and prerequisite GPA of 3.0 or better. Grades of a C- or lower will not be accepted in any prerequisite course.
- Browse program-specific DPT program requirements at the **Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)** <https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org>
- Keep a lookout for PTCAS seminars hosted by the UWSP DPT faculty and staff.
- Read more about UWSP DPT requirements at PTCAS (search UWSP) or the [UWSP DPT website](#) (scroll to prerequisite coursework).

## Observation Hours

- Find PT clinics that allow students to observe or work with their clinicians. The **UWSP Pre-Physical Therapy Club** (on [SPIN](#)) and UWSP DPT faculty can help connect you with such clinics and build your network. Review the number of hours required by the DPT program(s) you are interested in.
- Pro-tip: Aim to have a **diverse collection of PT experiences**.
- Be sure to log your hours as you complete them. This will make the process of inputting them into your PTCAS application much easier.
- Note that some DPT programs, such as UWSP DPT, have waived hours since the COVID-19 Pandemic, however they are still recommended to support your application.

## Take the GRE

- Look up the **average GRE scores** on PTCAS for the DPT program(s) you are interested in. This will help determine your goals, as well as your study plan. Many students aim to take their GRE's during the spring semester of their 3rd year.
- UWSP (PTCAS GRE Code: **2955**) minimum score requirements:
  - Quantitative and Verbal sections: 148 minimum
  - Written section: 3.0 minimum
- Consider purchasing a GRE Prep book with practice exams or looking at the GRE Prep materials available through the UWSP Library.
- Keep a lookout for GRE seminars hosted by the UWSP Pre-PT Club and the UWSP DPT faculty and staff.
- Connect with the [SHSW Student Success Center](#) to discuss other GRE Prep options.

## Research DPT Programs

- Take some time to research DPT programs more in depth. Be sure to consider your own **personal and career goals** and how the school aligns with your goals.
- A lot of schools have **opportunities to learn about their program** via virtual meetings, campus visit days, meeting with current faculty/students, and more.
- Be on the lookout for these events advertised by the UWSP DPT Program.
- Visit the [UWSP DPT website](#) for to find important dates and request information.

## Prepare Application Materials

- Set up your [PTCAS account](#) and familiarize yourself with the system at any time. Start early but note that some information will not carry over in the application portal when a new yearly cycle begins.
- Plan to apply the summer one academic year before you intend to start in a DPT program. For example - if you plan to start in a DPT program in the Summer of 2027, you should start the application process in the Summer of 2026.
- Check PTCAS for application deadlines as they vary by program. Priority deadline for the UWSP DPT program is October 1st.
- Be prepared to upload the following information into your PTCAS application.
  - Note: the PTCAS application cycle begins each year in early **June**. It is ideal to have your materials ready by then, as it is advantageous to apply earlier in the cycle.
  - Note: All observation hours and GRE scores must be complete before you submit your application so it is important to plan ahead to take your GRE and complete any observation hours.
    - Observation Hour Logs
    - Academic Transcripts
    - GRE Scores
    - Reference Information - Note: Each School has different requirements for references.



School of Health Sciences & Wellness  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Visit [uwsp.edu/wellness](http://uwsp.edu/wellness)  
for more information or  
meet with academic adviser

