PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS
TIPS & TRICKS

Taylor Byrne
University of Washington

Eastern Washington University

University of Puget Sound

Accredited PT Schools in Washington
PT SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.

ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION IN PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION (CAPTE):

- There are about **261 accredited** PT schools scattered across the U.S.
- There is an **additional 58 programs** in phases of development
After going through this process, here are things I would recommend:

• Start applying early! These applications take multiple hours. Give yourself time!
• Stay organized!! Make sure you complete each part of every application.
• Apply to multiple schools if you are able, to give yourself options.
• Do your research on each program to understand what comes with the program you are applying to.
• ASK FOR HELP! A group of other WSU kinesiology students and I would always check in on each other and ask questions. I also reached out to older students in PT school for advice.
HOW DO YOU APPLY??
PTCAS

- PTCAS is where you will complete all your applications
  - There are a few schools that do not use PTCAS, but the majority do
  - Some programs have school specific applications in addition to the PTCAS application.
    - Make sure to double check you have completed all parts of the application.
    - Check the program's website!
• From this main login page, click the ‘CREATE ACCOUNT’ button to get started.
PTCAS – CREATE AN ACCOUNT

- Input the following information to create your account
# PTCAS – CREATE AN ACCOUNT

## Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirm Email Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred Phone Number</td>
<td>(201) 555-0123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Phone Number</td>
<td>(201) 555-0123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Text and Phone Authorization

I agree to the Terms of Service and to receive calls and/or texts at any phone number I have provided or may provide in the future, including any wireless number, from any entity associated with my application process, including but not limited to my designated schools and programs, the Liaison International support team, the association or institution for this Centralized Application Service.

## Username and Password

Your username must be at least 6 characters. Your password must be a minimum of 8 characters and contain at least one lower and upper case letter, one number, and a special character.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Username</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Password</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your password must meet these minimal requirements:
- Password cannot contain username.
- Minimum of 8 Characters
- 1 lowercase letter
- 1 uppercase letter
- 1 number
- 1 special character

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirm Password</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
PTCAS – CREATE AN ACCOUNT

• Agree to the terms & conditions and click 'CREATE MY ACCOUNT'
• After you create your account, it will ask you one final question before you can begin.
PTCAS - SECTIONS

THE FOUR TABS AT THE TOP OF YOUR PTCAS ACCOUNT PAGE
PTCAS – MY APPLICATION

• This is the main page for your application.
• Where students input application information and receive notifications.
• Four sections must be completed:
  • Personal Information
  • Academic History
  • Supporting Information
  • Program Materials
As information is filled in, the circles around each section will turn green to help keep track of what information still needs to be completed.
Eight Sections of Personal Information:

- Release Statement
- Biographic Information
- Contact Information
- Citizenship Information
- Race & Ethnicity
- Parent/Guardian
- Economic/Education/Environmental Factors
- Other Information
Three Sections of Academic History:

- Colleges Attended
- Transcript Entry
- Standardized Tests (GRE)
Six Sections of Supporting Information:

- References
- Observation Hours
- Experiences
- Achievements
- Licenses and Certifications
- Essay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenses and Certifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Students will be given a prompt and asked to respond
• The general essay allows you 4500 characters to answer the prompt
  • Characters not words, this is shorter than it seems.
  • Have strong main points you can get across clearly and quickly
This section will show you all the programs you have added to your page.

When you click on each program, it will tell you the school specific items you need to complete.

This could be additional questions, forms, or essays.

Doctor of Physical Therapy
Alvernia University

Doctor of Physical Therapy
Clarkson University

Doctor of Physical Therapy - Spring 2023
Baylor University
PTCAS – ADD PROGRAM

- Search for schools that you want to apply to
- By clicking the '+' button, it will add that program to your account
- Add all the school you want to apply to
- This page tells you where the program is, when the program starts, when the application deadline is, and the accreditation status of the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Program Start Date</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Accreditation Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Allen College DPT Program (for January 2023)</td>
<td>1/09/2023</td>
<td>Waterloo</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>05/16/2022</td>
<td>Candidate for Accreditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Doctor of Physical Therapy</td>
<td>8/22/2022</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>05/16/2022</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Doctor of Physical Therapy</td>
<td>6/01/2022</td>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>05/02/2022</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Doctor of Physical Therapy</td>
<td>05/26/2021</td>
<td>State University - Jonesboro</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>06/01/2022</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PTCAS – Submit Applications

- This page also shows you all the programs you have added to your account.
- The green bar shows you how far along each of your applications are.
- It tells you the total price of applications for your added programs.
- There are other fees you might pay to specific programs for applying.
- This is where you will submit and pay for your applications.
PTCAS – CHECK STATUS

This tab shows all your added programs and the status the applications is in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My Programs</th>
<th>Application Status</th>
<th>Download Application (PDF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Physical Therapy - Alvernia University</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Physical Therapy - Clarkson University</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Physical Therapy - Spring 2023</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My Programs
START APPLYING EARLY!!!

PTCAS will require confirmation of hours from cite supervisors

You should allow 2 weeks to a month for someone to write you a letter of recommendation

PTCAS must confirm your grades and transcripts from past universities

Make sure you allow enough time for others to verify items and for everything to be processed, this is so important!!!
6 TEST SECTIONS OF THE GRE...

Analytical Writing
- 2 Sections
- 30 Minutes Each

Verbal Reasoning
- 2 Sections
- 30 Minutes Each

Quantitative Reasoning
- 2 Sections
- 35 Minutes Each
The GRE exam starts with the analytical writing portion, where you will be asked to write two short essays. 30 minutes is allotted for each essay.

**SECTION #1: Analyze an Issue**
You will be given a prompt posing an issue and will be asked to take a side and argue for that side.

**SECTION #2: Analyze an Argument**
You will be asked to read someone else's argument and then comment on the assumptions they make and the flaws of their argument.
STRUCTURE OF THE ESSAY

Introduction:
- Show you understand the assignment
- Choose a side

Body Paragraphs:
- Bring up strongest arguments/examples
- Show how it relates to the topic
- Show that it fully supports your thesis
- In the final body paragraph bring up the counterargument and show my it is incorrect.

Conclusion:
- Remind reader of the topic and your position
- Summarize the main points

TIPS

1. Choose a side and stick to it.
2. Be specific and relevant
3. Make strong statements
4. Reinforce your own thesis by refuting the other position
STRUCTURE OF THE ESSAY:

Introduction:
- Restate the authors argument and summarize their reasons for this argument
- Make a statement about how the argument is flawed

Body Paragraphs:
- Identify assumptions the author makes
- Give examples/evidence that would make the assumption untrue or weaken the conclusion
- State that argument could have come truth and give examples of evidence that if found, could help support their assumptions and conclusion. State how to strengthen the argument (Final body paragraph)

Conclusion:
- Restate that argument has two many assumptions and more research needs to be done
- Restate your thesis

TIPS:
1. Look for misleading stats or surveys, false generalizations, vague language and inadequate evidence.
2. Pick 2-3 assumptions the author makes
3. Use 3rd person, DO NOT use 1st person
4. Make strong statements
GRE – VERBAL REASONING

- 2 sections of 30 minutes
- 20 questions per section

TYPES OF QUESTIONS:
1. Sentence/Text Completion (1-1.5 MINUTES PER QUESTION)
2. Sentence Equivalence (1 MINUTE PER QUESTION)
3. Reading Comprehension (1-3 MINUTES TO READ, 1 MINUTE TO ANSWER)
2. Ricks has written extensively not only on the poetry of such (i)_____ figures in English poetry as Milton and Housman, but also on the less obviously (ii)_____ lyrics of Bob Dylan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blank (i)</th>
<th>Blank (ii)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. obscurantist</td>
<td>D. canonical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. arcane</td>
<td>E. popular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. established</td>
<td>F. judicious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. She volunteered to work in a soup kitchen because of her _______________ nature.

- selfish
- naive
- altruistic
- baneful
- candid
- benevolent
GRE – VERBAL REASONING

READING COMPREHENSION:
YOU WILL BE ASKED TO READ A PASSAGE AND ANSWER VARIOUS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PASSAGE.

Many baseball enthusiasts are aware of the story of how Abner Doubleday invented the game of baseball with some friends in 1839 and introduced it to a nation during the Civil War. However, most baseball historians now agree that this story is a convenient fiction, propagated by Albert Spalding, a player, manager, owner, and one of the first manufacturers of sporting equipment. Spalding's desire to distinguish baseball, which so keenly mirrored American interests and pursuits, from similar games played in England, such as cricket and rounders, led Spalding to seek out a purely North American origin of the sport. Spalding's entire basis for the foundation of baseball history lay in a handwritten letter from 1907 that he said came from a man who claimed to have gone to school with Doubleday and attributed the invention to him. Despite the speculative and dubious claims of the letter, Spalding and other members of his commission were quick to adopt the narrative as gospel and began to market their sport to the masses as a truly American pursuit.

1. Which of the following statements is suggested by the passage?
   - Abner Doubleday did invent the game of baseball.
   - Claiming baseball to be invented by an American would help Spalding sell more sporting equipment.
   - Baseball is not truly an American sport.
   - Many people in Spalding's day wanted to believe baseball was invented by an American.
   - The other members of Spalding's commission knew that the letter about Abner Doubleday was probably fraudulent.

Click on your choice.
GRE – QUANTITATIVE REASONING

2 sections of 35 minutes

20 questions per section

TYPES OF QUESTIONS:

• Quantitative Comparison (1.5 - 2 MINUTES PER QUESTION)
• Problem Solving (1.5 - 2 MINUTES PER QUESTION)
• Data Interpretation (1.5 - 2 MINUTES PER QUESTION)
GRE – QUANTITATIVE REASONING

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON:

TWO QUANTITIES WILL BE GIVEN. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO COMPARE THEM AND CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

THESE FOUR ANSWER OPTIONS WILL ALWAYS BE THE SAME FOR THIS TYPE QUESTIONS

Quantity A: $\frac{6^{36}}{4^{12}}$

Quantity B: $(9^{17})(4^8)$

(A) Quantity A is greater.
(B) Quantity B is greater.
(C) The two quantities are equal.
(D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.
In State X, all vehicle license plates have 2 letters from the 26 letters of the alphabet followed by 3 one-digit numbers. How many different license plates can State X have if repetition of letters and numbers is allowed?

A 23,400
B 60,840
C 67,600
D 608,400
E 676,000
PROBLEM SOLVING (SELECT MULTIPLE ANSWERS):

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A PROBLEM AND MUST SELECT THE CORRECT MULTIPLE-CHOICE ANSWERS.

The six numbers shown are listed in increasing order. Which of the following values could be the range of the six numbers?

Indicate all such values.

- A: 4.0
- B: 5.2
- C: 7.3
- D: 11.6
- E: 12.9
- F: 14.1
DATA INTERPRETATION:
YOU MUST ANSWER A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DATA SETS YOU ARE GIVEN.
GRE CONSIDERATIONS

COST
• It costs $200 to take the exam each time
• Books or prep classes you take will cost money. However, there are free resources online.

TIMING
• Test results take 10-15 days
• You must wait 21 days to retake the exam
• You can only take the exam 5 times in a 365-day period
GRE EXAM PREP

BOOKS
• You can buy books and other study materials from the GRE website
• Amazon has so many great options with varying prices.

CLASSES
• You can sign up for classes on the GRE website.
AMAZON GRE BOOKS

ALL OF THESE BOOKS ARE BETWEEN $15 - $30
GRE FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

YouTube!!

• Videos of solving practice problems, giving tips, sharing personal experiences

Kaptest.com/study/

• This website has tips and tricks for the exam, practice tests and much more!
FREE GRE STUDY APPS

GRE PREP & PRACTICE BY MAGOOSH

GRE VOCABULARY FLASHCARDS

GREMAX GRE PREP
FREE GRE STUDY APPS

GRE VOCABULARY
FLASHCARD PREP

GRE MATH & BY
SHERPA PREP
After applications have been submitted, some programs conduct interviews to select applicants.
Questions Interviewers Might Ask You...

- Describe a day in the life of a PT (in multiple settings)
- What skills/tools do you use to overcome obstacles/difficulties?
- What characteristics are you looking for in a DPT program?
- What are your strengths?
- What are your weaknesses?
- In what ways have you depended your knowledge/experience of PT?
What have you learned that is most interesting or surprising about PT?

Why do you want to be a PT?

Who are you and who would your friends say you are?

How do you fit in a team? What role do you play?

Why are you interested in this school?

Why is PT unique and important to you?

What does equity + diversity look like to you in a PT setting?
ASK QUESTIONS AT THE END OF YOUR INTERVIEW!!!!
QUESTIONS TO ASK AT THE END OF YOUR INTERVIEW:

WHAT CHARACTERISTICS DOES AN IDEAL DPT STUDENT IN YOUR PROGRAM SHOW?

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST UNIQUE OR SPECIAL THING ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM?
GOOD LUCK WITH APPLYING
YOU GOT THIS!