



## Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Do all 15 physical therapy programs across Canada have the same admission criteria?**

No. Although all Canadian programs in physical therapy are at the graduate level, eligibility requirements for all programs differ across the country. It is recommended that students check the criteria for all individual programs that they may be interested in. Many programs offer first priority to applicants from their own province. Check the Canadian Physiotherapy Association website for links to the other programs across Canada.

#### **How many clinical hours are integrated into the MPT program?**

Students are required to successfully complete a minimum of 1025 hours of clinical placement experience in the program to be eligible to write the national licensing examination (PCE). There are 1085 hours in regularly scheduled clinical placement courses over the two years of the MPT program. The extra hours provide students with a cushion to account for missed time during clinical placements due to public holidays, sick leave, etc.

#### **Am I required to complete a thesis as part of the MPT program?**

There is no formal thesis component to the MPT program. However, all students are required to complete a research project, either individually or in small groups. After being presented with a list of project options to choose from, students will have roughly 18 months to complete and present their projects.

#### **Is the MPT program accredited?**

Yes, the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) program at the University of Manitoba has been accredited by Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) until April 30, 2026.

#### **How long does the MPT program take?**

Students are admitted into the program in early August every year. The [program](#) takes roughly two years, with approximately two weeks off in the summer between first and second year. Academic course work, clinical education courses and a capstone research project continue through the second year until early September, in time for fall convocation.

#### **Is there the possibility of taking the program on a part-time basis?**

No, there are no part-time studies permitted. Only full-time studies are allowed, similar to other health professional programs at the University of Manitoba and consistent with other physical therapy programs across Canada.

#### **How much does the MPT program cost?**

Students are directed to the [Registrar's Office](#) for current student fees.

### Are there any specific high school requirements?

There are no specific high school prerequisites. However, some of the university-level prerequisites do have high school requirements. Students are encouraged to check with the individual undergraduate departments for necessary high school prerequisites. Grade 12 Biology, Physics or Chemistry, Applied or Pre-calculus Mathematics and English are highly recommended. The grades of the high school courses are not considered in the selection process into the MPT program.

### How many students are accepted into the MPT program every year?

Fifty students are admitted every year.

### What are the admission criteria of the MPT program?

Eligibility requirements can be found on our webpage [here](#).

### How are students selected for the MPT program?

Eligible students will be selected for an interview based on the GPAPC. Information on how to calculate an applicant's [GPAPC](#) can be found on our website. The GPA of the last 60 credit hours will be used to differentiate applicants in the case of a tie in ranking. To be eligible for admission, all applicants will be required to pass the Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI). Information on the MMI can be found in the [MPT Admissions hub](#).

Students are selected based on their ranking determined by a composite score of the Multiple Mini-Interview (worth 40%) and the student's Grade Point Average of the Prerequisite Courses (GPAPC) (worth 60%).

### What are my chances of being accepted into the MPT program?

Only Canadian citizens and permanent residents are considered for the MPT program. First priority will be given to Manitoba residents. Up to ten spots are available to eligible applicants who self-identify as Indigenous and apply through the [Canadian Indigenous Peoples Category](#). Up to five spots are available for competitive out-of-province applicants.

The size and caliber of the applicant pool for the MPT program will vary from year to year. In 2020, 117 applications were received for the 50 available spots, 15 of which were from out-of-province. More details can be found in our [FAQ about the applicant pool](#).

### Who is considered part of the Manitoba applicant pool?

The Department of Physical Therapy adheres to the definition of [Manitoba Residency](#) outlined by the University of Manitoba's Student Affairs. Proof of residency may be required.

### My courses are not listed on the eligibility requirements link above. How do I find out whether or not my courses meet your eligibility requirements?

If you are unable to find your course(s) listed in the table above, you can check to see if the University of Manitoba has previously assessed courses from your home institution. Courses that have been assessed for equivalency are located in the University of Manitoba's [Transfer Credit Equivalencies database](#).

Please note that the *Transfer Credit Equivalencies* database will stipulate a specific course number at the University of Manitoba where a course has been deemed to be equivalent. Where the database indicates that an external course is transferrable to the University of Manitoba at a certain level, **but no course number is given**, then that should be interpreted as the course has been deemed **NOT** to be equivalent to a specific course at the U of M. Course evaluations are valid for five years.

**Courses from other Canadian institutions** may have been assessed directly by the Department of Physical Therapy Admissions Committee. These courses may be used as prerequisite requirements for the program, but are not included in the database above. If you are unable to find your course(s) listed in the *Transfer Credit Equivalency* database above, please email your specific course information to the Physical Therapy Admissions Officer at [CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca](mailto:CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca) to see if your course(s) have been previously assessed for equivalency by the Department of Physical Therapy.

If your course(s) have not been previously assessed as equivalent to the admission prerequisites, you must submit a **detailed course syllabus along with a completed [Prerequisite Request Form](#)** for review by the Admissions Chair and or Admissions Committee.

Prerequisite review requests must be received by the MPT Chair of Admissions no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> in order for pre-assessment prior to the November 15<sup>th</sup> application deadline.

Potential applicants with course work not previously reviewed by October 1<sup>st</sup> are encouraged to submit an application before the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline and email their course syllabi to [CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca](mailto:CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca) at the time of application. If course work is found to not be equivalent there will be no refund of the application fee.

### **What are the content areas to be covered in the anatomy and physiology prerequisite courses?**

The anatomy and physiology prerequisite courses must provide a systems-based approach, including content on the musculoskeletal, neurological, circulatory, respiratory, endocrine, urinary, digestive, reproductive and integumentary systems. If your courses are not listed in the table of course numbers, nor in the University of Manitoba's *Transfer Credit Equivalency* database please follow the steps in the question above to request a prerequisite review.

Please note KIN 2301 and/or KIN 4301 from the University of Winnipeg are not accepted for the MPT Anatomy requirement and therefore are not included in the table found on the [MPT eligibility website](#).

### **Can I use one course to meet two different requirements?**

It is possible to use one six (6) credit hour course to meet two separate half course (3 credits each) requirements. For example, it is permissible to use U of W Biol-1112 (6 credit hours) Human Anatomy and Physiology to meet the three credit hour requirement in human anatomy as well as the three credit hour requirement in human physiology.

It is NOT permissible to use one three hour credit course to meet two separate half course requirements. For example, it is NOT permissible to use one three (3) credit hour course in Human Growth and Development to meet the three (3) credit hour requirement in child development as well as the three (3) credit hour requirement in aging.

If in doubt, please contact the department at [CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca](mailto:CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca).

### **Can I use an extra 3 credit hour anatomy and physiology course which is part of a 6 credit hour combination (ex. Anatomy & Physiology I with Anatomy & Physiology II) to boost my GPAPC?**

No. In order for a course to qualify both Part 1 and 2 of the approved combination must be completed.

### **Can I use a 3 credit hour course in the Humanities in combination with a 3 credit hour course from the Department of English to satisfy the 6 credit hours of English Literature required by the Department of Physical Therapy?**

Yes, however the 3 credit Humanities course MUST have a majority of its assessments based on comprehensive essay writing (i.e. a minimum 60% of the course marks based on comprehensive essay writing). If a course has not been previously assessed as equivalent to the admissions prerequisites, you must submit a detailed course syllabus along with a completed prerequisite request form for review by the Admissions Chair and or Admissions Committee. Information on requesting a course review can be found on pages 2 and 3 above.

### **If I have taken two courses to meet one prerequisite (for example, two half Introductory Psychology courses or two Physiology courses or two half English Literature courses), how do I calculate my GPAPC?**

Where a student has successfully completed two courses to meet one requirement, the average of the two courses will be used in calculating the GPAPC after the grades are converted to a 4.5 scale. Based on curricular topics some candidates need 2 courses to make up a single prerequisite for our program. In the event the candidate has more than 30 credit hours the GPAPC may be calculated on 33 or 36 credit hours depending on the courses taken (ex. combination of 6 credit hours for Anatomy and combination of 6 credit hours for Physiology).

Please note that a minimum grade of a B is required in ALL prerequisite courses. This means, that in the

case of two half courses, BOTH courses must have a minimum grade of a B.

### **How is the Grade Point Average of my Prerequisite Courses (GPAPC) calculated if I repeat a prerequisite course or if I have more than one eligible prerequisite course?**

Where a student has repeated a prerequisite course or has more than one eligible course, the higher mark will be used to calculate the student's GPAPC for selection. The applicant's self-identification of all prerequisite courses in the on-line application will facilitate this process.

### **I have a B+ in one of my pre-requisite courses on my formal transcript but the professor graded my performance as an 87%. Which grade will you use in the calculation of my GPAPC?**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Department of Physical Therapy will only use the grade as it appears on the formal transcript provided by the applicant's educational institution. See the Faculty of Graduate Studies Canadian [GPA Equivalency Table](#) for corresponding grades.

### **I took university-level courses somewhere else and had them transferred to my current university, where they appear on my transcript. How do I enter these courses in my on-line application?**

Please enter these courses into your application as they originally appeared on the transcript of the university where you took them. That includes the original course number, course title and grade. Transcripts from all of the post-secondary institutions that you have attended are required as part of the application to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

In order for a course to qualify for an MPT prerequisite requirement the course taken requires approval by the MPT Chair of Admissions. Transfer credit awarded by other post-secondary institutions is not used to approve MPT prerequisite courses. Information on requesting a course review can be found on pages 2 and 3 above.

### **Is there a time frame within which the prerequisite courses must be completed in relation to the time of application?**

The prerequisite in Physiology must be completed within **five** years of application to the program. All other prerequisites must be completed within **ten** years of application to the program. Where evidence can be demonstrated of application of the knowledge or the successful completion of higher level courses in the same subject area, exceptions to the time limit may be considered on a case-by-case basis. A written request must be submitted by email to the Chair of Admissions at [CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca](mailto:CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca) with sufficient evidence for an exemption or waiver to receive approval.

All prerequisite courses (or approved alternate courses) must be completed by the end of the fall term in the year prior to admission. For example, for August 2021 entry, prerequisite courses must be completed by December 31, 2020.

### **How do I calculate my GPA of the last 60 credit hours?**

The [Faculty of Graduate Studies Application Assessment](#) webpage provides information on how to calculate your GPA.

Note: For MPT admission interview purposes, courses completed up to and including all courses to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the academic year in which the applicant is applying will be included in the calculation of the GPA. If a student is recommended for admission to the MPT program with outstanding coursework, final official transcripts will be required showing that all coursework has been successfully completed and that the GPA in the most recent 60 credit hours has remained at a 3.25 or higher.

### **Is preference given to applicants with a particular degree or from a particular institution?**

No preference is given to students with any particular degree or graduates of a particular university. We feel that a diversity of educational backgrounds will enhance the future opportunities of physiotherapy in the Canadian health care system.

### **Do I need to have relevant volunteer and/or work experience for the MPT program?**

No volunteer or work-related experience is required for admission. However, relevant workplace exposure including job-shadowing is highly recommended to help make an informed decision about your future career.

## Do I need letters of reference as part of my application to the MPT program?

No. Letters of reference are not a requirement for admission.

## When will the 2021 Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) be held?

The MPT MMI will be held on Saturday, March 13 and Sunday, March 14, 2021.

## Do I need to pass a national licensing or certification exam in order to be fully licensed upon graduation?

Yes. The Physiotherapy Competency Examination (PCE) is designed to evaluate essential knowledge, skills and abilities of physiotherapy practice. The examination covers the core clinical practice areas of musculoskeletal, neuromuscular and cardiorespiratory. It is designed to evaluate skills including history-taking, physical examination, data interpretation, clinical problem-solving, treatment skills, ethics, safety, interviewing and communications.

The PCE is comprised of two components:

**Written Component:** The Written Component of the PCE is a multiple-choice written exam that evaluates your understanding of the principles and processes of physiotherapy practice including knowledge about essential physiotherapy skills, behaviours and abilities.

Candidates must successfully complete the Written Component before advancing to the Clinical Component.

**Clinical Component:** The Clinical Component of the PCE evaluates your knowledge and application of skills, behaviours and abilities by testing your understanding and performance of safe, effective application of the principles and processes of physiotherapy practice. Also known as the Physiotherapy National Exam, the clinical component involves 16 stations in an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) format.

For more information, including exam fees, see [www.alliancept.org](http://www.alliancept.org).

## What are the English language requirements to be considered eligible for practice as a physiotherapist?

For those not educated in English, the Department of Physical Therapy complies with the [English language requirements](#) required by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators and the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba, as well as the Faculty of Graduate Studies. These minimum scores are required to be granted admission; to be licensed as a student physical therapist in Manitoba; and considered eligible to sit the national Physiotherapy Competency Examination upon graduation.

- 1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), internet-based (iTOEFL)**  
A minimum total score of 92 is required, with no sub-score lower than 21.
- 2. Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST)**  
A minimum band rating of 4.5 in Listening, Reading and Oral Expression and a minimum band rating of 4.0 in writing.
- 3. Academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**  
An overall score of at least 7 and must include all components of the test (i.e., listening, reading, writing and speaking).

The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators and the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba do not accept the Academic English Program for University and College Entrance (AEPUCE), the University of Michigan English Language Battery (MELAB) or the Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL).

## What can I do to prepare myself for the MPT program?

1. While job-shadowing and/or volunteering is not a requirement of admission, it is highly encouraged to ensure that this is the right career choice for you. Consider contacting the [University of Manitoba Career Mentor Program](#) for additional resources.
2. Attend one of the many training workshops offered by the [University of Manitoba libraries](#) on literature searches and reference management tools.
3. Familiarize yourself with word processing (e.g., Word); preparation of public presentations (e.g., Power Point); and preparation of spread sheets (e.g., Excel).

4. Determine your eligibility for [University of Manitoba Financial Aid and Awards](#).

**How do I find out more information?**

1. Attend the annual College of Rehabilitation Sciences [Open House](#), hosted jointly by current students and faculty. The Open House is held each year on the third Sunday in January at the Brodie Centre, 727 McDermot Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
2. Attend career fairs where information on physiotherapy is available. For a list of career fairs and information sessions, see [Upcoming Events](#) on our website.
3. Review the [Department of Physical Therapy](#) website and check for admissions updates.
4. Contact the College of Rehabilitation Sciences Admissions Officer at [CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca](mailto:CORS.PTprogram@umanitoba.ca).