

Texas Woman's University
School of Physical Therapy

Prerequisite required observation, volunteer or Work Experience

The purpose for this requirement is so that applicants to the professional physical therapy program have an opportunity to expose themselves to the profession in order to make a more informed decision about choosing this profession for their career.

Physical therapy is practiced in many different environments and therapists participate in the management of many different conditions and illnesses within each of these. So that applicants can be optimally informed about this as a professional career, they should learn as much about the profession as they can by direct contact with therapists in practice. This can be achieved through observation, volunteer or work experience in at least two physical therapy environments. Applicants are encouraged to interact with the therapists and learn about this profession and issues facing it (both good and bad).

Suggested therapy environments include (but are not limited to):

Acute care hospitals

Long term acute care facilities (LTAC's)

Out-patient clinics (orthopedic, neurologic, pediatric)

Rehabilitation facilities (in-patient or out-patient)

Extended care facilities (nursing homes, elder day care centers where PT is practiced)

Home health

Aquatic therapy centers

Applicant Recommendation forms

From the therapist contacts they make at these facilities, applicants should recruit at least two therapists, each from a different physical therapy environment, to complete an Applicant Recommendation Form. A third recommendation is also required, but this may come from another therapist at a third facility or therapy environment, or from a professor, employer or supervisor, who may not be a physical therapist. Normally, these recommendations would come from two (2) separate facilities; however, an exception may be made for an applicant submitting recommendation forms from two different therapists in different physical therapy environments of a (larger) comprehensive care facility. For instance, a larger hospital may have a separate cohort of therapists working in out-patient and in-patient units; or it may have an area designated as a long-term care or rehabilitation unit, with its separate cohort of physical therapists. An applicant submitting both physical therapist recommendation forms from the same facility must verify that they meet the above criteria.