



## Physical Therapy Pre-Professional Program

### Overview of the Health Pre-Professional Program

The Health Pre-Professional Advising Committee (HPAC) would like to emphasize to prospective students our attempts to give Carson-Newman students a competitive edge in the admissions process to professional school. Over the past several years, the number of applicants to health professional schools has dramatically increased, thus making it more difficult to gain admission. Historically, C-N students have been relatively successful in gaining admission to professional schools. However, raw numbers and statistics related to acceptances can be deceiving and subject to misinterpretation. In most cases, success depends upon the determination of individual students, their dedication to their future career, and their willingness to utilize resources at their disposal. Outlined below are our efforts related to advising, experience in the career area, the interview process, the letter of recommendation, and practice on national exams.

Advising: The HPAC is composed of a director, a secretary, and 10 faculty advisors. All HP students are advised by a specified HP faculty advisor who is knowledgeable with their individual career area.

Planning: All HP students must take a one-hour course, ID 208, before their HP interview. This course introduces new HP students to the C-N HP process and focuses on various aspects of career planning such as the interview, the GPA, the personal statement, and the curriculum.

Career Experience: The HPAC feels that before a student can make an educated decision on a career in the health professions, the student should have significant direct exposure to the specific area of interest. All HP students must have career experience before coming for the HP interview. This exposure can be gained by obtaining a job, by volunteering, or by taking our Hospital Externship Course (CHEM 308).

Interview: All HP students come before the HPAC for an interview prior to application to professional school. The interview is videotaped and critiqued by a member of our committee. We try to provide a realistic practice session and polish for C-N students before the professional school interview. We attempt to have at least one practicing health professional at each of the interview sessions. A workshop on the short interview is conducted each fall for our HP students.

Letter of Recommendation: A Committee composite letter of recommendation is constructed for each HP student following the interview process. It is sent out at the request of the HP student to the schools to which they are applying.

## **Pre-Physical Therapy at Carson-Newman**

B.A. Degree Before Entrance: Most PT programs require students to have earned the B.A. or B.S. degree before entrance into graduate school. Students in this track should plan to graduate from C-N with a suggested major in biology or psychology.

No B.A. Degree: A few PT programs accept students after 3 years of undergraduate work and award the M.S. in PT after completion of an additional 3 years of professional school. Pre-PT students in this track never earn a B.A. or B.S. degree and need only satisfy the admission requirements and gain admission to one of these PT programs.

Binary 3+1 Combined Degree: This is a four year program in conjunction with Carson-Newman College and an accredited physical therapy school. Students complete three years at Carson-Newman College (minimum 96 hours) and one year of the professional program at a PT school with a minimum C average and a minimum of 32 semester hours. Students are expected to complete their major in biology and the C-N general education requirements during their first three years. Carson-Newman residency requirements must also be met. Upon completion of these requirements, students receive a B.A. degree in biology from C-N. Students must complete all entry requirements to the professional PT school and must gain admission based on their own merit. Care should be taken to avoid duplication of courses taken at the two institutions. Students should confer closely with their HPAC advisor about this PT program.

## **Physical Therapy Articulation Agreements**

Carson-Newman College has partnered with two universities whereby C-N students receive preferred admission status to graduate programs in physical therapy. Details regarding each program are found below.

### Southwest Baptist University

Carson-Newman College and the Master of Physical Therapy Program at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, have established an articulation agreement whereby C-N students who complete the baccalaureate degree in any major and meet the minimum eligibility requirements for admission into the MPT at SBU will automatically receive preference points and be eligible for the interview phase of the selection process. Specific information about the graduate program and admission requirements can be obtained from the SBU website at <http://falcon.sbuniv.edu/pt/>.

### University of St. Augustine

Carson-Newman is a participating institution in the Ambassador Program involving the Doctor of Physical Therapy at the University of St. Augustine in Florida. Students who meet all requirements for admission at St. Augustine and all local requirements at Carson-Newman will gain preferred admission status. Students are expected to work closely with their HPAC advisor

and to identify their desire to participate in the Ambassador Program to the Director of Health Pre-Professions as soon as possible, but not later than before the start of their junior year. Specific information about the graduate program and admission requirements can be obtained from the USA website at <http://www.usa.edu/dpt.htm>.

## Graduate Programs in Physical Therapy

A list of other graduate programs in physical therapy throughout the United States can be found at [http://www.gradschools.com/listings/menus/phys\\_therapy\\_menu.html](http://www.gradschools.com/listings/menus/phys_therapy_menu.html). Because the admission requirements vary from school to school, students are advised to become familiar with the prerequisites of schools to which they may apply as soon as possible. Although the requirements vary for each school, the following science, math, and psychology courses are often required:

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Semesters Required</u>	<u>Carson-Newman Equivalent</u>
Statistics	1	MATH 201
Psychology	2	Any 2 PSY courses
General Biology	2	BIOL 105 and 106
Anatomy and Physiology	2	BIOL 207 and 208
Exercise Physiology	1	BIOL 403
General Chemistry	2	CHEM 103 and 104
General Physics	2	PHYS 103 and 104

In addition to the required coursework, most physical therapy graduate programs require applicants to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Additional information regarding this exam can be found at <http://www.gre.com/>.

## Additional Information

Information regarding medical professions or physical therapy can be found at the web sites listed below.

*American Physical Therapy Association*  
*Association of American Medical Colleges*

<http://www.apta.org/>

<http://www.aamc.org/>

For further information regarding the Health Pre-Professional Program at Carson-Newman College, please contact the director of the program, Dr. Steve Karr, by phone or e-mail at 865-471-3252 or [stkarr@cn.edu](mailto:stkarr@cn.edu).