The prephysical therapy concentration admits post-baccalaureate students into courses required for application to physical therapy graduate (DPT) programs. Students can complete the program in 21 months. While this program meets minimal requirements for application to most physical therapy schools in Illinois, students are strongly advised to confirm the admission requirements of the schools in which they are interested before enrolling to ensure that the SPS program fulfills their needs. This program is designed for career changers who do not have an extensive background in science. Students who need only some of these courses may apply to the Advanced Studies in Biology for Health Professions (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/advanced-studies-biology-health-professions/) certificate program or create a specialized certificate (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/specialized-studies/).

**Certificate Offered**

- Prephysical Therapy Certificate (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/prephysical-therapy/prephysical-therapy-certificate/)

### Prephysical Therapy Courses

**BIOL_SCI 201-CN Molecular Biology (1 Unit)**  
Basics of molecular biology, including the structure of macromolecules, DNA replication, transcription, and translation and the mechanisms by which these processes are regulated. Current biotechnology methods used to study molecular biology. Credit not allowed for both BIOL_SCI 201-CN and BIOL_SCI 215-CN.

**BIOL_SCI 202-CN Cell Biology (1 Unit)**  
How an evolutionary perspective informs our understanding of human anatomy, health and disease. Mechanisms the cell uses to compartmentalize and transport proteins, to move, to regulate growth and death, and to communicate with their environments.  
**Prerequisite:** Students must have completed, with a C- or better, BIOL_SCI 201-CN or 215-CN to register for this course. Should be taken concurrently with BIOL_SCI 232-CN. Credit not allowed for both BIOL_SCI 219-CN and BIOL_SCI 202-CN.

**BIOL_SCI 203-CN Genetics and Evolution (1 Unit)**  
Fundamentals of genetics and evolution. From the rules of heredity to the complex genetics of humans, the methods and logic of genetics as applied to inheritance, development, neurobiology, and populations. The process and tempo of evolution, from natural selection to speciation, emphasizing how genetics plays a critical role.  
**Prerequisite:** Students must have completed, with a C- or better, BIOL_SCI 202-CN or BIOL_SCI 219-CN to register for this course.

**BIOL_SCI 232-CN Molecular and Cellular Processes Laboratory (0.34 Unit)**  
Laboratory techniques and experience that investigates relevant scientific research and teaches scientific inquiry skills such as experimental design, writing research proposals, data collection, data analysis/interpretation, and the presentation of results. The experimental model revolves around atherosclerosis and macrophage phagocytosis of apoptotic cells. Various cell and molecular biology techniques. Should be taken concurrently with BIOL_SCI 202-CN Credit not allowed for both BIOL_SCI 221-CN and BIOL_SCI 232-CN.

**BIOL_SCI 233-CN Genetics and Molecular Processes Laboratory (0.34 Unit)**  
Laboratory techniques and experience that investigates relevant scientific research and teaches scientific inquiry skills such as experimental design, writing research proposals, data collection, data analysis/interpretation, and the presentation of results. The experimental model revolves around aggregate prone proteins in nematodes and RNA interference (RNAi) affecting protein folding and the clearance of protein aggregates. Various cell and molecular biology techniques.  
**Prerequisite:** Students must have completed BIOL_SCI 232-CN. Credit not allowed for both BIOL_SCI 220-CN and BIOL_SCI 233-CN.

**BIOL_SCI 234-CN Investigative Laboratory (0.34 Unit)**  
An exploration of the functions of the human body at the tissue, organ, and organ system level. Emphasis on homeostatic mechanisms and interdependence within organs and organ systems and the influence of modulatory systems. Topics will include, but are not limited to: nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, and renal systems.

**BIOL_SCI 310-CN Human Physiology (1 Unit)**  
An introduction to human anatomy. Topics include system approach to anatomical organization; sections of the body; musculoskeletal and nervous systems; embryology development. Lectures are supplemented by selected prossections of human cadavers and dry exercises using bones, models, and computer animations.  
**Prerequisite:** BIOL_SCI 170-CN or equivalent course.

**BIOL_SCI 313-CN Human Anatomy (1 Unit)**  
An introduction to human anatomy. Topics include system approach to anatomical organization; sections of the body; musculoskeletal and nervous systems; embryology development. Lectures are supplemented by selected prossections of human cadavers and dry exercises using bones, models, and computer animations and exercises.  
**Prerequisite:** BIOL_SCI 313-CN, equivalent anatomy course, or permission of instructor.

**BIOL_SCI 316-CN Human Structure and Function (1 Unit)**  
The function of the musculoskeletal system in modern humans. A comparative perspective emphasizing the adaptive contexts of the evolutionary transformations leading to our modern anatomy. Structural, functional, and evolutionary anatomy of humans, with primary focus on the musculoskeletal system of the postcranium. General biomechanical principles of anatomical systems are covered through the regional anatomy of the muscles, bones and joints. Lectures are supplemented by selected prossections of human cadavers, in-class lab sessions examining bones and models, and computer animations and exercises.  
**Prerequisite:** BIOL_SCI 313-CN, equivalent anatomy course, or permission of instructor.

**BIOL_SCI 317-CN Regional Human Anatomy Lab (0.34 Unit)**  
Lab course utilizing prossections and demonstrations of human cadavers. It is an advanced anatomy course examining the details of human body systems. Topics include: body wall and cavities, contents and features of the thorax and abdomen (cardiac, pulmonary, and gastrointestinal systems), pelvis (genito-urinary system), spinal cord and back, innervation and blood supply of the upper and lower limbs, cranial cavities and contents, cranial nerves and blood supply of the head and neck. Credit for this course is 0.34 units.  
**Prerequisite:** BIOL_SCI 313-CN or equivalent.

**BIOL_SCI 318-DL Human Anatomy (1 Unit)**  
Builds on concepts covered in BIOL_SCI 217-CN or an equivalent physiology course focusing on the body as an integrated set of systems. A global view of the body, its systems, and the many processes that keep the systems working. Integrated approach to studying all major organ systems including neural, autonomic/somatic motor, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, digestive, and reproductive physiology. The clinical relevance of the organ system that will include abnormal function, disease states, and medications used to bring the system back to normal functioning.
PHYSICS 131-A Physics Laboratory I (0.34 Unit)
Prerequisite: PHYSICS 131-C lab. Must be taken concurrently with PHYSICS 130-B; must be taken concurrently. Credit for this course is .34 units.

PHYSICS 130-C College Physics III (1 Unit)
Prerequisite: college algebra or higher college math course.

PHYSICS 130-A College Physics I (1 Unit)
First quarter of a three-quarter algebra-based physics course with lecture and laboratory. This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts of physics including quantum mechanics, relativity, and atomic physics. Wave motion, optics, and introduction to the basic concepts of modern physics including quantum mechanics, relativity, and atomic physics. Focus on conceptual understanding of basic physical principles and their real-world applications. Demonstration experiments will be used to illustrate physical phenomena and concepts. Must be taken concurrently with PHYSICS 131-C.

PHYSICS 131-C Physics Laboratory III (0.34 Unit)
Laboratory course associated with PHYSICS 130-C; must be taken concurrently. Credit for this course is .34 units.

PHIL 269-DL Bioethics (1 Unit)
Ethical analysis of a variety of issues such as the human genome project, genetic therapy, cloning and stem cell transplantation, human and animal research, reproductive technologies, and the allocation of resources.

PSYCH 110-DL Introduction to Psychology (1 Unit)
A survey course reviewing primary psychological research and theories of human behavior. Carries social science credit.

PSYCH 213-DL Social Psychology (1 Unit)
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to important theory, research, and methodologies in social psychology. Social psychologists examine how people interpret the social world and investigate the influence of the social environment on individuals’ thoughts and behaviors. We will examine classic topics in social psychology: social cognition, social influence, conformity, group processes, helping, and prejudice. There will be a strong emphasis on methodology and the ways in which study design affects both the research questions one can answer and the conclusions one might draw. Because social psychologists sometimes investigate “everyday” behavior, students often believe that they can rely on intuition or common sense to learn about social psychology. Unfortunately, one core finding in social psychology is that common sense can be misleading at best and seriously biased at worst. Thus, this course will focus on how the scientific method helps to provide empirical answers to questions about humans and their social world.

STAT 202-DL Introduction to Statistics and Data Science (1 Unit)
This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts of statistics. Throughout the course, students will learn to: summarize data using graphs and tables; explain/calculate descriptive statistics, confidence intervals, correlation, regression, and probability; and explain tests of significance and data-production including sampling and experiments. Basic knowledge of algebra is recommended.

PRO_HLTH 396-A Professional Health Careers Proseminar I (0 Unit)
Noncredit proseminar for students in professional health certificate programs. Prepares students to succeed in the professional health careers program. Topics include: adjusting to life as a science student, academic resources, extracurricular resources, and preparing for the professional/medical school application process. Enrollment by permission; open only to students in a professional health careers certificate program.
PRO_HLTH 396-B Professional Health Careers Proseminar II (0 Unit)
Noncredit proseminar for students in professional health certificate programs. Prepares students for the year-long application cycle beginning in the summer, providing opportunities to work on major application components, including their AMCAS activities listing, a strong personal statement, selecting target medical/professional schools, and navigating the centralized application. Practice for interviews, glide year planning. Enrollment by permission; open only to students in a professional health careers certificate program.