General Areas of Service:

Physical therapists find employment in hospitals, public and private health agencies, physicians’ offices, special schools, research organizations, sports programs, rehabilitation centers, and private practice. Physical therapists are concerned with treating disease, injury and disability, using activities and devices to increase or restore their patients’ strength, flexibility, endurance, coordination and balance, reduce pain and discomfort, and to prepare the patient physically and emotionally to return to the activities of daily living. Their patients include accident victims and disabled individuals with conditions such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, nerve injuries, burns, amputations, head injuries, fractures, low back pain, arthritis, and heart disease.

Professional Training:

Physical therapists must be licensed by the state. By 2020, physical therapy will be provided by physical therapists who are doctors of physical therapy (DPT). Because of this change, clinical programs that have not already changed to prepare students with a DPT are in the process of doing so. Entry into a clinical physical therapy program requires high grade point averages on pre-requisite coursework along with well-rounded extracurricular activities. Andrews University offers DPT training programs. Andrews accepts applicants after three years of pre-requisite college coursework. (A bachelor’s degree is awarded to those students after the first year of clinical physical therapy study.)

Job Outlook:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), “[e]mployment of physical therapists is expected to grow 34 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.” The BLS reports that job growth is expected due to the aging of the baby boomer generation and increased numbers of people with health insurance. Physical therapists will play an important role in “[assisting] patients with rehabilitation and treatment of any chronic conditions or injuries.” (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings:

In their May 2016 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for physical therapists as $85,400 with the lowest 10 percent earning less than $58,190 and the highest 10 percent earning more than $122,130 (see www.bls.gov). Salaries will be somewhat dependent on geographic location and type of employment desired.
The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete an associate’s degree in Pre-Physical Therapy. This set of classes fulfills the Andrews University pre-requisites for entrance into their Physical Therapy program. Classes that are offered concurrently with another class are listed with an OR option—you may only take one (1) of the options per quarter. Cognates, general studies courses, and electives should be taken to complete 96 credit hours to complete an Associate of Science in Pre-Physical Therapy.

See the Undergraduate Bulletin for complete requirements.

### Freshman

#### Autumn
- **BIOL 121** Anatomy & Physiology ................................ 4
- **PSYC 130** General Psychology .................................... 4
- **SPCH 101** Fundamentals of Speech Communication .. 4

#### Winter
- **BIOL 122** Anatomy & Physiology ................................ 4
- **PSYC 130** General Psychology .................................... 4
- **SPCH 101** Fundamentals of Speech Communication .... 4

#### Spring
- **BIOL 123** Anatomy & Physiology ............................... 4
- **PSYC 130** General Psychology .................................... 4
- **SPCH 101** Fundamentals of Speech Communication .. 4

### Sophomore

#### CHEM 141 General Chemistry (CHEM 144 LAB) ........... 4
- **ANTH 225** Cultural Anthropology ................................ 4
- **PSYC 215** Developmental Psychology ......................... 4
- **HLTH 110** Wellness for Living ...................................... 4
- **HLTH 220** Human Nutrition ........................................... 4

#### Children

**OR**
- **CHEM 142** General Chemistry (CHEM 145 LAB) ........... 4
- **PEAC** PE Activities Courses ..................................... 2
- **PSYC 215** Developmental Psychology ......................... 4
- **HLTH 110** Wellness for Living ...................................... 3
- **HLTH 220** Human Nutrition ........................................... 4

#### Junior

**OPTION**
- **PHYS 211** General Physics (PHYS 214 LAB) ............... 4
- **PETH 325** Kinesiology............................................... 4

**OPTION**
- **PHYS 212** General Physics (PHYS 215 LAB) ............... 4
- **PETH 246** Physiology of Exercise ................................. 4

### Work Experience:
A documented minimum of 80 hours of work/observation experience (20 hours must be in an inpatient setting) in a physical therapy department is required.