

Rehab Explorer Program

The Rehab Explorer Program is a program designed for up to 20 students ages 15-20 years old that have an interest in physical therapy as a career choice.

The program is hosted at OrthoIllinois in Rockford, Illinois.

What is the Rehab Explorer Program?

Objectives of the Rehab Explorer Program

- Educate students in the areas in which physical therapists and physical therapist assistants work.

- Discuss common salaries for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and how they change based on region of work.
- Expose students to daily activities in the clinical setting, ie. therapeutic exercise, modalities, manual therapy, neuromuscular re-education

The program is hosted twice a year in the spring and fall, and is three hours in length from 9AM to 12PM on a weekend day.

The program is designed and hosted by Jonathan Gallas, PT, PhD, DPT, CSCS and Heather Riley, PTA, CEAS.

- Prep students to have all of their prerequisites completed to apply to physical therapist and physical therapist assistant school.

- To “spark” interest in students aged 15-20 interested in physical therapy as a career.
- Educate students in the educational requirements to attend physical therapy and physical therapy assistant school.

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What are the Outcomes of the Rehab Explorer Program?

% of students that applied to physical therapy or physical therapy assistant school after attending the Rehab Explorer Program: **33%**

% of students that were accepted to physical therapy or physical therapy assistant school after attending the Rehab Explorer Program: **20%**

% of students for whom the Rehab Explorer Program increased their interest in the field of physical therapy: **47%**

Future Plans for Rehab Explorer Program

- Continue to offer 2x/year
- Expand to Eastern division clinics at OrthoIllinois
- Offer an Occupational Therapy Rehab Explorer Program
- Continue tracking data for students applied and accepted to PT or PTA school
- Present at National APTA Conference

THANK YOU!

What Does the Program Consist of?

- The program contains a combination of lecture and lab experiences to expose the students to the requirements for physical therapy and physical therapy assistant school and activities that each may perform on a daily basis in the clinic.
- Overview of what physical therapy is all about.
- Discussion on different work settings and niche areas in physical therapy.
- Overview of current job outlook and median salaries by region.
- Review of the CORE values of physical therapy.

- Prerequisite requirements for physical therapy and physical therapy assistant school.
- Application process
- Using PTCAS
- Average GPA of students accepted to physical therapy schools.
- Overview of observation requirements for applying to physical therapy and physical therapy assistant programs.
- Pitfalls to avoid in the application/interview process.



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