



## PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY

To pursue graduate study in any of the health care professions, you must have a strong undergraduate background in science. At Illinois Wesleyan, we'll provide you with this background in preparation for your physical therapy graduate work, along with challenging course work in the liberal arts; close, personal instruction from a well-qualified faculty; and hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment. Students who pursue pre-physical therapy at Illinois Wesleyan find success and have recently been admitted to prestigious physical therapy graduate programs such as the Mayo School of Health Related Sciences, Midwestern University, Northwestern University, University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Indianapolis and Washington University-St. Louis.

## A CAREER IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical therapists work with patients to evaluate their needs, plan treatment programs, and prevent further physical disabilities. Physical therapists work with patients of all ages in a diverse variety of settings: acute-care hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, community health centers, schools, home health agencies, sports medicine clinics, private or group practices, industrial programs, and health maintenance programs. Physical therapists examine patients and develop a plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. In addition, therapists work with individuals to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.

## PHYSICAL THERAPY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

As of January 2002, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) ended all accreditation of baccalaureate professional programs, thus requiring

all new, licensed physical therapists to obtain a graduate degree. While some physical therapy programs offer a master's degree, a growing majority of programs offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. Illinois Wesleyan has always had an excellent reputation for the pre-professional sciences giving students top-notch preparation for graduate school and the foundation they will need to achieve successful careers in the health care industry.

## A COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM

As is the case at most universities, you cannot major in pre-physical therapy at Illinois Wesleyan. You should major in the field you are most interested in, while working to complete the courses required by the pre-physical therapy program. General prerequisite course requirements for admission to most physical therapy programs include: three or four courses in biology, one year of chemistry, one year of physics, one course in calculus, one course in statistics, one or two courses in psychology, and two courses in English. Although most of our pre-physical therapy students major in the sciences (either biology, chemistry, or psychology), any liberal arts major will suffice.

We stress active involvement in every aspect of your education: you will join frequent in-class discussions, work with top-quality scientific equipment in the labs, and may pursue independent research projects under the supervision of Ph.D. professors. Your curriculum will also include courses in liberal arts disciplines outside your major field, including ethics, literature, foreign language, and fine arts. Exposure to a breadth of disciplines outside the sciences will enable you to grasp the different ethical and moral perspectives that a health care professional needs. Students also have great access to hospitals and clinics to gain necessary physical therapy observation. In fact, Bloomington-Normal supports two major medical facilities as well as over a dozen out-patient physical therapy clinics.