Profile of Students in the University of Wisconsin - Madison
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
(Classes starting in 2010, 2011 and 2012)

Life Experience – Approximately one-half of our students begin the Program directly after their undergraduate study; approximately one-third have completed their bachelor’s degree two to over ten years prior to admission. The latter have a wide variety of work and life experiences, and many have returned to school to complete prerequisite courses before entering the Program. Students have a history of multiple community service, and extracurricular and leadership experiences. No particular type of experience is inherently valued over others.

Age and Gender – Students range in age from 21 and 47 years with the majority of students being 23 to 26 years old. Approximately one-third of our students are male.

Ethnic and Cultural Backgrounds – It is our goal to enroll a larger number of students with a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Currently we have students of Caucasian, Hmong, African American, Hispanic, Vietnamese, other Asian, and Native American race and ethnicity.

Undergraduate Schools – Approximately one-third of our students obtain their bachelor’s degrees from UW-Madison, one-third from other universities and colleges in Wisconsin and the remaining third from schools outside of Wisconsin. There is no preference for Wisconsin residents. The Admissions Committee considers the rigor of an applicant’s undergraduate. However prerequisite courses taken at 2 year campuses and technical schools are welcome.

Undergraduate Majors – There is no preferred major for admission to our Program. The most common, but not the majority, undergraduate major is kinesiology or exercise science. Biology or zoology is the next most common major. Our students also have majors in a large variety of areas including other sciences, education, psychology, communications, dance, engineering, marketing, anthropology, business, geography, and foreign languages.

Academic Performance – The average undergraduate GPA is 3.62 (range 2.82-4.0.) The mean Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are verbal 500 (range 360-760), quantitative 680 (range 530-800), and writing 4.5 (range 3.5-6.0). The average above scores scaled to the current GRE scores are 153 for both verbal and quantitative; the writing scoring has not changed. One hundred percent of our students pass the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Licensure Examination; over 95% pass on the first attempt.

PT Observation Hours – The average number of hours completed as a volunteer in each of two different physical therapy settings is 45. Two observations, verified by a PT, are required. It is common for applicants to submit additional observations.

Numbers of Applicants – An average of 180 completed applications have been received each of the past three years, with 208 applications completed for the class starting in 2012. Approximately 55 students are offered admission to achieve a class of 40 students, who begin the Program each June. The class starting in 2013 will be using the PTCAS application service and it is expected that the number of applicants will increase. However the number of strong applicants is not likely to change and the class profile is expected to remain similar to recent classes.