

2008

Some people say that learning is a life – long experience. At this point in my life, I have not even learned a fraction of what I will need to know in order to meet my career goals. My wish is to become a Physical Therapist, and I still have much learning to do. The following steps highlight the process of becoming a professional in the rehabilitation field, and despite my lack of experience, I plan on following this plan very closely.

My quest to become a registered Physical Therapist actually began during my junior year of high school. While selecting courses for my senior year, I opted to take both an advanced biology and math class that would give me an exceptional head start when entering college as a Physical Therapy major. Now that I am a Senior, I strive daily to excel in my classes.

Along with excelling in my classes, I also must focus on another aspect of my plan. I must choose a college to attend, and I feel very fortunate that there are a number of esteemed Physical Therapy schools in Pennsylvania. The University of Pittsburgh's Physical Therapy program is actually ranked as the third best in the nation, and I hope to be accepted into their entry-level Master's degree program. While in college, I will complete a course of study that is heavily concentrated in anatomy, physics, and biostatistics.

In addition to the regular classes I will be taking, a set of clinicals will be included in my course work. The number^① and length^② of clinicals varies throughout different programs. Customarily, Physical Therapy students will undergo three clinicals, spanning

from five weeks to twelve weeks. For the duration of the clinicals, I will aid registered Physical Therapists in their work, as well as acquire my own patients to rehabilitate. To pass this portion of my schooling, I must perform satisfactorily during evaluations by both my professors and the Physical Therapist with whom I am working.

Perhaps the most important step on my way to reaching my career goal will be taking the Physical Therapy National Board. I will take this test directly after my final clinical. Upon passing the evaluation, I will be a licensed Physical Therapist.

I am eager to continue down the road of becoming a Physical Therapist. I have worked diligently throughout high school, while selecting appropriate courses to allow myself a great head start in college. Through my careful research, I am well on my way to choosing the Physical Therapy program that is perfectly fit for me. While in college, I will have to perform at a high level during clinical evaluations. Lastly, I must excel in both my classes and clinicals in order to pass the national board. I know I still have much learning to do, and I am by no means an expert on how to most successfully reach my career goals. Nonetheless, I will stick to my plan of attack, because my dream to assist people on their road to recovery is my ultimate goal.