How long do Physical Therapists have to go to school? By Rhonda Yeska, DPT, CMTPT Orthopedic & Spine Therapy Waupaca and Clintonville

It all depends upon what school the physical therapist has gone to and how far ahead each student has planned. Some schools have an advanced program that will incorporate undergraduate school with graduate school their fourth year eliminating one year of schooling overall. Therefore, a physical therapist participating in this program would only go to school for six years. Generally a physical therapist will go to undergraduate school for four or five years to obtain some sort of human biology degree then will attend graduate school for an additional three years specifically for a doctorate of physical therapy degree.

For a physical therapist with a master's degree, they would have attended graduate school for two years. Within the last ten years or so, programs have been transitioning from masters to doctoral degrees furthering our education in order to allow physical therapists to become more autonomous in our profession.