

Doctor of Physical Therapy, D.P.T.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) is the entry-level professional degree for physical therapists. Based on the number of outstanding applicants, 40 students are annually enrolled in the D.P.T. program.

Requirements

The Doctor of Physical Therapy requires a minimum of 104 s.h. and is completed in two and a half years. The program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Satisfactory completion of the professional program qualifies candidates to take the National Physical Therapy Examination for licensure to practice. The minimum passing score on the exam is the same in all jurisdictions.

Technical Standards for Graduation

Doctor of Physical Therapy graduates must possess and demonstrate the physical and cognitive skills and character attributes required to provide physical therapy services in a broad variety of clinical situations and environments. All D.P.T. candidates must perform, with or without reasonable accommodation, the following skills safely, effectively, efficiently, and in compliance with the legal and ethical standards set by the American Physical Therapy Association Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice:

- communicate effectively through appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written communication with patients, families, and others;
- demonstrate ability to apply universal precautions;
- utilize appropriate tests and measures in order to perform a physical therapy examination; examples include, but are not limited to, examination and evaluation of cognitive/mental status, vital signs, skin and vascular integrity, wound status, endurance, segmental length, girth, volume, sensation, strength, tone, reflexes, movement patterns, coordination, balance, developmental stage, soft tissue, joint motion/play, cranial and peripheral nerve function, posture, gait, functional abilities, assistive devices fit/use, psychosocial needs, and the pulmonary system;
- demonstrate the ability to reach diagnostic and therapeutic judgments through analysis and synthesis of data gathered during patient/client examination in order to develop an appropriate plan of care;
- perform fully, or in a reasonably independent manner, physical therapy interventions appropriate to the patient's status and desired goals;
- apply teaching/learning theories and methods in health care and community environments;
- accept criticism and respond by appropriate behavior modification; and
- possess the perseverance, diligence, and consistency to complete the physical therapy curriculum and enter the practice of physical therapy.

Applicants with health conditions or disabilities who need accommodation to meet the technical standards for

graduation should contact the University's Student Disability Services office.

Curriculum

The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree requires the following course work.

Code	Title	Hours
First Year, Summer Session		
PTRS:5101	Introduction to Physical Therapy Practice	2
PTRS:5102	Principles of Physical Therapy I	2
PTRS:5205	Health Promotion and Wellness	3
First Year, Fall Semester		
PTRS:5100	Professional Issues and Ethics	1
PTRS:5103	Principles of Physical Therapy II	2
PTRS:5144	Interprofessional Education I: Team-Based Approach to Health Care	1
PTRS:5209	Surface Anatomy	1
PTRS:5210	Kinesiology and Pathomechanics	4
PTRS:5235	Case-Based Learning I	1
PTRS:5790	Integrated Clinical Education in Physical Therapy I	1
PTRS:8133	Introduction to Human Pathology for Graduate Students	4
ACB:5108	Human Anatomy	5
First Year, Spring Semester		
PTRS:5131	Therapeutic Physical Agents	2
PTRS:5201	Musculoskeletal Therapeutics I	3
PTRS:5206	Cardiopulmonary Therapeutics	3
PTRS:5215	Applied Clinical Medicine	2
PTRS:5236	Case-Based Learning II	1
PTRS:5791	Integrated Clinical Education in Physical Therapy II	1
PTRS:6253	Functional Neuroanatomy	4
Second Year, Summer Session		
PTRS:6120	Physical Therapy Management and Administration I	2
PTRS:6143	Selected Topics in Physical Therapy Practice	2
PTRS:6176	Pharmacology for Physical Therapists	3
PTRS:6793	Integrated Clinical Education in Physical Therapy III	3
Second Year, Fall Semester		
PTRS:6122	Psychosocial Aspects of Patient Care	1
PTRS:6134	Physical Therapy Management of Integumentary System	2

PTRS:6145	Interprofessional Education II: Teaching Neural and Musculoskeletal Evaluation Principles	1
PTRS:6170	Management of People with Prosthetic and Orthotic Needs	2
PTRS:6200	Pediatric Physical Therapy	2
PTRS:6202	Musculoskeletal Therapeutics II	3
PTRS:6224	Activity-Based Neural and Musculoskeletal Plasticity in Health Care	4
PTRS:6237	Service Learning I	1
PTRS:6250	Critical Inquiry I: Evidence-Based Practice	2
Second Year, Spring Semester		
PTRS:6121	Physical Therapy Management and Administration II	1
PTRS:6133	Pain Mechanisms and Treatment	2
PTRS:6172	Radiology/Imaging for Physical Therapists	2
PTRS:6173	Differential Diagnosis in Physical Therapy	2
PTRS:6203	Musculoskeletal Therapeutics III	4
PTRS:6204	Progressive Functional Exercise	2
PTRS:6225	Neuromuscular Therapeutics	3
PTRS:6238	Service Learning II	1
PTRS:6251	Critical Inquiry II: Rehabilitation Research	2
PTRS:6792	Integrated Clinical Education in Physical Therapy IV	1
Third Year, Summer Session		
PTRS:6794	Terminal Clinical Education in Physical Therapy I	4
Third Year, Fall Semester		
PTRS:6252	Critical Inquiry III: Clinical Application	1
PTRS:6795	Terminal Clinical Education in Physical Therapy II	4
PTRS:6796	Terminal Clinical Education in Physical Therapy III	4
Total Hours		104

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College. They must have completed a baccalaureate degree and all prerequisite course work from an accredited institution in the United States, or anticipate completing the degree before enrolling in the D.P.T. program. They must have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00 and must have completed the following prerequisite course work, preferably with a g.p.a. of at least 3.00. All science courses must include the appropriate laboratory instruction. The prerequisite courses must have been taken for a letter grade.

Credit awarded through advanced placement testing may be applied only to the mathematics requirement.

Biological sciences: a complete introductory series of courses in principles of general biology or zoology and advanced course work in biology or zoology (for which an introductory course is prerequisite) equivalent to 12 s.h.

Anatomy: human or comparative vertebrate anatomy, preferably with a lab component, equivalent to 3 s.h.

Physiology: a systemic human physiology course equivalent to 3 s.h.

A two-course sequence of anatomy and physiology equivalent to 6 s.h., preferably with a lab component, can fulfill the physiology and anatomy prerequisites.

Physics: a complete introductory series equivalent to 8 s.h.

Chemistry: a complete introductory series equivalent to 8 s.h.

Psychology: courses equivalent to 6 s.h.

Mathematics: a college-level mathematics course, at the level of trigonometry or higher, equivalent to 3 s.h.

Statistics: a statistical methods course equivalent to 3 s.h.

All applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. They must take the test early enough for their scores to be received prior to the application deadline.

Applications are submitted online through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). PTCAS allows applicants to use a single application and one set of materials to apply to multiple physical therapy programs. Once the application portfolio is complete with PTCAS, they will forward it to the University of Iowa.

The physical therapy admissions committee requires personal, on-campus interviews. Since the number of students admitted into each class is limited, not all who apply for admission are invited for an interview. Interviews are typically scheduled in October and November. Notification of acceptance is made by early January.

Applications are accepted July 1 for entry into the D.P.T. program the following summer. Applicants who apply early and by September 15 will be given priority status in the admissions process. It is to the applicant's benefit to apply as soon as possible after July 1 as the admissions committee will begin the application review process to select those for interviews starting in August. The final deadline to submit applications to PTCAS is October 1.

Background Checks

Enrollment in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program is contingent on a successful criminal background check. Drug screening may be required for some clinical rotations.

Expenses

Applicants admitted to the D.P.T. program must make an advance tuition payment which is forfeited if the applicant does not enroll. In addition to paying University of Iowa tuition and fees, students are assessed laboratory fees for the human anatomy and neuroanatomy courses and are responsible for purchasing supplies, such as lab coats, patient evaluation kits, and course packets. Students also are responsible for all costs associated with clinical experiences.

All students are required to comply with the pre-entry and periodic health screening program developed by Student

Health & Wellness in cooperation with University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. All costs incurred for the health screenings are the student's responsibility. Students also are required to have health insurance.

Career Advancement

The employment outlook for physical therapy graduates is strong. Opportunities exist for professional practice in inpatient, outpatient, and community-based organizations. These include general or specialized hospitals, programs for children with disabilities, private physical therapy clinics, extended care facilities, nursing homes, community and governmental agencies, rehabilitation centers, the armed forces, foreign service, home health agencies, school systems, fitness centers, and athletic facilities. Teaching and research positions also are available as well as options for successful self-employment.

Physical therapists report a very high level of job satisfaction, driven both by prevalent employment opportunities and social interaction.