

WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program

The professional curriculum uses Problem-Based Learning rather than the traditional lecture method of teaching. Students are assigned to small study groups of eight and are guided by a faculty tutor toward independent study. Supervised laboratory sessions and assignment to physical therapy clinics are used for the practice of clinical skills. Because of the unique curriculum design, transfer of professional course work is not recommended. The program offers the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (DPT). Graduates of the program are prepared to take the physical therapy licensure examination, and have consistently attained a higher pass rate than the national average.

Professional study is a full-time endeavor for eight academic terms that span two and one-half calendar years. Enrollment in additional course work is not possible and employment is not recommended. Clinical education assignments often require travel and housing outside the Wheeling area.

The DPT Curriculum

Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall
Term I	Term II	Term III	Term IV	Term V	Term VI	Term VII	Term VIII
Courses & Labs	Courses & Labs	Courses & Labs	Courses & Labs	Courses & Labs	Courses & Labs	Courses & Labs	Courses & Labs
6 weeks	16 weeks	17 weeks	5 weeks	16 weeks	9 weeks	10 weeks	8 Weeks
Basic Science I DPT 601-80 (online) 2 credits	Basic Science II DPT 611 5 credits 5 hours/week	Basic Science III DPT 621 5 credits 5 hours/week	Research Training Seminar I DPT 636-80 (online) 1 credit	Basic Science IV DPT 631 5 credits 5 hours/week	Basic Science V DPT 641 1.5 credits 2.5 hours/week	Basic Science VI DPT 651 1.5 credits 2.5 hours/week	Pediatric Elective DPT 669-80 (online) 3 credits 8 weeks or
Clinical Science I DPT 602-80 (online) 1 credit	Clinical Science II DPT 612 5 credits 5 hours/week	Clinical Science III DPT 622 5 credits 5 hours/week	Regional Service Learning III DPT 637 (Elective) 1 credit	Clinical Science IV DPT 632 5 credits 5 hours/week	Clinical Science V DPT 642 3 credits 5 hours/week	Clinical Science VI DPT 652 3 credits 5 hours/week	Orthopedic Elective DPT 670-80 (online) 3 credits 8 weeks or
Physical Therapy Science I DPT 603-80 (online) 2 credits	Physical Therapy Science II DPT 613 5 credits 5 hours/week	Physical Therapy Science III DPT 623 5 credits 5 hours/week		Physical Therapy Science IV DPT 633 5 credits 5 hours/week	Physical Therapy Science V DPT 643 3 credits 5 hours/week	Physical Therapy Science VI DPT 653 3 credits 5 hours/week	Orthopedic Elective DPT 671-80 (online) 3 credits 8 weeks or
Profession Issues I DPT 604-80 (online) 1 credit	Professional Issues II DPT 614 2 credits 2.5 hours/week	Professional Issues III DPT 624 2.5 credits 2.5 hours/week		Professional Issues IV DPT 634-80 2.5 credits 2.5 hours/week	Professional Issues V DPT 644 3 credits 5 hours/week	Professional Issues VI DPT 654 3 credits 5 hours/week	Neurology Elective DPT 672-80 (online) 3 credits 8 weeks
	Integrated Seminar I DPT 615 1 credit 1 hour/week	Integrated Seminar II DPT 625 1 credit 1 hour/week		Integrated Seminar III DPT 635 1 credit 1 hour/week	Integrated Seminar IV DPT 645 1 credit 1 hour/week	Integrated Seminar V DPT 655 1 credit 1 hour/week	
	Service Learning I DPT 617 1 credit 3 hours/week	Service Learning II DPT 627 1 credit 3 hours/week		Clinical Education Stream III DPT 639 1 credit 1 hour/week	Clinical Education Stream IV DPT 649 1 credit 1 hour/week	Research Training Seminar IV DPT 655 1 credit 1 hour/week	
	Clinical Education Stream I DPT 619 1 credit 1 hour/week	Clinical Education Stream II DPT 629 1 credit 1 hour/week		Research Training Seminar II DPT 646 1 credit 1 hour/week	Research Training Seminar III DPT 656 1 credit 1 hour/week	International Service Learning IV DPT 657-02/03 (Elective) 2 credits	
					International Service Learning IV DPT 657-01 (Elective) 2 credits		
			Clinical Experience		Clinical Experience	Clinical Experience	Clinical Experience
			8 weeks		8 weeks	10 weeks	10 weeks
			Clinical Education I DPT 638 6 credits 40 hours/week		Clinical Education II DPT 658 6 credits 40 hours/week	Clinical Education III DPT 668a 8 credits 10 weeks 40 hours/week	Clinical Education IV DPT 668b 8 credits 10 weeks 40 hours/week

The Knowledge You Need To Be A Successful Physical Therapist

Each term consists of the following academic courses:

1. **Basic Science (BS)** - During the Basic Science course, which meets for either 2.5 or 5 hours per week depending on the term, faculty guide the students to refine their learning in the fundamental sciences of Anatomy, Neuroanatomy, Kinesiology, Pathology, Histology, Embryology, and Pharmacology.
2. **Clinical Science (CS)** - BS, CS, and PTS courses are centered on the clinical case/problem, which is introduced in Clinical Science. This is a group tutorial session and meets for 2.5 hours two times per week. With the facilitation of the faculty tutor, the group determines what needs to be known to diagnose and treat a clinical case.
3. **Physical Therapy Science (PTS)** - (Terms II-VI) - This information is processed in the Physical Therapy Skills Lab with hands-on, practical experiences guided by the faculty. The course meets two times per week for 2.5 hours. The Physical Therapy Science aspect is the laboratory equivalent in traditional learning.
4. **Professional Issues (PI)** - In the Professional Issues course, students investigate their roles as professionals. Each term emphasizes a different aspect of professional behavior, including research.
5. **Integrated Seminar (IS)** - During these courses specific topics, which are related to the case, are addressed in a lecture-based format. These include topics of medical diagnostic techniques, medical and Pharmacological treatments, and physical therapy theories. Topics assist the student in understanding complex material.
6. **Research Training Seminars (RTS)** - Students work on the research process during Professional Issues courses in Term II and III. During Terms IV, V, and VI students begin to collect data and are responsible for presentations about their progress. Students are expected to submit their projects for a conference by the end of their two years in Term VII. Although students are encouraged to work on a faculty project, students may choose to complete an individual project.
7. **Clinical Education Stream (CES)** - This interactive course will provide an orientation to Clinical Education experiences and assist to enhance the performance of the student physical therapist in the clinical realm. The didactic information will be applied utilizing clinical scenarios, role playing, and interprofessional education to bridge the gap between the classroom and the clinic. It will emphasize the roles and the responsibilities of a student physical therapist.
8. **Clinical Education (CE)** - The purpose of the clinical education component of the curriculum is to provide the student with structured interactions with persons of varying degrees of health status and disability. The Clinical Education experiences bridge the knowledge and psychomotor skills learned in the academic setting to the real life clinical setting. The clinical education program, comprised of four phases of supervised clinical experiences, is progressive in the type and range of clinical responsibilities expected of each student, and corresponds to the complexity of the didactic portion of the curriculum. Students are supervised by licensed physical therapists, Clinical Instructors (CI's) in various clinical settings with progressively decreasing supervision in order to complete the students' emergence as competent entry-level practitioners.
9. **Service Learning (SL)** - The service learning courses provide physical therapy students the opportunity to evaluate and serve the needs of the local community utilizing basic exam and treatment skills under faculty supervision. The students will evaluate their roles as health care professionals and as citizens to promote positive change within their communities during SL I and II. In addition to local service, each student will be required to select either a regional or international experience (SL III or IV). Proposed dates for these experiences are on the program schedule.

As the terms progress, more complex and advanced material is added. Different clinical cases assist the students in learning the depth and breadth of information needed to be a competent entry-level physical therapy professional.

The Skills To Be A Master Problem-Solver

The Problem-Based Learning approach encourages students to view all material as part of the solution to a patient's problem. Adult learning theories have indicated that learning in the context of a problem increases retrieval of information in a similar situation. During the tutorials, students discuss different ways to solve the problem with the information learned. Therefore, in the clinical setting the student can recall the different options. Service Learning experiences during Terms II and III allow students to develop communication and patient interaction skills during the didactic portion.

Two of the terms (Term IV and Term VI) are shortened so that the students can be placed in a clinical environment and can apply their acquired knowledge and practice their new skills. There are four clinical education experiences, a total of 36 weeks of clinical experience: **DPT 638 and 658 (8 weeks each), 668a and 668b (10 weeks each)**. During this time, the student is supervised by a licensed physical therapist and works directly with clients. Supervision is gradually reduced so that by the end of the last clinical experience, the student can function independently as an entry-level clinician.