Doctor of Physical Therapy

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Program Director

The Profession

Physical therapists are health care professionals who provide services, such as direct patient care, supervision, management, research, teaching and consultation. Physical therapists may engage in independent practice or may be employed by hospitals, rehabilitation centers, extended care facilities, outpatient clinics, schools, and home health agencies. Employment opportunities are readily available in most regions of the country.

Professional Education Program

The professional curriculum uses problem-based learning rather than the traditional lecture method of presentation. Students are assigned to small study groups of five to eight students and 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 discouraged. The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree is awarded upon successful completion of the program. The graduates are also prepared to take the physical therapy licensure examination. Our graduates excel on this examination with a three-year pass rate above the national average.

Professional study is a full-time endeavor for six consecutive academic terms that span two calendar years. Class, laboratory and clinical education assignment times include both daytime and evening hours. Enrollment in additional course work is not possible and employment is not recommended. Clinical education assignments often require travel and housing outside the W wheeling area.

Accreditation

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education through 2011. Initial accreditation was granted in the fall of 1996.

Admission Requirements

1. A baccalaureate degree in any field.
2. Candidates must earn at least a 3.0 GPA in requisite courses listed below (including core). In addition, candidates must earn at least a 3.0 GPA, with no grades below "C" in the required courses below. At the time of application, applicants must report final grades from at least 25 credits of the required math and science courses below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Wheeling Jesuit University Course Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>BIO 109, 121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>CHE 110, 120, 121, 122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>BIO 127, 128, 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>PHY 110, 120, 121, 122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PSY 115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>PSY 110, 212 and one elective (in addition to PSY 115 above)</td>
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</tbody>
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See the Undergraduate Academic Catalog for further information if you are seeking an under-graduate degree from W wheeling Jesuit University. Students who have earned baccalaureate degrees from other campuses should have a strong liberal arts background and a minimum of 18 additional semester credits in at least three of the following areas: theology, philosophy, fine arts, foreign language (level three or higher), history and English.

3. Interview Process: The interview is used to evaluate the verbal/nonverbal communication, the understanding of the profession of physical therapy and group interaction skills of the student. These are important abilities in the problem-based learning professional program. A writing sample is done during the interview process, which is used to evaluate writing ability. References are another method used to determine a student's preparation for the graduate Physical Therapy Program. Reference forms can be obtained from the Department.

4. Direct observation of physical therapists working in a variety of settings is recommended.

5. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores will be considered in the admission process.

6. Students whose native language is not English are required to submit a TOEFL score of at least 600.
Admission Process

Students who are completing their degrees at WJU must have a 3.0 GPA and have completed all required courses with a "C" or better in order to receive an interview for the professional program. The prerequisites are described in the “Programs and Courses of Instruction” section of the undergraduate catalog. Upon successful completion of the interview, the student will be invited to enter into the professional program.

Although WJU students are given priority, seats are available for transfer students who meet the above requirements.

Competition will be based on requisite and overall grade point averages, GRE scores, interview/structured observation scores and references.

Classes will be accepted in September of each year. A rolling admission process will be used to accept qualified students. Applications will be reviewed on their individual merit and accepted until the class is filled. Personal interviews will be scheduled for qualified applicants beginning four months prior to the beginning of the professional session. Early application submission is recommended to ensure acceptance. However, application review will begin in January of each year. Applicants will be notified in writing of full or conditional acceptance into the program, placement on an alternate list or rejection within a month of their interview dates.

Curriculum Objectives

The graduate will be able to:
1. Practice as a physical therapist in a variety of settings with populations diverse in age, gender, marital status, culture, ethnicity language, psychological, educational and economic status.
2. Practice collaboratively with other members of the health care team to maximize the potential of the persons and communities which they serve.
3. Communicate nonverbally, orally and in writing with others in a language and style that is adapted to the audience.
4. Teach health care consumers, providers and students the essentials of health care including prevention.
5. Participate in the advancement of the profession through service, research and other scholarly activity in collaboration with peers and colleagues.
6. Apply the principles of administration and consultation in a practice environment.
7. Participate in the creation of systematic change in health care and other areas that benefit the public welfare by working cooperatively with professional, community and governmental agencies, colleagues and the public.
8. Participate in a planned program for personal and professional growth.
Description of Curriculum

Each term consists of five academic courses. All courses are centered around the clinical case/problem which is introduced in Movement Science (DPT 501, 602, 603, 604, 605). This is a tutorial group session and meets for two-and-a-half hours, two times per week. With the facilitation of the faculty tutor, the group determines what needs to be known in order to diagnose and treat this clinical case. They discuss what they currently know that applies to this case and what new material must be discovered. In the second session, they discuss what they have learned in their independent study time. During the Basic Science course (DPT 511, 612, 613, 614, 615), which meets for two-and-a-half to five hours per week, the faculty guide the students to refine their learning in the fundamental sciences of anatomy, neuroanatomy, kinesiology, pathology, histology, embryology and pharmacology. This information is then processed in Physical Therapy Science (DPT 521, 622, 623, 624, 625) with hands-on, practical experiences again guided by the faculty and meeting two times per week for two-and-a-half hours. The physical therapy science aspect is the laboratory equivalent in traditional learning. Additional material involved in the case in the Integrated Seminar is discussed (DPT 551, 652, 653, 654, 655). In the Professional Issues course (DPT 531, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636), students investigate their roles as professionals. Each term stresses a different aspect of professional behavior.

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

Terms three and five are nine-week didactic semesters with the remaining six weeks spent in full-time clinical placement. Students are placed in a clinical environment where they can apply their acquired knowledge and practice their new skills. There are four full-time clinical education experiences (DPT 643, 645, 646a and 646b) for a total of 28 weeks of clinical education. 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. During the first two terms, students participate in service-learning projects in the local community with the faculty.

Research projects are completed by each student. The process begins in terms one and two during Professional Issues. In terms three through five, students progress from proposal approval to data collection and analysis (DPT 663, 664, 665). The final project is completed and presented in Professional Issues VI at the end of the program.

Course Descriptions

PREREQUISITES: Admission to the physical therapy doctoral program and satisfactory completion of prior terms. Satisfactory completion of classroom phase and permission of the faculty are prerequisites for all clinical education assignments.

COREQUISITES: Simultaneous enrollment in all courses prescribed for that term.

TERM O (Summer Online Course)

DPT 500 Introduction to Movement Science (1 cr)
DPT 510 Basic Science: Medical Terminology (1 cr)
DPT 520 Physical Therapy Science: Surface Anatomy (1 cr)
DPT 530 Intro. to the Profession of Physical Therapy (1 cr)

TERM I (Fall)

DPT 501 Movement Science I (4 crs)
(5 hours per week for 15 weeks)
Problem-based tutorial includes foundations of normal movement, categories of interference with normal movement and application of principles of movement science in evaluation and treatment of specific conditions resulting in movement dysfunction.

DPT 511 Basic Sciences I (3 crs)
(2.5 hours per week for 15 weeks)
Guided independent study of structures and functions of the body in healthy and impaired states, the impact of health care evaluations and interventions on structures and functions. Includes study of bones, joints, muscles, peripheral nerves and energy management. Topics are integrated closely with client cases in Movement Science I.

DPT 521 Physical Therapy Science I (3 crs)
(5 hours per week for 15 weeks)
Laboratory experiences in analysis of human posture and movement; therapeutic interventions for selected impairments in movement. Evaluation and intervention strategies are integrated with client cases presented in Movement Science I.

DPT 531 Professional Issues I (2 crs)
(2.5 hours per week for 15 weeks)
Orientation to the research process with discussion, small group projects, written and oral presentations on the projects. Learning activities are related closely with client cases presented in Movement Science I.

DPT 541 Service Learning I (1 cr)
(3 hours per week for 14 weeks)
Students will accompany faculty to community organizations, which have need for services by our department. These arrangements are mutually beneficial to the community partner and to the educational goals of our academic program. Students will gain basic communication, screening, treatment and documentation skills. Pass/Fail.
DPT 551 Integrated Seminar I (1 cr)  
(1 hour per week for 15 weeks)  
Material is presented to integrate and clarify information for each case during the term. The material is presented by faculty or guest speakers to assist the students in comprehension of specific concepts. Pass/Fail.

TERM II (Spring)

DPT 602 Movement Science II (4 crs)  
(5 hours per week for 15 weeks)  
Problem-based tutorial includes study of client cases illustrating a variety of causes and manifestations of movement dysfunction.

DPT 612 Basic Sciences II (3 crs)  
(5 hours per week for 15 weeks)  
Guided independent study of structures and functions of the body in healthy and impaired states, the impact of health care evaluations and interventions on structures and functions. Includes study of basic neuroscience. Topics are integrated closely with client cases in Movement Science II.

DPT 622 Physical Therapy Science II (3 crs)  
(5 hours per week for 15 weeks)  
Laboratory experiences in evaluation and intervention strategies for selected impairments in movement. Topics are related closely to client cases presented in Movement Science II.

DPT 632 Professional Issues II (2 crs)  
(2.5 hours per week for 15 weeks)  
Orientation to the education role of the physical therapist with discussion, small group projects, written and oral presentations on the projects. Learning activities are related closely with client cases presented in Movement Science II.

DPT 642 Service Learning II (1 cr)  
(3 hours per week for 15 weeks)  
Students will accompany faculty to community organizations, which have need for services by our department. These arrangements are mutually beneficial to the community partner and to the educational goals of our academic program. Students will gain basic communication screening, treatment and documentation skills. Pass/Fail.

DPT 652 Integrated Seminar II (1 cr)  
Material is presented to integrate and clarify information for each case during the term. The material is presented by faculty or by guest speakers to assist the students in comprehension of specific concepts. Pass/Fail.

TERM III (Summer)

DPT 603 Movement Science III (3 crs)  
(5 hours per week for 9 weeks)  
Problem-based tutorial includes study of client cases illustrating an increasingly complex variety of causes and manifestations of movement dysfunction. Cases incorporate an array of ethical, social, psychological, communication and economic issues.

DPT 613 Basic Sciences III (3 crs)  
(5 hours per week for 9 weeks)  
Guided independent study of structures and functions of the body in healthy and impaired states, the impact of health care evaluations and interventions on structures and functions. Includes study of basic physiology and neuroscience. Topics are integrated closely with client cases in Movement Science III.

DPT 623 Physical Therapy Science III (3 crs)  
(5 hours per week for 9 weeks)  
Laboratory experiences in evaluation and intervention strategies for selected impairments in movement. Topics are related closely to client cases presented in Movement Science III.

DPT 633 Professional Issues III (2 crs)  
(2.5 hours per week for 9 weeks)  
Orientation to the health care system and the role of the physical therapist in health care delivery. Includes discussion, small group projects, and poster presentations on the projects. Learning activities are related closely with client cases presented in Movement Science III.

DPT 643 Clinical Education I (3 crs)  
(40 hours per week for 6 weeks)  
Supervised clinical practice of physical therapy skills learned in first three terms. Pass/Fail.

DPT 653 Integrated Seminar III (1 cr)  
(1 hour per week for 8 weeks)  
Material is presented to integrate and clarify information for each case during the term. The material is presented by faculty or by guest speakers to assist the students in comprehension of specific concepts. Pass/Fail.

DPT 663 Research Training Seminar III (1 cr)  
(1 hour per week for 9 weeks)  
Students will participate in presentations and discussions of the research process. The objective for this course will be the completion of specific segments in the research project.

TERM IV (Fall)

DPT 604 Movement Science IV (4 crs)  
(5 hours per week for 15 weeks)  
Problem-based tutorial includes study of client cases illustrating an increasingly complex variety of causes and manifestations of movement dysfunction. Cases incorporate an array of ethical, social, psychological, communication and economic issues.

DPT 614 Basic Sciences IV (2 crs)  
(2.5 hours per week for 15 weeks)  
Independent study of structures and functions of the body in healthy and impaired states, the impact of health care evaluations and interventions on structures and functions. Includes study of basic physiology and pathology of the nervous system. Topics are integrated closely with client cases in Movement Science IV.

DPT 624 Physical Therapy Science IV (4 crs)  
(5 hours per week for 15 weeks)  
Laboratory experiences in evaluation and intervention strategies for selected impairments in movement. Topics are related closely to client cases presented in Movement Science IV.