Master of Science in 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 Master of Science in Physical Therapy degree is awarded upon successful completion of the program. The graduates are also prepared to take the physical therapy licensure examination. In the year July 2000 to June 2001, our graduates excelled on this examination with a 100 percent passing rate. The national average is 81 percent.

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 Wheeling area.

Accreditation

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Initial accreditation was granted in Fall 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. 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>Course Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>BIO 115, 120, 121, 122,</td>
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<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>
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<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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See the Undergraduate Academic Catalog for further information if you are seeking an under-graduate degree from 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.

Transfer course acceptability is determined by the Registrar. Grades in transferred requisite courses are considered in determining eligibility and in ranking applicants for admission.

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 January and September of each year unless notified differently. 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 June for the January acceptance and in February for the September acceptance. 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.

Description of Curriculum

Each term consists of four academic courses. All courses are centered around the clinical case/problem which is introduced in Movement Science (MPT 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 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 (MPT 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 (MPT 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. In the Professional Issues course (MPT 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.

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.
**Course Descriptions**

**PREREQUISITES:** Admission to the physical therapy graduate program and satisfactory completion of all prior terms. Satisfactory completion of prior 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 I (spring and fall)**

**MPT 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.

**MPT 511 Basic Sciences I (2 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.

**MPT 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. Includes assignment to a clinical advisor who plans with the student for practical experience related to laboratory study.

**MPT 531 Professional Issues I (3 crs)**
(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.

**TERM II (summer and spring)**

**MPT 602 Movement Science II (3 crs)**
(5 hours per week for 11 weeks)
Problem-based tutorial includes study of client cases illustrating a variety of causes and manifestations of movement dysfunction.

**MPT 612 Basic Sciences II (2 crs)**
(2.5 hours per week for 11 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.

**MPT 622 Physical Therapy Science II (3 crs)**
(5 hours per week for 11 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.

**MPT 632 Professional Issues II (3 crs)**
(5 hours per week for 11 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.

**MPT 642 Clinical Education I (2 crs)**
(40 hours per week for 4 weeks)
Supervised clinical practice of physical therapy skills learned in first two terms.

**TERM III (fall and summer)**

**MPT 603 Movement Science III (3 crs)**
(5 hours per week for 11 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.

**MPT 613 Basic Sciences III (2 crs)**
(2.5 hours per week for 11 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.

**MPT 623 Physical Therapy Science III (3 crs)**
(5 hours per week for 11 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.

**MPT 633 Professional Issues III (3 crs)**
(5 hours per week for 11 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.

**MPT 643 Clinical Education II (2 crs)**
(40 hours per week for 4 weeks)
Supervised clinical practice of physical therapy skills learned in first three terms.
TERM IV (spring and fall)

**MPT 604 Movement Science IV (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.

**MPT 614 Basic Sciences IV (2 crs)**
(independent study)
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.

**MPT 624 Physical Therapy Science IV (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 IV.

**MPT 634 Professional Issues IV (3 crs)**
(5 hours per week for 9 weeks)
Emphasis on the profession of physical therapy. Includes discussion, small group projects, formal debates, an exercise in parliamentary procedure and a mock trial. Learning activities are related closely with client cases presented in Movement Science IV.

**MPT 644 Clinical Education III (3 crs)**
(40 hours per week for 6 weeks)
Supervised clinical practice of physical therapy skills learned in first four terms.

TERM V (summer and spring)

**MPT 605 Movement Science V (4 crs)**
(5 hours per week for 15 weeks)
Problem-based tutorial includes study of client cases illustrating multiple simultaneous and sequential causes and manifestations of movement dysfunction. Cases incorporate an array of ethical, social, psychological, communication and economic issues.

**MPT 615 Basic Sciences V (2 crs)**
(independent study)
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 complex pathologic conditions. Topics are integrated closely with client cases in Movement Science V.

**MPT 625 Physical Therapy Science V (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 V.

**MPT 635 Professional Issues V (4 crs)**
(5 hours per week for 15 weeks)
Orientation to health care organizations including the personnel function, management of physical facilities, quality assurance and risk management, budgeting, marketing and planning. Discussion, small-group projects and presentations of projects are used to promote learning.

TERM VI (fall and summer)

**MPT 636 Professional Issues (2 crs)**
(guided independent study)
Independent individual projects completed during the term are presented in written and oral form during the final two weeks of the term.

**MPT 646 Clinical Education IV (10 crs)**
(40 hours per week for 12 weeks)
Supervised clinical practice of physical therapy skills learned during the preceding terms.