

# PHYSICAL THERAPY, DPT

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) is the classroom based and clinical education that prepares graduates for entry into the practice of physical therapy. The goal of this entry-level professional education program is to graduate students who are knowledgeable, service-oriented, and reflective practitioners who are able to render independent judgements in people with movement system dysfunction that limits activity and participation. Find out why you should choose UWM to start your career in physical therapy.

The program begins in early June and includes classroom, laboratory, research and clinical learning experiences. Admission to the DPT program is competitive. The faculty values a well-rounded applicant who has demonstrated both academic and personal/professional potential.

For more information, contact Lori Woodburn, DPT Program Assistant, at [pt-program@uwm.edu](mailto:pt-program@uwm.edu) or 414-251-5797.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; e-mail: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: [www.captionline.org](http://www.captionline.org).

## Admission Requirements

### Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

### Admission

Admission to the program is highly competitive. A snapshot of the typical successful applicant is available on the program website's Frequently Asked Questions (<https://uwm.edu/rehabilitation-sciences-technology/academics/dr-physical-therapy/faqs/>) section. The DPT program enrolls students through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) (<http://www.ptcas.org/>). Policies and procedures related to consideration of the candidate are published on the PTCAS website and updated annually. Students apply to the UWM Graduate School after being recommended for Admission by the DPT program. Undergraduate degree and prerequisite coursework must be completed by the time the student enrolls in the DPT Program.

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/>) plus these program requirements to be considered for admission to the program:

1. Completion of an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution with an overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) of a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).
2. Completion of 9 prerequisite courses with a minimum prerequisite grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).

Code	Title	Credits
	General Biology I	4
	Human Anatomy or Anatomy & Physiology I <sup>1</sup>	4
	Human Physiology or Anatomy & Physiology II <sup>1</sup>	4
	Chemistry I <sup>1</sup>	4
	Chemistry II <sup>1</sup>	4

Physics I <sup>1</sup>	4
Physics II <sup>1</sup>	4
Psychology	3
Statistics	3

<sup>1</sup>Courses requiring a lab component.

3. Submission of scores on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre>) taken within the last five years.
4. Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be an academic reference.
5. Responses to narrative essay questions.

### Selection

Admission to the program is competitive. The program enrolls 36 students annually. Students are selected based on GPA, GRE (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre>) scores, two letters of recommendation (one academic reference, one personal reference), and narratives. The program will give preference during the selection process to candidates with prerequisite requirements completed at the time of application to the program.

## Credits and Courses

The program is a sequenced, competency-based curriculum of 106 credits including 24 weeks of internship in the final year of the program. Students will enroll as full-time students for each term of study (Summer, Fall, Spring) including Winterim in both of the first two years in the program. There is no part-time option for students, nor can courses be taken out of sequence in the DPT program.

Code	Title	Credits
PRPP 553G	Psychological Considerations for Optimizing Health & Performance	3
PT 700	Introduction to Physical Therapy Practice and Examination Techniques	3
PT 701	Clinical Foundations of the Physical Therapy Examination	5
PT 702	Scientific Principles of Interventions	5
PT 704	Physical Agents	2
PT 707	Innovation and Inquiry	2
PT 709	Research Practicum <sup>1</sup>	2
PT 711	Health Promotion/Wellness for Physical Therapy Practice	2
PT 716	Clinical Radiology	1
PT 720	Human Gross Anatomy	6
PT 721	Medical Physiology	3
PT 722	Medical Physiology II	3
PT 723	Physiological Regulation in Exertion & Disease	3
PT 731	Professional Development 1	1
PT 732	Professional Development 2	2
PT 733	Professional Development 3	2
PT 734	Professional Development 4	1
PT 735	Advanced Clinical Reasoning	4

PT 740	Kinesiology & Biomechanics of Normal & Abnormal Movement	4
PT 750	Functional Neuroanatomy	3
PT 751	Motor Behavior	3
PT 820	Cardiopulmonary Evaluation & Treatment	3
PT 821	Integument System	2
PT 844	Musculoskeletal: Upper Quarter	4
PT 845	Musculoskeletal System: Lower Quarter	4
PT 850	Neuromuscular: Adult	4
PT 852	Neuromuscular: Pediatric	4
PT 881	Fieldwork II: Basic Skills Experience	2
PT 980	PT Clinical Internship I	8
PT 981	PT Clinical Internship II	8
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>101</b>

<sup>1</sup> PT 709 should be taken twice, for a total of 4 credits.

## Additional Requirements

### Major Professor as Advisor

The Graduate School requires that each student have a major professor to advise, supervise and approve the program of study. Students are assigned faculty advisors in the DPT program. Faculty advisors are core members of the DPT program faculty who are also licensed.

## Physical Therapy DPT Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at UWM will be able to:

- Practice in a manner consistent with the established legal and professional standards and ethical guidelines of practice.
- Communicate orally and in writing in ways consistent with needs of the audience and situation.
- Adapt delivery of physical therapy services with consideration for patients' differences in values, preferences and needs.
- Participate in self-assessment and lifelong commitment to learning.
- Make clinical decisions using theory, judgment, and patient's values.
- Evaluate data from varied sources to make sound clinical judgments.
- Advance quality of physical therapy services by participating in evidence-based practice.
- Utilize evidence in the selection of tests and measures, making diagnoses and prognoses, and designing treatment plans.
- Establish and administer a plan of care that is safe, effective, patient-centered and evidence-based.
- Demonstrate leadership by participating in clinical education.
- Participate in organizational leadership by assuming leadership roles within the organization.

## Accelerated Program Option

This program is offered as part of an accelerated graduate program. For more information, see Accelerated Graduate Degrees (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/accelerated-graduate-degrees/>).