
PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT)

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FACULTY (AS OF JULY 2009)

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For the most up-to-date faculty listings and specializations, see the program's Web site.

THE PROGRAM

The Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy, offering the doctor of physical therapy degree (DPT), is designed to prepare students to become clinician-scientists who can perform all aspects of physical therapy practice and conduct clinical research. This program conforms to curriculum guidelines set by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Students will be prepared to become clinician-scientists who can competently apply research to clinical practice, perform all aspects of physical therapy practice, and perform clinical research. It will prepare graduates to examine, evaluate, diagnose, and intervene in the management of individuals with impairments in the cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, and integumentary systems which result in functional limitations, and disability. The program meets changing national standards as well as community needs for physical therapists working in a multitude of settings, especially in the diverse multicultural, multiethnic population residing in the New York metropolitan area. A variety of clinical affiliations are available for students to acquire their clinical experiences and also to allow for the opportunity to work with diverse populations.

The goal of the DPT program is to select and prepare promising candidates with the skills and knowledge necessary to adapt to the changing needs of the health care delivery system and society. These skills include performing differential diagnosis, determining appropriateness of physical therapy interventions and/or referral to other health care providers, and formulating interventions that result in outcomes that enhance the patient's quality of life.

Graduates will be competent to perform outcomes assessment of their clinical effectiveness. Cost containment must be balanced with clinical interventions which will be identified through systematic inquiry to attain optimal quality of life for the physically challenged.

A graduate of this program will have the confidence and competencies that are necessary to demonstrate leadership in meeting society's need for the care of an aging, active population. Graduates of this program will contribute to the body of knowledge of health care through systematic clinical inquiry of people entrusted to their care. The Physical Therapy program's faculty members seek out evidence based interventions with their students relating to the prevention and elimination of abnormal movement and evolve new models of clinical practice to serve an urban population.

The DPT program's curriculum prepares candidates:

To provide clinical assessment and management of a variety of patient populations.

To provide strategies for health maintenance and disease prevention.

To conduct clinical research.

To respond to the health needs of the greater New York area.

To be capable of assimilating the changing health care needs of society into their delivery of services.

To be knowledgeable consumers of scientific information and research.

To be professionally committed to the further development of the Physical Therapy profession.

To have an appreciation for lifelong learning throughout their careers.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

In addition to meeting the general University requirements for admission stated earlier in this bulletin, the student must meet the following requirements.

Students must have completed a baccalaureate degree, with an overall cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, from a regionally accredited four-year institution by the end of the semester prior to entry.

Two semesters of anatomy and physiology for science majors, with laboratories.

Two semesters of physics for science majors, with laboratories.

Two semesters of chemistry for science majors, with laboratories.

Two semesters of psychology (including one semester of developmental psychology or child psychology).

One semester of mathematics (precalculus or college algebra and trigonometry).

One semester of statistics (we recommend a course that includes computer applications).

One semester of English composition (e.g., expository writing).

CPR Certification by the American Health Association or Red Cross.

Documented clinical experience of at least 100 hours in the United States under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist, with a minimum of 50 hours in one or more different practice settings (e.g., private practice, nursing home, pediatric or school setting, outpatient setting). Applicants should have a minimum of 50 hours in an acute care hospital or inpatient rehabilitation setting. The potential applicant may inquire at any hospital or other

facility about volunteering in its physical therapy department as a means of gaining access to clinical experience. A Clinical Experience Form must be provided by the physical therapist by the deadline of November 1; see the DPT program Web site for more information regarding the Clinical Experience Form.

All prerequisite requirements must be completed prior to the starting date of the program in which the applicant is seeking admission.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Course of Study

The DPT program is composed of 105 credits and can be completed over a three-year period. In addition to course and program requirements, students will be required to: pass a first and second examination, complete all clinical internships, and complete a research project. Students must also complete the requirements for Professional Development I & II.

Academic and Clinical Education Grading Policy Summary

Students are required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or above to remain in good academic standing. Students earning a grade below "C" in any required course in the Physical Therapy Program will not be permitted to continue the sequence of physical therapy courses. A meeting with the faculty will be scheduled to discuss whether the student should retake the course and continue in the program the following year. This will not prevent the student from applying for admission to enter the Graduate Center in another major. Students are permitted to repeat a failed course one time only.

If a student repeats a failed course, it is required that a grade of "C" is earned in the repeated course and that the student's GPA must remain above 3.0. Students are permitted to repeat a failed course one time only. Students may repeat a maximum of one course while enrolled in the DPT Program; this policy includes clinical affiliations. A student is limited to failing one clinical affiliation throughout the entire curriculum sequence. If a clinical affiliation is failed, the student is placed in one make-up clinical affiliation. This make-up clinical affiliation, and any and all remaining clinical affiliations, must be passed for successful continuation and graduation from the program.

The grading policy in courses that include a practical (laboratory) examination or check-out as part of their grades is determined by the faculty member instructing the course. In all courses, the syllabi state that students must pass all practical examinations.

All students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above to remain in good academic standing and to be approved for graduation. If a student's cumulative GPA falls below 3.0, the student is placed on academic probation.

The First Examination will be a series of written and practical comprehensive exams in foundational science course and clinical courses as well as successful completion of the students' first clinical affiliation. The first component of the exam is the written examination administered after completion of at least 35 credits and the first year of the curriculum. At Hunter College, this examination would be scheduled after final exams in the spring semester. At the College of Staten Island, it would be scheduled in January or the first week of February.

The second component of the first examination is the result of the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) used to evaluate students after completion of their first clinical affiliation. This occurs in the Fall semester of the second year for Hunter College students and in the summer of the second year for CSI students. This is considered a pass-fail evaluation. After successful completion of both components, students will have completed more than 45 credits and be eligible for Level Two tuition.

The Second Examination will consist of a written examination followed by a the results of the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) used to evaluate students during their clinical affiliation. The first component of the second examination is a written exam administered after completion of at least 73 credits of the curriculum. For Hunter College, this would be scheduled after final exams in the spring semester. For CSI, this would be scheduled after the fall semester, in January or the first week of February. The second component of the second examination constitutes results from the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) used to evaluate student performance upon completion of their second clinical affiliation. At Hunter College, this is in the summer at the beginning of the third year and at CSI this is in April at the beginning of the third year. This is considered a pass-fail evaluation.

The research requirement includes a series of research courses leading toward the completion of a research project which can be completed as a small group, or by an individual working alone. Successful completion of this research requirement includes a manuscript deemed suitable for submission for publication to a refereed journal. Upon graduation, each degree candidate will be eligible to complete the National Physical Therapy Examination and will qualify for state licensure.

Satisfactory Academic Progress for Students in the DPT Program

A DPT student is deemed not to be making satisfactory progress if he or she:

1. has completed 52 credits (College of Staten Island) or 55 credits (Hunter College) and has not passed the First Examination;
2. has a grade point average below 3.00;
3. has not completed his or her degree in nine terms after matriculation;
4. has accumulated more than two open grades ("INC," "INP," "NGR," "ABS," and "ABP").

Courses

The curriculum consists of the following courses, in a prescribed sequence, and includes course work and clinical practice. Credits are listed below.

PHT 70100 Clinical Anatomy

4 credits

PHT 70200 Medical Terminology

1 credit

PHT 70300 Foundations of Patient Care

2 credits

PHT 70400 Introduction to PT Practice and Ethics	<i>2 credits</i>
PHT 70500 Upper Extremity Kinesiology and Assessment	<i>2 credits</i>
PHT 70600 Psychosocial Aspects of Clinical Practice	<i>2 credits</i>
PHT 71000 Research Design	<i>2 credits</i>
PHT 72000 Human Physiology and Exercise Physiology	<i>4 credits</i>
PHT 73000 Structure and Function of the Nervous System	<i>3 credits</i>
PHT 74000 PT and Prevention Intervention	<i>4 credits</i>
PHT 75000 Physical Modalities—Clinical Decision Making and Application	<i>3 credits</i>
PHT 76000 Lower Extremity Kinesiology and Assessment	<i>2 credits</i>
PHT 77000 Directed Research I	<i>1 credit</i>
PHT 78000 Clinical Medicine for PT	<i>3 credits</i>
PHT 79500 Integumentary System: Assessment and Intervention	<i>1 credit</i>
PHT 80100 Pulmonary Evaluation and Interventions	<i>2 credits</i>
PHT 80200 Clinical Education: Education Theories	<i>2 credits</i>
PHT 80300 Differential Diagnosis and Intervention in Clinical Orthopedics I	<i>2 credits</i>
PHT 80400 Introduction to Neurological PT	<i>2 credits</i>
PHT 80500 Musculoskeletal Examination and Interventions I	<i>3 credits</i>
PHT 80600 Clinical Affiliation I	<i>3 credits</i>
PHT 80700 Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation	<i>1 credit</i>
PHT 80800 Differential Diagnosis in Neurological Evaluation	<i>1 credit</i>
PHT 80900 Directed Research II	<i>1 credit</i>
PHT 81000 Neurological Interventions I	<i>3 credits</i>

PHT 81100 Cardiac Rehabilitation	2 credits
PHT 82000 Clinical Orthopedics II/Radiology and Imaging	3 credits
PHT 83000 Orthotics and Prosthetics	2 credits
PHT 84000 Differential Diagnosis and Intervention in Clinical Neurology	3 credits
PHT 85000 Musculoskeletal Examination and Intervention II	3 credits
PHT 86000 Directed Research III	1 credit
PHT 87000 Health Promotion Through the Lifespan	2 credits
PHT 87200 Topics in Physical Therapy	variable credits
PHT 88000 Neurological Interventions II	2 credits
PHT 88100 Seminar in Departmental Organization and Management	3 credits
PHT 88200 Pediatric Development and Assessment	2 credits
PHT 88300 Pharmacology and Body Systems Review	3 credits
PHT 88400 Musculoskeletal Examination and Intervention III	3 credits
PHT 88500 Electroneuromyography and Motion Analysis	2 credits
PHT 88600 Clinical Affiliation II	5 credits
PHT 88700 Clinical Decision Making	1 credit
PHT 88800 Directed Research IV	1 credit
PHT 88950 Clinical Affiliation III	5 credits
PHT 89000 Clinical Affiliation IV	4.5 credits
PHT 89800 Biofeedback Interventions in Physical Therapy	1 credit
PHT 89900 Independent Study in Physical Therapy	1-3 credits
PHT 90000 Directed Research V	1 credit