PHYSICAL THERAPY

OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) is a professional entry-level degree. The D.P.T. program requires full-time study over a period of 3 years, including summers. The curriculum includes course work related to the basic sciences of anatomy and neuroscience, the clinical sciences of pathophysiology and pharmacology, and the applied clinical sciences related to management of patients across the lifespan. The curriculum also includes courses related to evidence-based practice, practice management, healthcare ethics, policy and quality improvement, and health promotion. In addition, students engage in 36 weeks of full-time clinical internships in a variety of settings under the supervision of clinical instructors who are licensed physical therapists. Our clinical instructors are:

- Lee Nelson, Clinical Professor, PT, MS, DPT (DPT, MGH Institute of Health Professions)
- Rebecca Ouellette-Morton, Clinical Instructor, PT, MS (MS University of Vermont)
- Justine Dee, Clinical Assistant Professor, PT, MS, OCS (MS University of Vermont)
- Susan Cromwell, Clinical Assistant Professor, PT, MS, NCS (MS Virginia Commonwealth University)
- Karen Westervelt, Clinical Assistant Professor, PT, OCS
- Kerry Wood, Clinical Assistant Professor, PT, DPT (DPT Simmons College)

The Clinical Education program is an integral part of the curriculum, offering students opportunities to apply knowledge and practice skills and behaviors in the clinical setting. Clinical internships are provided across the U.S. and offer a wide variety of experiences. Internships are assigned based on students’ educational needs and availability of clinical sites in each time frame. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from clinical sites. Most of the clinical internships occur outside of the Burlington, Vermont area. Students must be prepared to travel and secure living arrangements during those clinical internships. Internships are scheduled as indicated in the curriculum plan unless insufficient clinical sites are available; in that case, students may be required to complete internship in an alternate time period.

All students in the program are required to carry professional liability insurance and have all required health clearances prior to engaging in any clinical education experience. Students should plan their finances to include these expenses. Clinical sites may require students to have a criminal background check before starting an internship. Evidence of a Criminal Record may prevent students from being eligible for clinical placement, and/or professional licensure.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of Vermont is accredited by:

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA, 22314
(703) 706-3245
e-mail: accreditation@apta.org

DEGREES

- Physical Therapy D.P.T.

FACULTY

- Henry, Sharon Margaret; Professor, Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science; PHD, University of Vermont
- O’Rourke, Deborah Anne; Clinical Professor, Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science; PHD, University of Vermont
- Reed, Brian; Associate Professor, Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science; PHD, Temple University

Courses

- PT 203. Professional Seminar 1. 2 Credits. Framework for students’ becoming excellent practitioners, focusing on values, principles and core documents of the physical therapy profession, and contemporary issues related to the profession. Pre/co-requisite: DPT majors only.
- PT 204. Professional Seminar 2. 0 Credits. Students discuss professional issues and practices encountered in the clinical environment, allowing them to build a framework of knowledge and skills that supports excellent practice. S/U grading only. Pre/co-requisites: PT 203; Enrollment in DPT program.
- PT 205. Professional Seminar 3. 0 Credits. Students discuss professional issues and practices encountered in the clinical environment, allowing them to build a framework of knowledge and skills that supports excellent practice. S/U grading only. Pre/co-requisites: PT 203; Enrollment in DPT program.
- PT 206. Professional Seminar 4. 0 Credits. Students discuss professional issues and practices encountered in the clinical environment, allowing them to build a framework of knowledge and skills that supports excellent practice. S/U grading only. Pre/co-requisites: Enrollment in DPT program.
- PT 207. Professional Seminar 5. 0 Credits. Students discuss professional issues and practices encountered in the clinical environment, allowing them to build a framework of knowledge and skills that supports excellent practice. S/U grading only. Pre/co-requisite: Enrollment in DPT program.
- PT 213. Movement Science I. 3 Credits. Students learn to apply kinesiology and biomechanical principles and concepts to the analysis of human movement, posture, joint structure and function, and gait. Pre/co-requisites: ANNB 201; enrollment in DPT program.
PT 241. Patient Mgmt Fndmntl Skills. 6 Credits.
Introduction to principles and practices of patient/client management including fundamental patient handling skills, physical examination techniques, history taking and interviewing skills, and clinical documentation. Prerequisites: ANNB 201; Enrolled as DPT student. Co-requisite: Pharmacology and Pathophysiology.

PT 242. Patient Mgmt Musculoskeletal 1. 8 Credits.
Lecture/Lab experiences in which students will apply fundamental biomechanical and kinesiology principles of the trunk, spine, and extremities. Prerequisites: PT 241, RMS 213, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology; Enrolled as DPT student. Co-requisite: RMS 244, RMS 251.

PT 301. Clin Ethics for Hlthcare Prof. 3 Credits.
Students will analyze clinical and organizational healthcare issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. Ethical decision-making skills will be developed. Pre/co-requisite: Graduate Standing.

PT 302. Quality in Health Care. 3 Credits.
This course provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to apply quality improvement approaches to the design and management of health care services. Pre/co-requisite: Graduate Standing. Cross-listed with: CTS 302, NH 302.

PT 303. Hlth Promotion & Disease Prvnt. 2 Credits.
Students learn the value of and barriers to health promotion, health protection, and disease prevention, factors that influence personal health decisions, and preventive interventions.

PT 305. Pathophysiology/Pharmacology. 6 Credits.
Study of diseases of the human body and their pharmacological treatments. Emphasis on common diseases in USA populations and most germane to physical therapy practice. Pre/co-requisite: Enrolled as DPT student.

PT 320. Undrstng Evidence in PT Pract. 3 Credits.
Students critically analyze and interpret research in terms of applicability to practice, examine methods for measuring practice outcomes and apply data to answer clinical questions. Pre/co-requisites: Statistics course; enrollment as DPT student.

PT 322. Adv Evidence Based Pract Skills. 3 Credits.
Students gain advanced skills in critically analyzing research literature, including systematic reviews and clinical practice guidelines. Students analyze clinical data and apply results to decision-making. Pre/co-requisite: PT 320.

PT 328. Independent Study. 1-4 Credits.
Students work with faculty member to assist in research, applying previously learned skills in critical appraisal, library searches, research methods and writing. Pre/co-requisites: RMS 220 or PT 320 or equivalents; enrollment in DPT program.

PT 330. Psychosocial Issues in Health. 3 Credits.
Psychosocial dimensions of health, illness and disability will be examined from lifespan and multicultural perspectives. Pre/co-requisites: Psychology course; enrolled as DPT student.

PT 331. Practice Management in PT. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the fundamental nature and functions of general business organizations, particularly physical therapy practices. Pre/co-requisite: Enrollment in DPT program.

PT 345. Patient Mgt-Neuromuscular 1. 0 or 6 Credits.
Lecture and laboratory experiences re evidence-based medical and physical therapy management of adults with neuromuscular conditions including stroke, multiple sclerosis, and spinal cord injury. Pre/co-requisites: PT 215, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology; Enrolled as DPT student.

PT 346. Patient Mgt-Neuromuscular 2. 0 or 5 Credits.
Lecture and laboratory experiences re evidence-based medical and physical therapy management of children with neuromuscular conditions such as cerebral palsy and adults with developmental disabilities. Pre/co-requisites: PT 345, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology; Enrolled as DPT student.

PT 347. Patient Mgt:Cardiopulmonary. 4 Credits.
Students explore disease risk and prevention, as well as medical, surgical, pharmacological, psychological, and physical therapies in the management of individuals with cardiopulmonary related diseases. Pre/co-requisites: ANNB 201, PT 241, GRNU 303, RMS 251, pathophysiology; enrollment in DPT program.

PT 348. Patient Mgt:Medical/Surgical. 2 Credits.
Students explore medical, surgical, pharmacological, psychological, and physical therapies in the management of individuals with vascular, integumentary, lymphatic disorders and cancer. Pre/co-requisites: PT 241, PT 347, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology; Enrolled as DPT student.

PT 349. Patient Mgt:Musculoskeletal 2. 0 or 4 Credits.
Lecture/lab applying foundational and advanced biomechanical, neurophysiological, kinesiological, and anatomical principles of the trunk, TMJ, spine, and extremities. Pre/co-requisites: PT 242; Enrolled as DPT student.

PT 351. Community Health in PT. 1-3 Credits.
DPT students travel internationally to experience and reflect on structures, processes and outcomes of healthcare for patients receiving rehabilitation services in another country. Pre/co-requisite: second year DPT student.

PT 352. Intl Collaborative in PT. 3 Credits.
This Faculty Lead Program Abroad is an elective for PT students and licensed PT’s interested in learning advanced manual physical therapy skills while studying abroad. Pre/co-requisites: PT 349 or PT license.

PT 360. Integrated Patient Mgmt Sem. 2 Credits.
Students integrate information learned in prior clinical and foundational science courses, as well as contemporary research findings, into a comprehensive patient management model. Pre/co-requisites: DPT student standing; successful completion of all previous DPT courses.
PT 370. Clinical Internship 1. 3 Credits.
Full-time (six weeks) Clinical Education Internship in an out-patient Orthopedic clinical setting. Pre/co-requisite: Completion of year one DPT curriculum.

PT 371. Clinical Internship 2. 5 Credits.
Full-time (ten weeks) Clinical Education Internship in various practice settings including out-patient, acute care, rehabilitation, home health, pediatric, long term care and specialty practices. Pre/co-requisite: Completion of all academic courses in DPT curriculum.

PT 372. Clinical Internship 3A. 2 Credits.
Full-time (four weeks) Clinical Education Internship in various practice settings including out-patient, acute care, rehabilitation, home health, pediatric, long term care and specialty practices. Pre/co-requisite: Completion of all academic courses in DPT curriculum.

PT 373. Clinical Internship 3B. 1 Credit.
Full-time (two weeks) Clinical Education Internship in various practice settings including out-patient, acute care, rehabilitation, home health, pediatric, long term care and specialty practices. Pre/co-requisite: Completion of all academic courses in DPT curriculum.

PT 374. Clinical Internship 3C. 2 Credits.
Full-time (four weeks) Clinical Education Internship in various practice settings including out-patient, acute care, rehabilitation, home health, pediatric, long term care and specialty practices. Pre/co-requisite: Completion of all academic courses in DPT curriculum.

PT 375. Clinical Internship 4. 5 Credits.
Full-time (ten weeks) Clinical Education Internship in various practice settings including out-patient, acute care, rehabilitation, home health, pediatric, long term care and specialty practices. Pre/co-requisite: Completion of all academic courses in DPT curriculum.

PT 395. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.