PHYSICAL THERAPY D.P.T.

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 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)

Clinical internships are 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
email: accreditation@apta.org

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Admission to Graduate Studies for the Degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy

Applicants must complete the prerequisite course requirements and a baccalaureate degree in any major at UVM or a regionally accredited institution. Applicants with a baccalaureate degree from institutions outside the U.S. will also be considered.

Students applying to the Physical Therapy program must have a GPA of 3.00 or greater in their undergraduate studies. All applicants must complete the following prerequisite courses with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater prior to entry into the D.P.T. program:

- Two semesters of anatomy/physiology
- Two semesters of college chemistry with labs
- Two semesters of physics with labs
- One semester of biology
- One semester of exercise physiology
- One semester of psychology
- One semester of statistics

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Complete the Physical Therapy Common Application through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS), a division of the American Physical Therapy Association. Follow all instructions on the site. All application materials should be submitted directly to PTCAS. This includes:

- Three letters of recommendation.
- Official Transcript(s) from all U.S. and Canadian schools attended. PTCAS and the UVM D.P.T. program accept prerequisite credits from regionally accredited institutions only. For international applicants, transcripts must be translated and evaluated by an official service and sent to the CNHS Office of Student Services.
- Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores. For UVM D.P.T. applicants only, the GRE Code is 7708.

The college will accept both the old and new version of the GRE, but scores must be received by the application deadline. The program prefers a minimum score of 144 Quantitative (500 on previous version), 153 Verbal (500 on previous version), and 4.0 Writing. Applicants may retake the GRE and the highest score in each section will be counted. Average scores under the new scoring criteria for the most recently admitted class were: Verbal Score = 157; Quantitative Score = 155; Analytical/Writing score = 4.2.
Complete pages one and two of the UVM Graduate Online Application form. Include the following information with the UVM application:

- In the box calling for an essay, please write: "See essay on the PTCAS application."
- Application Fee
- No transcripts or letters of recommendation should be sent to the University of Vermont. Names of references can be included but do not include contact information.

Complete the D.P.T. Prerequisite Course Completion form which can be found on the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science website.

Application Deadline: December 15th.

**Minimum Degree Requirements**

Completion of all required courses with a GPA of 3.00 or better. Satisfactory completion of all clinical education experiences. Completion of requirements for comprehensive examination.

**Comprehensive Examination**

The examination takes the form of a project that results in a written paper and formal poster presentation at the CNHS Research Day. Students work either in groups or individually with faculty members to complete their projects. The written paper must be completed by June 30th of the 2nd year of matriculation.

**Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Successful completion of any prerequisite courses, and at least 15 graded graduate credits with a 3.00 GPA or better, including all core courses and the comprehensive/qualifying examination.