

PHYSICAL THERAPY D.P.T.

OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) program at the University of Vermont (UVM) consists of 102 graduate credits offered in a 2.5-year full-time program format, over 8 semesters inclusive of summers, that leads to a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. The program is well recognized for preparing D.P.T. graduates as primary care movement system experts who translate evidence into contemporary best practice. Graduates advocate to improve health outcomes and well-being at the individual and community level.

The movement system is the foundation of the curriculum design. Organized in a systems-based model, the curriculum integrates the basic and clinical sciences across the musculoskeletal, nervous, cardiovascular/pulmonary, integumentary and endocrine systems to facilitate student ability to develop as movement system experts. Additionally, the study of evidenced based practice, leadership and professional formation, health policy, business management, and social responsibility shape the students' professional role and identity as a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Students engage in an array of active learning experiences with multiple opportunities for interprofessional education and community engagement. Integrated clinical experiences and 32 weeks of full time clinical internships broaden student professional preparation. Internships are offered throughout the U.S. in a variety of specialty areas and assignments are based on students' educational needs and clinical site availability. Students are responsible for all costs associated with clinical internships.

Exceptional faculty role model clinical and research expertise across each of the specialty areas of physical therapist practice to facilitate student development as movement system experts.

The faculty members below are in addition to those who have been formally appointed as Graduate Faculty members:

Dee, Justine; Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science; M.S., University of Vermont, PT, Northeastern University

Smith, Paula; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science; D.P.T., Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia

PROGRAM MISSION AND VISION

The UVM DPT program mission is to prepare D.P.T. graduates to lead and collaborate in the quest of promoting the health of individuals, communities and society through movement and exercise in order to optimize function, activity, and participation across environments. UVM graduates are movement system experts who provide ethical, evidence-based, client-centered services in a culturally sensitive manner as they serve society to enhance quality of life. Graduates are decision makers in the primary care team who have a clear understanding of the importance of lifelong learning that will support their client, patient and professional needs. The

program's vision is to be recognized for leadership in its contribution to the creation, advancement, and dissemination of translational research while striving toward excellence to educate D.P.T. scholars who collaborate to "transform society by optimizing movement," and promote individual and population health of our communities and society.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to sit for the national licensure examination administered through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

ACCREDITATION

The DPT program at UVM is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314.

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 from UVM or any regionally accredited institution. Applicants with a baccalaureate degree from institutions outside the U.S. will also be considered.

Applicants to the D.P.T. program must have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher in their undergraduate studies. All applicants must complete the following prerequisite courses with a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher prior to entry into the DPT program:

- 2 semesters of anatomy/physiology
- 2 semesters of college chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of physics with labs
- 2 semesters of biology (not botany or zoology)
- 1 semester of psychology
- 1 semester of statistics

APPLICATION PROCESS:

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

- 3 letters of recommendation, one of which must come from an academic faculty member
- 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
- Optional: Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores. GRE Code is 7708. Minimum preferred scores are 150 Quantitative,

150 Verbal and 4.0 Writing. Scores must be received by the application deadline

Complete the supplemental UVM Graduate College Application form. Include the following information:

- Upload a document that reads: "See essay on the PTCAS application."
- Application Fee
- Note: No transcripts, letters of recommendation or other materials submitted in the PTCAS application need to be submitted to the University of Vermont.
- If applying to the combined DPT/PhD in Neuroscience program select the DPT/NGP option on the supplemental application. See website for details.

Complete the D.P.T. Prerequisite Course Completion form.

Minimum Degree Requirements

The UVM D.P.T. program requires successful completion of 102 graduate credits.

Curriculum for Class of 2022, 2023 and 2024:

YEAR ONE		
SUMMER		
ANNB 300	Human Gross Anatomy	6
DPT 401	Health Systems I - Policy	2
DPT 450	Professional Form/Leadershp I	1
FALL		
DPT 405	Clinical Medicine	4
DPT 406	Exercise Science	3
DPT 410	Fundamentals of Clinical Pract	3
DPT 411	Movement System I	3
DPT 414	Clinical Reasoning	2
DPT 415	Psychsoc Aspcts Hlth Wellbeing	3
SPRING		
NSCI 302	Neuroscience	3
DPT 407	Pharmacology and Nutrition	1
DPT 408	Fundamentals Critical Inquiry	3
DPT 412	Movement System II	4
DPT 420	Musculoskeletal Management I	4
DPT 451	Prof Formation/Leadrsph II-ICE	2
YEAR TWO		

SUMMER		
DPT 421	Musculoskeletal Management II	4
DPT 423	Neurological Management I	4
DPT 426	Cardiovasc and Pulmonary Mgt	3
DPT 452	Prof Formatn/Leadrsph III-ICE	2
DPT 493	Doctoral Research Project I	1
FALL		
DPT 402	Health Sys II-Quality Improvmt	2
DPT 422	Musculoskeletal Management III	3
DPT 424	Neurological Management II	3
DPT 427	Integmnt, Endocrine, Multi Sys	3
DPT 494	Doctoral Research Project II	2
DPT 460	Clinical Edu Experience I	2
SPRING		
DPT 403	Health Sys III-Business Mgt	2
DPT 404	Health Sys IV-Health Promotion	3
DPT 416	Rehabilitation Technology	3
DPT 425	Neurological Management III	3
DPT 453	Prof Form/Leadrsph IV-ICE/IPE	2
DPT 495	Doctoral Research Project III	2
YEAR THREE		
SUMMER		
DPT 413	Movement System III	4
DPT 461	Clinical Edu Experience IIA	2
DPT 496	Special Topics	2
Comprehensive Exam		
FALL		
DPT 462	Clinical Edu Experience IIB	2
DPT 463	Clinical Edu Experience III	4
Total Credits		102

Students will be recommended for graduation by the DPT faculty if they:

- Receive no more than 2 passing course grades below a B
- Obtain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher at the end of their didactic course work
- Pass their Comprehensive Examination

- Pass all clinical internships and clinical education coursework expectations during their clinical experience and receive no more than one U grade in a clinical education course (that was successfully retaken for a S grade)
- Illustrate evidence of professional behaviors commensurate with professional doctoral practice in physical therapy

LIMITED WAIVER OPTION

The DPT program faculty, under special circumstances, may allow a waiver of up to 6 credits based on prior knowledge. A course waiver form inclusive of prior knowledge supporting documentation must be submitted to the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee and Program Director (PD) in consultation with the curriculum committee at least 2 weeks prior to the semester where the potentially waived course is offered. The DPT APR Committee will review all requests for recommendation to the PD. Students will receive notification of decision in writing and the Graduate College will be notified when a waiver has been approved.. The student assumes responsibility for all content of any approved course waiver.

Comprehensive Examination

The examination takes the form of a small group research project or a systematic review and an individual student portfolio. Both culminate in a written paper and an oral dissemination/defense. The written paper and presentations may take multiple formats and must be satisfactorily completed by the end of the program. Should students not pass the comprehensive examination, they will have 1 additional opportunity to remediate and provide evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes of the comprehensive examination prior to being able to graduate from the program.

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

Successful completion of all graded graduate credits with a 3.00 GPA or better and the comprehensive examination.