

## 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 settings 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.

### 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 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 3.00 or higher prior to entry into the DPT program:

- 2 semesters of anatomy/physiology with labs
- 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 must include:

- 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 accredited institutions only. For international applicants, transcripts must be translated and evaluated by an official service

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

- In the Statement of Purpose section, 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.

**Minimum Degree Requirements**

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

Curriculum for Class of 2028:

Requirement Description		Credits
YEAR ONE		
SUMMER		
ANNB 6000	Human Gross Anatomy	6
FALL		
DPT 7050	Clinical Medicine	4
DPT 7060	Exercise Science	3
DPT 7100	Fundamentals of Clinical Pract	3
DPT 7110	Movement System I	3
DPT 7140	Clinical Reasoning	2
DPT 7150	Psychsoc Aspcts Hlth Wellbeing	3
SPRING		
NSCI 6020	Neuroscience	3
DPT 7070	Pharmacology and Nutrition	2
NH 6899	Fundamentals Critical Inquiry	3
DPT 7090	Foundations of Imaging for PT	1
DPT 7120	Movement System II	3
DPT 7200	Musculoskeletal Management I	4
DPT 7500	Professional Form/Leadershp I	2
YEAR TWO		
SUMMER		
DPT 7210	Musculoskeletal Management II	4
DPT 7230	Neurological Management I	3
DPT 7260	Cardiovasc and Pulmonary Mgt	4
DPT 7930	EBP in Physical Therapy	2
FALL		
DPT 7220	Musculoskeletal Management III	4
DPT 7240	Neurological Management II	3
DPT 7270	Integmnt, Endocrine, Multi Sys	3

DPT 7600	Clinical Edu Experience I	3
SPRING		
DPT 7030	Health Policy & Business Mgmt	3
DPT 7040	Health Sys IV-Health Promotion	3
DPT 7160	Rehabilitation Technology	3
DPT 7250	Neurological Management III	4
DPT 7520	Prof Formatn/Leadrshp III-ICE	2
YEAR THREE		
SUMMER		
DPT 7130	Movement System III	3
DPT 7510	Prof Formation/Leadrshp II-ICE	2
DPT 7610	Clinical Edu Experience IIA	3
DPT 7990	Special Topics	2
Comprehensive Exam		
FALL		
DPT 7620	Clinical Edu Experience IIB	3
DPT 7630	Clinical Edu Experience III	6

Students must also:

- 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 DPT Curriculum Committee and Program Director (PD) at least 2 weeks prior to the semester where the potentially waived course is offered. The DPT Curriculum 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**

Students must successfully pass a comprehensive examination as part of their graduate program upon the conclusion of the didactic coursework. The comprehensive examination for the DPT program will consist of a multiple-choice exam and focuses on the student’s mastery of foundational knowledge, clinical applicability, and

practice. Should students not pass the comprehensive examination, they will have 1 additional opportunity to retake the examination.

**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, received no more than 2 passing course grades below a B, and passed the comprehensive examination.