

PHYSICAL THERAPY, DOCTOR OF

Saint Louis University's program in physical therapy offers a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degree. There are three paths of entry into the program including transferring into the program as an undergraduate student. The early-assurance program (freshman-entry), is a six-year curriculum, including two summers. Students admitted as freshmen receive a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science - Physical Therapy (B.S.E.S.-P.T.) concentration after successfully completing the first four years of coursework, and the D.P.T. degree after completing the additional two post-baccalaureate years. Students who have already earned an undergraduate degree may enter as a post-baccalaureate for 3 years of graduate coursework including 2 summers.

Physical therapists work with people across the lifespan to optimize movement and improve health. Physical therapists are responsible for examining and evaluating patients/clients, the development and implementation of intervention programs, patient education and supervising other health care practitioners. In addition to patient care, physical therapists may also serve as administrators, teachers, researchers and consultants.

Program Financial Fact Sheet (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/pt-financial-factsheet.pdf>)

Program Highlights

Advantages of earning a D.P.T. at SLU include:

- Direct admission to the program as a freshman
 - Undergraduate transfer and post-baccalaureate transfer are both possible
- Opportunities to pursue additional curricular goals such as minors, including interprofessional education, certificates and study abroad programs
- Physical therapy pro bono clinics
- Diversity of clinical education sites
- Highly qualified and accessible faculty
- State-of-the-art laboratories and clinical equipment

Curriculum Overview

SLU's PT curriculum is divided into the pre-professional (freshman–junior years) and the professional phase (senior year–second post-baccalaureate year). Progression to the professional phase of the program provides a seamless entry from foundational coursework to practical labs and clinical experiences.

Once accepted into the program, a student will progress through the entire program without needing to reapply or take a graduate entrance exam, provided the student meets the program's academic and professional behavior standards.

During the professional phase, students enroll in coursework specific to the physical therapy profession and complete 38 weeks of full-time clinical experiences. Students begin their clinical experiences in the spring of their senior year.

Elective courses in the physical therapy curriculum and clinical exposure help students gain advanced knowledge and skills in specialty areas. In addition to the PT curriculum, students are required to complete a minor.

Upon graduation, students must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination to obtain a license to practice physical therapy.

Clinical and Research Opportunities

SLU's program in physical therapy is affiliated with more than 250 clinical sites locally, nationally and internationally.

The faculty and clinical staff provide clinical services at a variety of locations including the Saint Louis University Physical Therapy Clinic at Student Health, the Physical Therapy Clinic at the Health Resource Clinic, SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital, consultative services to Fusz Pavilion for Senior Jesuits at Jesuit Hall and the SLUCare Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Clinic.

Careers

Graduates from SLU's PT program enjoy employment in a variety of settings, including hospitals, outpatient clinics, long-term rehabilitation facilities, collegiate and professional sports, schools, patient homes and fitness centers.

Physical therapists typically work in full-time positions and receive benefits. The 2020 median annual wage of physical therapists was \$91,010 per year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Specific salary depends on location and experience level.

Graduates of our Doctor of Physical Therapy program report a 100% employment rate within the profession within one year of graduation.

Admission Requirements

Freshman Applicants

Every application to the program in Physical Therapy for admission is reviewed on an individual basis.

For the freshman-entry admission, the best qualified high school seniors are selected from the application pool with a required minimum high school GPA of 3.2 on a 4.00 scale, with an emphasis on math and science.

The following high school courses are required for admission:

- One year of biology and one year of chemistry
- College prep courses equivalent to algebra, geometry, advanced algebra and/or trigonometry.

Strong applicants will have:

- Four years of math, including a course equivalent to pre-calculus
- Four years of science, including physics and anatomy/physiology
- Activities demonstrating leadership and community service
- An interest in the profession of physical therapy as demonstrated through observation, school activities, or personal experience

Meeting admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

The deadline for completed physical therapy applications and financial aid consideration for all freshmen is Dec. 1.

Transfer Applicants

General Information

As space allows, students may enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy program as internal (enrolled in another program at SLU) or external (enrolled at another college or university) transfer students.

Students must apply by October 1 to be considered for spring admission or March 1 for fall admission.

Admission Requirements

- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Minimum 3.0 GPA in required science coursework
- Completion of a minimum of 1 required science course/sequence as listed below:
 - BIOL 1240 General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution (3 cr) and BIOL 1245 Principles of Biology I Laboratory (1 cr)
 - BIOL 1260 General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter (3 cr) and BIOL 1265 Principles of Biology II Laboratory (1 cr)
 - CHEM 1080 Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture (3 cr) and CHEM 1085 Principles of Chemistry 1 Lab (1 cr)
 - CHEM 1480 Principles of Chemistry 2 Lecture (3 cr) and CHEM 1485 Principles of Chemistry 2 Lab (1 cr)
 - PHYS 1220 General Physics I (4 cr) and PHYS 1235 General Physics I Lab (1 cr)
 - PHYS 1240 General Physics II (4 cr) and PHYS 1255 General Physics II Lab (1 cr)
 - ANAT 1000 Basic Human Anatomy (3 cr)
 - PPY 2540 Human Physiology (4 cr)
 - DPT 3230 Exercise Physiology (3 cr)
- In addition to the application, applicants must submit a personal statement describing interest in physical therapy as a profession. Internal transfer students will submit the personal statement to the academic advisor for Physical Therapy.
- Internal transfer students who are academically eligible meet with the physical therapy academic advisor to review applicant qualifications and the application process. Qualified applicants who submit paperwork to change their major prior to the deadline will be reviewed by the program in Physical Therapy admissions committee.
- External transfer students can review course equivalency information here (<https://www.slu.edu/admission/transfer/credits/>).

Meeting admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

Post-Baccalaureate Applicants

General Information

As space allows, students may enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy program as a post-baccalaureate student.

Students must apply by November 1 to be considered for summer admission. Classes start mid-May.

Application Requirements

- Official transcript(s)
- Personal statement describing interest in physical therapy as a profession
- Service and leadership experiences
- Recommendation letter

Admission Requirements

- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Minimum 2.7 GPA in required science coursework
- All previous coursework must have been completed within the last 10 years
- D or F grades for prerequisites are not accepted
- At the time of application, no more than 2 prerequisite courses may be outstanding. The full list of prerequisites (and credits) are below:
 - General Biology I with lab or Animal Biology with lab (4)*
 - General Biology II with lab (4)*
 - Chemistry I with lab (4)*
 - Chemistry II with lab (4)*
 - Physics I with lab (4)*
 - Physics II with lab (4)*
 - Human Anatomy (3)*
 - Human Physiology (4)*
 - Exercise Physiology (3)*
 - General Psychology (3)
 - Abnormal Psychology (3)
 - Ethics (3)
 - Statistics (3)

NOTE: Anatomy and Physiology I* & II* can be taken in place of Human Physiology and Basic Human Anatomy.

Meeting admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

* Included in science GPA calculation.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need. In addition to University scholarships, the Doisy College of Health Sciences offers scholarships (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/about/scholarships-for-current-students.php>) to sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students.
- **Financial Aid:** Provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at <http://finaid.slu.edu> (<http://finaid.slu.edu/>).

Accreditation

The Program in Physical Therapy at Saint Louis University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE).

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE)

3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100

Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085

703-706-3245

accreditation@apta.org

<http://www.capteonline.org> (<http://www.capteonline.org/home.aspx>)

If you need to contact SLU's program directly, please call 314-977-8505 or email sluptat@health.slu.edu.

For more information about the SLU physical therapy program's outcomes, matriculation rate, graduate rate, employment rate, NPTE pass rates and technical standards, please see the additional accreditation information (PDF). (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/pt-accreditation.pdf>)

View Additional Accreditation Information (PDF) (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/pt-accreditation.pdf>)

Technical Standards (PDF) (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/pt-technical-standards.pdf>)

Complaint Policy and Instructions (PDF) (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/complaint-policy-pt.pdf>)

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to serve others by advocating for the health of society.
2. Graduates will be able to communicate in a way that optimizes patient-centered care.
3. Graduates will be able to apply principles of evidence-based practice in patient care.
4. Graduates will be able to evaluate typical versus atypical physical movement.

Requirements

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science Requirements (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/exercise-science-bs/#requirementstext>)

Physical Therapy Requirements (for students admitted as freshman or admitted as transfer undergraduate students after completion of the Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, physical therapy concentration requirements)

Code	Title	Credits
DPT 5123	Clinical Gait	2
DPT 5134	Multi System Management	3
DPT 5135	Cardiopulmonary Conditions	3
DPT 5137	Aspects of Nutrition	2

DPT 5142	Evidence Based Practice	2
DPT 5149	Applied Neuroscience	2
DPT 5162	Musculoskeletal Conditions II	3
DPT 5215	Professional Development I	2
DPT 5218	Effective Communication and Teaching	3
DPT 5251	Neurological Conditions I	4
DPT 5263	Musculoskeletal Conditions III	4
DPT 5271	Patient Management I	3
DPT 5291	Clinical Experience IA	2
DPT 6072	Patient Management II	1
DPT 6077	Department Administration	2
DPT 6091	Clinical Experience IB	2
DPT 6092	Clinical Experience IIA	2
DPT 6116	Professional Development II	2
DPT 6124	Biomechanical Interventions	3
DPT 6138	Concepts of Wellness	1
DPT 6152	Neurological Conditions II	2
DPT 6164	Musculoskeletal Conditions IV	3
DPT 6173	Patient Management III	2
DPT 6178	Applied Administration and Management	2
DPT 6192	Clinical Experience IIB	2
DPT 6293	Clinical Experience III	3
DPT 6294	Clinical Experience IV	3
Total Credits		65

Physical Therapy Requirements (for students admitted with a bachelors degree)

Code	Title	Credits
ANAT 4000	Human Gross Anatomy	6
ANAT 4300	AHP Neurosciences	4
EXSC 5121	Clinical Biomechanics	3
DPT 5123	Clinical Gait	2
DPT 5125	Therapeutic Modalities	3
DPT 5127	Basic Examination	3
DPT 5130	System-Based Pathology	4
DPT 5134	Multi System Management	3
DPT 5135	Cardiopulmonary Conditions	3
DPT 5137	Aspects of Nutrition	2
DPT 5142	Evidence Based Practice	2
DPT 5147	Human Growth and Development	3
DPT 5149	Applied Neuroscience	2
DPT 5162	Musculoskeletal Conditions II	3
DPT 5215	Professional Development I	2
DPT 5218	Effective Communication and Teaching	3
DPT 5222	Kinesiology	3
DPT 5226	Therapeutic Exercise	2
DPT 5228	Basic Procedures	2
DPT 5240	Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions	4
DPT 5241	Clinical Research and Design	2
DPT 5251	Neurological Conditions I	4

DPT 5263	Musculoskeletal Conditions III	4
DPT 5271	Patient Management I	3
DPT 5290	Skills Practicum	1
DPT 5291	Clinical Experience IA	2
DPT 6072	Patient Management II	1
DPT 6077	Department Administration	2
DPT 6091	Clinical Experience IB	2
DPT 6092	Clinical Experience IIA	2
DPT 6192	Clinical Experience IIB	2
DPT 6116	Professional Development II	2
DPT 6124	Biomechanical Interventions	3
DPT 6138	Concepts of Wellness	1
DPT 6152	Neurological Conditions II	2
DPT 6164	Musculoskeletal Conditions IV	3
DPT 6173	Patient Management III	2
DPT 6178	Applied Administration and Management	2
DPT 6293	Clinical Experience III	3
DPT 6294	Clinical Experience IV	3

Total Credits **105**

Continuation Standards

For a complete list of continuation standards, see the Program in Physical Therapy Student Handbook (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/pt-student-handbook-8.22.pdf>) on the program's web page. Students must earn a C or better in all required pre-professional DPT and IPE courses and a C or better in all required professional phase courses. For clinical education courses in the professional phase, an S (satisfactory) grade is required.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
BIOL 1240 & BIOL 1245	General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution and Principles of Biology I Laboratory	4
CHEM 1080 & CHEM 1085	Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture and Principles of Chemistry 1 Lab	4
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy (satisfies CORE 1700)	3
DPT 1111	Self and Community in PT (satisfies CORE 1500)	1

ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research (satisfies CORE 1900)	3
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Credits **15**

Spring

BIOL 1260 & BIOL 1265	General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter and Principles of Biology II Laboratory	4
CHEM 1480 & CHEM 1485	Principles of Chemistry 2 Lecture and Principles of Chemistry 2 Lab	4
DPT 1212	Fueling the Fire, Discovering Your Passion (satisfies CORE 1000)	2
MATH 1400	Pre-Calculus	3
CORE 1200	Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication (satisfies CORE 1200)	3

Credits **16**

Year Two

Fall

IPE 2100	Interprofessional Collaboration and Healthcare in Global Context	3
PHYS 1220 & PHYS 1235	General Physics I and General Physics I Lab	4
PPY 2540	Human Physiology	4
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3

Credits **17**

Spring

ANAT 1000	Basic Human Anatomy	3
DPT 2213	Professionalism and Physical Therapy Thought (satisfies CORE 2500)	1
IPE 4200	Applied Decision-Making in Interprofessional Practice	3
PHYS 1240 & PHYS 1255	General Physics II and General Physics II Lab	4
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3

Credits **17**

Year Three

Fall

Participation in Study Abroad Optional		
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	2-3
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
PHIL 2050 or HCE 2010	Ethics or Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics	3
PSY 3460	Abnormal Psychology	3
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3

Credits **17-18**

Spring

DPT 3230	Exercise Physiology	3
IPE 4900	Interprofessional Community Practicum (satisfies CORE 4000)	2
STAT 1100	Introduction to Statistics	3

DPT3214	Reflections on the Core and the Future satisfies CORE 3500	1
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3
Credits		15
Summer		
ANAT 4000	Human Gross Anatomy	6
Credits		6
Year Four		
Fall		
EXSC 5121	Clinical Biomechanics	3
DPT 5125	Therapeutic Modalities	3
DPT 5127	Basic Examination	3
DPT 5130	System-Based Pathology	4
DPT 5147	Human Growth and Development	3
Credits		16
Spring		
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science - PT awarded upon completion of Semester Eight		
ANAT 4300	AHP Neurosciences	4
DPT 5222	Kinesiology II	3
DPT 5226	Therapeutic Exercise	2
DPT 5228	Basic Procedures	2
DPT 5241	Clinical Research and Design	2
DPT 5240	Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions	4
DPT 5290	Skills Practicum	1
Credits		18
Year Five		
Fall		
DPT 5123	Clinical Gait	2
DPT 5134	Multi System Management	3
DPT 5135	Cardiopulmonary Conditions	3
DPT 5137	Aspects of Nutrition	2
DPT 5142	Evidence Based Practice	2
DPT 5149	Applied Neuroscience	2
DPT 5162	Musculoskeletal Conditions II	3
Credits		17
Spring		
DPT 5215	Professional Development I	2
DPT 5218	Effective Communication and Teaching	3
DPT 5251	Neurological Conditions I	4
DPT 5263	Musculoskeletal Conditions III	4
DPT 5271	Patient Management I	3
DPT 5291	Clinical Experience IA	2
Credits		18
Summer		
DPT 6072	Patient Management II (Online course taken during clinical rotations)	1
DPT 6077	Department Administration (Online course taken during clinical rotations)	2
DPT 6091	Clinical Experience IB	2

DPT 6092	Clinical Experience IIA	2
Credits		7
Year Six		
Fall		
DPT 6116	Professional Development II	2
DPT 6124	Biomechanical Interventions	3
DPT 6138	Concepts of Wellness	1
DPT 6152	Neurological Conditions II	2
DPT 6164	Musculoskeletal Conditions IV	3
DPT 6173	Patient Management III	2
DPT 6178	Applied Administration and Management	2
DPT 618X	Physical Therapy Elective (optional)	1
DPT 6192	Clinical Experience IIB	2
Credits		18
Spring		
Doctor of Physical Therapy awarded upon completion of Semester 12		
DPT 6293	Clinical Experience III	3
DPT 6294	Clinical Experience IV	3
Credits		6
Total Credits		203-204

Program Notes

The 6 year curriculum is divided into the pre-professional (semesters 1-6) and the professional phase (years 4-6). Year four represents the final year of the baccalaureate degree for freshman-entry or pre-professional phase transfer students and first year of the professional phase for the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Progression to the professional phase of the program provides a seamless entry from foundational coursework to practical labs and clinical experiences. The post-baccalaureate curriculum is the coursework outlined in years 4-6.

Contact Us

Apply for Admission (<https://www.slu.edu/admission/>)

Contact Doisy College of Health Sciences:

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314-977-2570
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