

PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Saint Louis University's early assurance (freshman-entry) Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) curriculum is a six-year program, including two summers. Students receive a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science - Physical Therapy (BSES-PT) after completion of the first four years, and the D.P.T. degree after successful completion of the additional two post-baccalaureate years.

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

Curriculum Overview

The 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, a student will progress through the entire program without the need for reapplying or taking a graduate entrance exam provided the student meets the program 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 the 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

The program in physical therapy is affiliated with more than 300 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, Student Health, SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital and the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Clinic.

Careers

Graduates enjoy employment in a variety of settings, including hospitals, out-patient 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 2017 median annual wage of physical therapists was \$86,850 per year according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Salary depends on location and experience level.

Alumni of the program in physical therapy DPT alumni report a 100% employment rate within the profession within one year of graduation.

Admission Requirements

High school seniors applying for admission have two options for acceptance into the Saint Louis University program in physical therapy. Applications are reviewed on an individual basis.

- The standard selective admission process is for students with an ACT composite score of 25 or higher with no subsection below a 23 (or equivalent SAT scores) and a high school GPA of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale (with an emphasis on math and science).
- The early-acceptance admission process is for students with an ACT composite score of 30 or higher with math and science subsections scoring at least a 28 ACT (or equivalent SAT scores), a high school GPA of 3.85/4.0 and an outstanding high school academic record (with an emphasis placed on excellence in math and science courses).
- Students that do not meet the requirements for early acceptance will automatically be considered for the standard selective admission process.

Minimum eligibility requirements also include:

- Four years of science, including biology and chemistry. Physics is strongly encouraged but not required.
- Four years of math, including a level equivalent to pre-calculus.
- Four years of English.

Meeting minimum GPA and test score requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. The deadline for completed program in physical therapy applications and financial aid consideration for all freshman is Dec. 1.

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 a scholarship to sophomores, juniors and seniors.
- 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>.

Accreditation

The Program in Physical Therapy at Saint Louis University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE), 1111 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 314-977-8505 or email sluptat@health.slu.edu.

For more information about the SLU Physical Therapy program outcomes, matriculation rate, graduate rate, employment rate, NPTE pass rates and technical standards, please see Additional Accreditation Information.

Additional Accreditation Information (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/pt-accreditation-1218.pdf>)

Technical Standards (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/pt-technical-standards-7-12-12.pdf>)

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

Learning Outcomes

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

Requirements

Foundation

Code	Title	Credits
ANAT 1000	Basic Human Anatomy	3
BIOL 1240 & BIOL 1245	Principles of Biology I and Principles of Biology I Laboratory	4
ENGL 2000-3900	Literature	3
CHEM 1080 & CHEM 1085	Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture and Principles of Chemistry 1 Lab	4
CHEM 1480 & CHEM 1485	Principles of Chemistry 2 Lecture and Principles of Chemistry 2 Lab	4
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies Of Rhetoric and Research	3
IPE 1100	Introduction to Interprofessional Health Care	1
IPE 3500	Health Care Systems and Health Promotion	3
IPE 4200	Applied Decision-Making in Interprofessional Practice	3
IPE 4900	Interprofessional Community Practicum	2
MATH 1400	Pre-Calculus	3
PHIL 1050	Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality	3
PHIL 2050	Ethics	3
PHYS 1220 & PHYS 1240	General Physics I and General Physics II	8
PPY 2540	Human Physiology	4
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
PSY 4390	Abnormal Psychology	3
THEO 1000	Theological Foundations	3
THEO 2xxx	Theology elective	3
HIST 1110-4930	History elective	3
Fine Arts elective ¹		3
Foreign Language (through 1020 level)		6
Statistics course		3

Non-specified electives	18
Total Credits	96

¹ Fine Arts Elective: Any course specified in the college catalog as accepted as a fine arts elective (for Arts and Sciences) will be accepted as a fine arts elective for Physical Therapy. Courses from Study Abroad experiences will be accepted as per the approval of the Program in Physical Therapy.

Physical Therapy Requirements (for B.S. in Exercise Science, PT)

Code	Title	Credits
DPT 1111	Student Development I	1
DPT 1212	Student Development II	1
DPT 2113	Student Development III	1
DPT 2214	Student Development IV	1
DPT 3230	Exercise Physiology	3
DPT 4021	Kinesiology I	2
DPT 4122	Kinesiology II	3
DPT 4125	Therapeutic Modalities	3
DPT 4127	Basic Examination	3
DPT 4131	Survey of Disease	3
DPT 4146	Developmental Biology	3
DPT 4226	Therapeutic Exercise	2
DPT 4228	Basic Procedures	2
DPT 4241	Clinical Research and Design	2
DPT 4247	Human Growth and Development	3
DPT 4276	Documentation	1
DPT 4290	Skills Practicum	1
DPT 5132	Pharmacology	1
DPT 5133	Lab Studies & Imaging	2
DPT 5261	Musculoskeletal Conditions I	2
ANAT 4000	Human Gross Anatomy	6
ANAT 4300	AHP Neurosciences	5
Total Credits		51

Physical Therapy Requirements (for DPT)

Code	Title	Credits
DPT 5115	Professional Development I	1
DPT 5123	Clinical Gait	2
DPT 5134	Multi System Management	3
DPT 5135	Cardiopulmonary Conditions	3
DPT 5137	Aspects of Nutrition in PT	2
DPT 5142	Evidence Based Practice	2
DPT 5149	Applied Neuroscience	2
DPT 5162	Musculoskeletal Conditions II	3
DPT 5218	Effective Communication and Teaching	3
DPT 5250	Neuropathology	2
DPT 5251	Neurological Conditions I	4
DPT 5263	Musculoskeletal Conditions III	4
DPT 5271	Patient Management I	3
DPT 5291	Clinical Rotation IA	2
DPT 6072	Patient Management II	1

DPT 6077	Department Administration	2
DPT 6091	Clinical Rotation IB	2
DPT 6092	Clinical Rotation 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 & Mgmt	2
DPT 6192	Clinical Rotation IIB	2
DPT 6217	Professional Development III	1
DPT 6243	Applied Evidence-Based Clinical Practice	1
DPT 6293	Clinical Rotation III	4
DPT 6294	Clinical Rotation IV	3
Total Credits		69

Continuation Standards

For a complete list of continuation standards, see the Program in Physical Therapy Student Handbook located on the program web page.

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	Principles of Biology I and Principles of Biology I Laboratory	4
CHEM 1080	Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture	3
CHEM 1085	Principles of Chemistry 1 Lab	1
DPT 1111	Student Development I	1
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies Of Rhetoric and Research	3
IPE 1100	Introduction to Interprofessional Health Care	1
XXXX 1010	Modern Foreign Language	3
Credits		16
Spring		
CHEM 1480 & CHEM 1485 or CHEM 1120 and CHEM 1125	Principles of Chemistry 2 Lecture or General Chemistry 2 and General Chemistry 2 Laboratory	4
DPT 1212	Student Development II	1
MATH 1400	Pre-Calculus	3

PHIL 1050	Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality	3
THEO 1000	Theological Foundations	3
XXXX 1020	Modern Foreign Language	3
Credits		17

Year Two

Fall

DPT 2113	Student Development III	1
PPY 2540	Human Physiology	4
PHYS 1220 or PHYS 1310 and PHYS 1320	General Physics I or Physics I and Physics I Laboratory	4
IPE 4200	Applied Decision-Making in Interprofessional Practice	3
PHIL 2050	Ethics	3
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
Credits		18

Spring

ANAT 1000	Basic Human Anatomy	3
DPT 2214	Student Development IV	1
PHYS 1240 or PHYS 1330 and PHYS 1340	General Physics II or Physics II and Physics II Laboratory	4
IPE 3500	Health Care Systems and Health Promotion	3
PSY 4390	Abnormal Psychology	3
XXXX	Elective ¹	3
Credits		17

Year Three

Fall

Participation in Study Abroad Optional		
ENGL 2000-3900	Literature Elective	3
HIST XXXX	History Elective	3
THEO XXXX	Theology Elective	3
XXXX	Fine Arts Elective	3
XXXX	Elective ¹	3
XXXX	Elective ¹	3
Credits		18

Spring

DPT 3230	Exercise Physiology	3
IPE 4900	Interprofessional Community Practicum	2
STAT 1100 or OPM 2070 or MATH 1300	Introduction to Statistics or Introduction to Business Statistics or Elementary Statistics with Computers	3
XXXX	Elective ¹	3
XXXX	Elective ¹	3
XXXX	Elective ¹	3
Credits		17

Summer

ANAT 4000	Human Gross Anatomy	6
DPT 4021	Kinesiology I	2
Credits		8

Year Four**Fall**

DPT 4122	Kinesiology II	3
DPT 4125	Therapeutic Modalities	3
DPT 4127	Basic Examination	3
DPT 4131	Survey of Disease	3
DPT 4146	Developmental Biology	3
DPT 5132	Pharmacology	1
DPT 5133	Lab Studies & Imaging	2
Credits		18

Spring

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science - PT awarded upon completion of Semester Eight

ANAT 4300	AHP Neurosciences	5
DPT 4226	Therapeutic Exercise	2
DPT 4228	Basic Procedures	2
DPT 4241	Clinical Research and Design	2
DPT 4247	Human Growth and Development	3
DPT 4276	Documentation	1
DPT 4290	Skills Practicum	1
DPT 5261	Musculoskeletal Conditions I	2
Credits		18

Year Five**Fall**

DPT 5115	Professional Development I	1
DPT 5123	Clinical Gait	2
DPT 5134	Multi System Management	3
DPT 5135	Cardiopulmonary Conditions	3
DPT 5137	Aspects of Nutrition in PT	2
DPT 5142	Evidence Based Practice	2
DPT 5149	Applied Neuroscience	2
DPT 5162	Musculoskeletal Conditions II	3
Credits		18

Spring

DPT 5218	Effective Communication and Teaching	3
DPT 5250	Neuropathology	2
DPT 5251	Neurological Conditions I	4
DPT 5263	Musculoskeletal Conditions III	4
DPT 5271	Patient Management I	3
DPT 5291	Clinical Rotation 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 Rotation IB	2
DPT 6092	Clinical Rotation IIA	2
Credits		7

Year Six**Fall**

DPT 6116	Professional Development II	2
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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 & Mgmt	2
DPT 618X	Physical Therapy Elective (optional)	1
DPT 6192	Clinical Rotation IIB	2
Credits		18

Spring

Doctor of Physical Therapy awarded upon completion of Semester 12

DPT 6217	Professional Development III (Online course taken during clinical experiences)	1
DPT 6243	Applied Evidence-Based Clinical Practice (Online course taken during clinical experiences)	1
DPT 6293	Clinical Rotation III	4
DPT 6294	Clinical Rotation IV	3
Credits		9
Total Credits		217

¹ 18 Elective Credits are required that may be used to complete a minor by the end of the junior year

Program Notes

The curriculum is divided into the pre-professional (freshman – junior years; semesters 1-6) and the professional phase (senior year – second post-baccalaureate year; summer semesters 1 and 2; semesters 7-12). Progression to the professional phase of the program provides a seamless entry from foundational coursework to practical labs and clinical experiences.

Contact Us

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

For additional admission questions please contact:

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