PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Saint Louis University’s program in physical therapy offers an early-assurance (freshman-entry) Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) six-year curriculum, including two summers. Students receive a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science - Physical Therapy (B.S.E.S.-P.T.) after completion of the first four years, and the D.P.T. degree after successful completion of the additional two post-baccalaureate years. As space allows, students may enter the program as transfer students or as post-baccalaureate students.

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 the supervision of other health care practitioners. In addition to patient care, physical therapists may also serve as administrators, teachers, researchers and consultants.

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 the need for reapplying or taking 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 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

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, 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 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

High school seniors applying for admission are reviewed on an individual basis. The best-qualified students are selected from the application pool with a required minimum high school GPA of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale, with an emphasis on math and science. Standardized test scores are now optional. When evaluating whether to apply test-optional or with a test score, applicants should note that students accepted in previous years had an average composite 29 ACT or an average total 1330 SAT.

The following high school courses are required for admission:
• One year of biology; 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

The deadline for completed program in physical therapy applications and financial aid consideration for all freshmen 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).

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

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


Complaint Policy and Instructions (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

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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)

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#### Physical Therapy Requirements (for D.P.T.)

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Total Credits: 66

**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.

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<td>Therapeutic Modalities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
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DPT 4127 Basic Examination 3
DPT 4131 Survey of Disease 3
DPT 5132 Pharmacology 1
DPT 5133 Lab Studies & Imaging 2

Credits 15

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 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 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 4
DPT 6294 Clinical Experience IV 3

Credits 7

Total Credits 210

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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Recruitment Specialist
314-977-2570
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