

physical therapy program

Small Class Size

Evidence-Based Practice

Participation in Research

Post DPT/Ph.D. Option

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program, in the Department of Exercise Science, offers a unique curriculum to a limited number of students with opportunities to practice physical therapy and to conduct research and scholarly activities related to the profession. Class size is small and students study in a multidisciplinary setting with others who are enrolled in a variety of health-related fields. The program produces graduates who possess both the skills necessary to be reflective practitioners and to have the ability to conduct and interpret clinical research and scholarly activities necessary for the advancement of physical therapy as an evidence-based profession.

Degree offered: DPT

Web site <http://www.sph.sc.edu/dpt>



The Physical Therapy Program at the University of South Carolina offers students a unique opportunity to develop skills in an optimal learning environment. Small class size allows students to receive individualized instruction and to closely interact with instructors. Students complete an independent, clinically based research project and learn the value of evidence-based practice.

Students who earn the DPT at the University of South Carolina have the option of applying for, and if accepted, enrolling in an accelerated Ph.D. degree in one of three areas: Motor Rehabilitation, Applied Physiology or Health Aspects of Physical Activity.

Program Mission

The Arnold School of Public Health is committed to offering one of the best physical therapy programs in the country. Students are prepared with the skills necessary to advance the practice of physical therapy as an evidence-based profession. As one of the smallest programs in the country, students are provided with an ideal faculty/student mentoring situation. The program develops professionals who believe the practice of physical therapy requires the application of existing knowledge, generation of new knowledge and evidence-based practice.

Program Goals

The expected outcomes of the DPT Program are to produce graduates who can:

- effectively practice physical therapy in a variety of clinical settings;
- read and interpret research published in profession journals and apply these findings to clinical practice;
- evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitative techniques and select those techniques that better meet the needs of a patient;
- and contribute to the profession's body of knowledge by actively conducting, contributing and interpreting professional scholarship.

Admission Requirements

Applications for admission to the Physical Therapy Program are submitted electronically and can be reached from a link on the program's home page: <http://www.sph.sc.edu/dpt>. Both overall GPA and GPA for prerequisite courses are considered in the admissions decision. In addition, the program requires GRE scores (verbal and quantitative), two letters of reference from individuals familiar with the applicant's clinical and/or academic skills, and a writing sample. Although admissions interviews are not required, the faculty or the applicant may request an interview if desired.

Four items must be received by the Graduate School before an application is considered complete:

- a completed Graduate School application to the DPT Program and submitted application fee;
- two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic performance or clinical skills;
- official transcripts from all previous university work;
- and official GRE scores.

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The program's admissions process insures that admitted students have the background to succeed. Admission to the Physical Therapy Program requires that students have obtained a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education. All students enrolled in the program are required to have successfully completed selected prerequisite course work including:

Prerequisite	Credit hours
Physics	8*
Statistics	3
Chemistry	8*
Biology	8*
Anatomy and Physiology	8*

**Must include lab*

Students are encouraged to apply to the program early in the fall proceeding the year in which they wish to attend. November 1 is the deadline for early admissions. Students are admitted to the program on a rolling basis. Once all seats for the upcoming class have been filled, admissions are closed for that year.

Program of Study

The curriculum of the Physical Therapy Program consists of 116 credit hours of coursework. Courses are sequenced and integrated to build knowledge and clinical skills across the three and one-half years of study. Foundation knowledge is presented prior to clinically relevant content, and courses requiring the synthesis of material are presented later in the curriculum. Clinical experiences are similarly sequenced from the application of basic knowledge to the synthesis of clinical skills. The program of study represents a total of 3,053 contact hours, including 1,645 hours of instruction and 1,408 hours of clinical experience (four clinical rotations).

Tuition and Financial Aid

Students can obtain information regarding program tuition from the Office of the Bursar at <http://www.sc.edu/bursar>. Non-resident students wishing to receive information on obtaining resident status are directed to the web site: <http://www.sc.edu/bursar/residency.html>.

Non-resident students of high academic caliber may be eligible for a scholarship to assist them in meeting the cost of tuition. Please contact the Physical Therapy office for additional information. Information regarding financial aid may be obtained from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at <http://www.sc.edu/financialaid>.

USC in Focus

For more than 200 years, USC has distinguished itself as a center of learning with a tradition of leadership and service in higher education. USC has a diverse and talented student population, a dedicated and successful faculty, a world-renowned library, outstanding research programs, and a campus that has been named one of the most beautiful in America.

The University offers more than 350 degree programs. Many programs are nationally and internationally ranked. If you want to learn more about the University of South Carolina, visit the Web site at www.sc.edu.

Information about the city of Columbia can be found at www.columbiasc.net or www.columbiacvb.com.



Additional Information

For additional information regarding the DPT Program at the University of South Carolina or to apply to the Program, visit our web site. You may contact us at: <http://www.sph.sc.edu/dpt>, e-mail martha@sc.edu, or phone, 803-777-5521.

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