Q. How do I find out what graduate programs you offer?

We provide detailed information about each of the degrees we offer on our website: www.sph.sc.edu/exsc. Further information is available by contacting Latoya Townes at ljfrazi@mailbox.sc.edu or by calling 803-777-2185.

Q. What graduate degrees are offered by the Department of Exercise Science?

The Department of Exercise Science offers 4 degrees:

1. Master of Science,
2. Master of Public Health,
3. Doctorate of Physical Therapy, and
4. Doctorate of Philosophy.

Each degree has unique and specific prerequisite requirements, curriculum and emphasis.

Q. I see the Exercise Science Department is split into separate divisions. How does this work?

Due to the diverse nature of our department, the Department of Exercise Science Master of Science and Doctoral degree programs are subdivided into 3 divisions: Applied Physiology, Health Aspects of Physical Activity, and Rehabilitation Sciences. Each division has a unique emphasis, and the requirements for admission and the required course work vary by division.

Q. Do all of the students take the same classes?

No. Because our department has a broad range of interests, we try to tailor the curriculum to meet the student’s interests and needs. At the Master’s degree level, each division has a set of required courses with a few elective courses to choose from.

The Ph.D. program is intended to train the student to conduct high quality research as well as enhance critical thinking skills and knowledge. At this level, each division will require specific core courses, but the remaining course work should be selected in concordance with the student’s advisor and reflect the student’s research interests.

The DPT program is a clinical degree intended to prepare students for Physical Therapy practice and give them the knowledge base required to pass the licensing board exams. Information about the DPT program of study can be found here: http://www.sph.sc.edu/exsc/divisions.htm.
Q. How do I apply to the Exercise Science program?

The Department of Exercise Science is in the School of Public Health, and several departments within the School of Public Health have a special application process that is exclusive to this School: [http://www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents/admissions.htm](http://www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents/admissions.htm). The Department of Exercise Science uses the [Graduate School](http://www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents/admissions.htm) process for the Master of Science and all Doctoral applications including the DPT program. However, the Master of Public Health in Physical Activity and Public Health uses [www.sophas.org](http://www.sophas.org) for the application process.

Q. How many slots are there available for admissions?

There is no set limit on how many applicants we accept in a given semester for PhD and Master’s degree programs. We accept as many applicants as are qualified. The DPT program accepts 18 students a year.

Q. Are there any prerequisite courses required before entering the graduate program?

Yes, the department has established specific prerequisites for each degree. These requirements help to ensure that admitted students have the background to succeed.

The Master of Science degree applicants seeking admission into the Applied Physiology division should have successfully completed a baccalaureate degree and the following coursework before entering our program: Biology I and II with Laboratory, Chemistry I and II with Laboratory, Anatomy & Physiology I and II with Laboratory and Exercise Physiology (preferable).

Ph.D. applicants should have completed the equivalent of a Master’s degree in Exercise Science before entering our program. See our Master’s degree curriculum as an example.

The DPT degree requires a baccalaureate degree plus physics, statistics, chemistry, biology, anatomy, and physiology.

Q. What entrance exam(s) are accepted for admission?

The GRE is required. In addition, for international students, the TOEFL is required if English is not your first language. No other exams are accepted in lieu of the GRE.

Q. Does the Department offer Graduate Assistantships to students? If yes, how do I apply and how many GA slots are there?

Yes, the Department offers Graduate Assistantships on a competitive basis each year. Applicants must select this option during the application process. Only after an applicant has been accepted into the graduate program will he/she be considered for a Graduate Assistantship. The number of assistantships available varies year to year, depending on departmental needs.
**Q. What kinds of assistantships are offered by the department?**
The Exercise Science Department hires qualified students to assist with teaching labs, administering programs, and assisting with faculty research. Applicants who wish to be considered for a Graduate Assistantship must apply to the program no later than February 15th.

**Q. I do not have a B.S. degree in Exercise Science; can I still apply to the program?**
We accept applicants from a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate majors; however, applicants still need to meet prerequisite requirements.

**Q. How does my GRE score affect admittance to the graduate program?**
The Master’s programs require that you score at least 150 on the Verbal portion and 150 on the Quantitative portion of the GRE (~50th percentile). Special circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The Ph.D. program requires that you score above the 50th percentile on the Verbal and Quantitative portions of the GRE. Special circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The DPT program recommends a minimum score of 150 on the Verbal and 150 on the Quantitative, and at least a 3.5 on the writing portions of the GRE.

**Q. What are the admissions deadlines?**
Students can enter the Master’s and Ph.D. programs in the Fall semester or in the Spring semester. The Fall admission deadline is June 1 (February 15, if you are seeking a graduate assistantship) and the Spring deadline is November 15.

The DPT program only conducts Fall admission. The application deadline is November 1.

**Q. What is the status of my application?**
Once you’ve submitted your application, you may return at any time to the Graduate School application portal and click on “Manage applications” to review the status of your application using the login information you created at the beginning of the process. You can also use this portal to see what supporting documents have not been received yet.

**Q. How long will I have to wait to hear whether I am accepted?**
Decisions regarding admissions to a graduate program in the Exercise Science Department are made during the 4 to 6 week period following the application deadline.

*Completed* applications received before December 1st will receive a response within 3 weeks.

**Q. Can I get any help to pay for graduate school?**
Yes. The two types of financial aid used by most graduate students are Assistantships and
Fellowships. Graduate Assistantships are offered on a limited basis to those who qualify. You also can get information about Fellowships from The Graduate School Fellowships and Awards page. For federal aid information, you should contact the University of South Carolina’s Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Q. How long does it take to complete the program?

The amount of time it takes to complete our program varies from student to student. Generally, our Master’s program is 39 hours and can be completed in 2 to 2 ½ years. Most students attend summer classes to help them finish on a timely basis.

The Ph.D. program requires 30 hours beyond a Master’s degree or 60 hours beyond a baccalaureate degree. There are several milestones related to qualifying exams, comprehensive exams and completion of a dissertation. Generally, students complete the PhD. Program within 4 to 5 years.

The DPT program is a clinical program that students attend year round. Students take approximately 3 1/3 years to complete this program.