

**Department of Exercise Science
Graduate Program
Frequently Asked Questions:**

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

We provide detailed information about each of these degrees on our home page www.sph.sc.edu/exsc. Further information is available by contacting Dr. Ray Thompson at rwthomps@gwm.sc.edu or by calling 803-777-0820.

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

The Department of Exercise Science offers 3 degrees; a Master's of Science, a Doctorate of Physical Therapy, and a Doctorate of Philosophy. Each degree has specific requirements at registration, for course work, and

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 is subdivided into 3 divisions; Applied Physiology, Health Aspects of Physical Activity, and Physical Therapy and Motor Control. Each division has a unique emphasis, and the requirements for admission and the required course work will 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 give them the knowledge base required to pass the licensing board exams. Though a few elective courses are offered, the DPT students spend much of their time preparing for clinical practice and in practicums working in clinical settings.

Q. How do I get a graduate school application?

The preferred way for you to apply is online at www.gradschool.sc.edu/futurestudents/OnlineApplication.html, where you also can look at The Graduate Bulletin. US residents can get a paper application by writing, calling, or emailing the Graduate School at:

Email: gradapp@sc.edu
The Graduate School Phone: (803) 777-4243
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

Please note that The Department of Exercise Science is in the School of Public Health, and that several departments within the School of Public Health have a special application process that is unique to this School. However, the Department of Exercise Science uses the [Graduate School](#) process for all Master's and Doctoral applications including the DPT program.

Q. How many slots are there available for admissions?

There is no set limit on how many applicants we accept in a given semester. We accept as many students as are qualified.

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.

Master's degree applicants should have successfully completed a baccalaureate degree and the following course work 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. Does the Department offer Graduate Assistantships to students? If yes, how do I apply and how many GA slots are their?

Yes, the Department does offer Graduate Assistantships to select students each year. Students must select this option during the application process. Only after a student has been accepted into the graduate program will a student be considered for a Graduate Assistantship. The number of assistantships available varies year to year, depending on the departments need.

Q. What kinds of assistantships are offered by the department?

The Exercise Science Department hires qualified students to assist with teaching labs, administer programs and assist 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 students from a wide variety of backgrounds, however we do recommend that students complete the prerequisite courses listed above.

Q. My GRE scores are not high; can I still be admitted to the program?

The Master's program requires that you score at least 450 on the Verbal portion and 450 on the Quantitative portion of the GRE. Special circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The Ph.D. program requires a minimum 1,000 cumulative score on the Verbal and Quantitative portions of the GRE. Special circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The DPT program requires a minimum 1,000 cumulative score on the Verbal and quantitative 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 1.

The application deadline for the DPT program is November 1.

Q. What is the status of my application?

If you have applied online (the preferred way to apply), you can check at the same web site where you applied by using the application ID number and PIN number that were given to you when you submitted your application. If you submitted a paper application, you can call the graduate director of the program to which you have applied, or you can call The Graduate School at 803-777-4243 or email us at gradapp@sc.edu.

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.

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. You also may be able to obtain a loan. For information, you should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, or write to:

Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships
1714 College St.
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

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, students complete our Master's program within 2 ½ years. Most students do attend summer classes to help them finish on a timely basis.

The Ph.D. program requires more course work and includes a dissertation. Generally, students complete the Ph.D. Program within 4 to 5 years.

The DPT program is clinical program that students attend year round. Students take approximately 3½ years to complete this program.