

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DEGREE PROGRAM

Physical therapists (PTs) are healthcare professionals who diagnose and treat individuals of all ages, from newborns to the very oldest, who have medical problems or other health-related conditions, illnesses, or injuries that limits their abilities to move and perform functional activities as well as they would like in their daily lives. Physical therapists examine each individual and develop a plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. In addition, PTs work with individuals to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness and wellness-oriented programs for healthier and more active lifestyles.

Physical therapists practice in hospitals, outpatient clinics, and private offices that have specially equipped facilities. These jobs can be physically demanding, because therapists may have to stoop, kneel, crouch, lift, and stand for long periods. In addition, PTs move heavy equipment and lift patients or help them turn, stand, or walk. In 2008, most full-time physical therapists worked a 40-hour week; some worked evenings and weekends to fit their patients' schedules.



Employment of physical therapists is expected to grow by 30 percent from 2008 to 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations. Changes to restrictions on reimbursement for physical therapy services by third-party payers will increase patient access to services and, thus, increase demand. The increasing elderly population will drive growth in the demand for physical therapy services. The elderly population is particularly vulnerable to chronic and debilitating conditions that require therapeutic services. Also, the baby-boom generation is entering the prime age for heart attacks and strokes, increasing the demand for cardiac and physical rehabilitation. Medical and technological developments will

permit a greater percentage of trauma victims and newborns with birth defects to survive, creating additional demand for rehabilitative care.

Median annual wages of physical therapists were \$76,310 in May 2010. The middle 50 percent earned between \$64,230 and 90,350. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$53,620, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$107,920.

DPT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program (DPT) begins in the fall semester and consists of 100 semester credit hours of professional-level courses taken over 7 semesters (30 months). The program includes 30 weeks of full-time clinical affiliations and a 4-week specialty clinical internship. Graduates are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination, given by The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, and the Jurisprudence Exam, given by the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. A license to practice physical therapy in Texas is contingent on successful completion of these examinations. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE), 1111 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS & PREREQUISITES

The [Texas Common Application](#) is required for admission. Applications for fall entry are accepted between August 15 and November 1. A completed application, the application fee, official transcripts from each college or university attended, test scores, and other supporting documents must be submitted to the Application Center by the deadline of November 1.

A baccalaureate degree is not required for admission. Applicants without a baccalaureate degree must complete at least 90 semester credit hours of the Texas Core Curriculum, program prerequisites, and electives. At least 30 of these credit hours must be from a regionally accredited four-year university. In addition, students without a baccalaureate degree must have a minimum of 6 of these credit hours of junior or senior level courses in a subject area (e.g., biology, chemistry, history).

Additional application and admission requirements include:

- Completion of all program prerequisites with an overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). **Note that program prerequisites can be in progress at the time of application but must be completed by the end of the spring term prior to enrollment.**
- Science/math GPA of at least 3.0
- Completion of a medical terminology course
- Knowledge and understanding of physical therapy gained through a minimum of 50 hours observation, volunteering, or employment in a physical therapy setting.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores; used only for program development purposes, but not for making admissions decisions

Program Prerequisites

- General Biology I & II with labs (for science majors), 8 hrs.^a
- Human Anatomy with lab (for science majors), 4 hrs.^b
- Human Physiology with lab (for science majors), 4 hrs.^b
- General Chemistry I & II with labs (for science majors), 8 hrs.
- General Physics I & II with labs (for science majors), 8 hrs.
- General Psychology, 3 hours
- Developmental Psychology (Lifespan), 3 hours
- General Sociology, 3 hours
- Speech, 3 hours
- Statistics (Math or Psychology based), 3 hours

^aBotany, ecology, or environment exclusively are NOT acceptable

^bSeparate Human Anatomy and Human Physiology are recommended, but combined A&P I and II courses totaling 8 credit hours is acceptable. An additional upper-level Human Physiology course is recommended if combined A&P is taken.



DPT PROGRAM CURRICULUM

First Year	Credit Hours
Fall Semester	
PHYT 7001 - Clinical Foundations I	4.0
PHYT 7005 - Therapeutic Exercise Science	4.0
PHYT 7009 - Neuroscience I	3.0
PHYT 7014 - Systematic Reasoning and Scientific Investigation I	3.0
PHYT 7017 - Cells, Systems, and Disease	3.0
PHYT 8022 - Professional Issues and Clinical Decision Making I	2.0
Semester Total	19.0
Spring Semester	
CSBL 7014 - Anatomy I	5.0
PHYT 7011 - Clinical Foundations II	4.0
PHYT 7012 - Movement Science I	4.0
PHYT 7019 - Neuroscience II	3.0
PHYT 8122 - Professional Issues & Clinical Decision Making II	2.0
Semester Total	18.0
Second Year	
Fall Semester	
PHYT 7018 - Pharmacological Principles in Physical Therapy	2.0
PHYT 8002 - Management of the Patient with Musculoskeletal Dysfunction I	5.0
PHYT 8007 - Orthotics in Rehabilitation	1.5
PHYT 8011 - Electrophysical Agents in Rehabilitation	3.0
PHYT 8108 - Management of the Patient with Neuromuscular Dysfunction I	5.0
PHYT 8130 - Movement Science II	2.0
Semester Total	18.5

Spring Semester	
PHYT 8012 - Prosthetics in Rehabilitation	1.5
PHYT 8013 - Management of the Patient with Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction	3.0
PHYT 8114 - Management of the Patient with Musculoskeletal Dysfunction II	5.0
PHYT 8116 - Management of the Patient with Neuromuscular Dysfunction II	5.0
PHYT 8222 - Professional Issues & Clinical Decision Making III	1.0
Semester Total	15.5
Summer Semester	
PHYT 7021 - Clinical Experience I	5.0
Semester Total	5.0
Third Year	
Fall Semester	
PHYT 8021 - Clinical Experience II	5.0
PHYT 8121 - Clinical Experience III	5.0
Semester Total	10.0
Spring Semester	
CSBL 8010 - Anatomy II	2.0
PHYT 8075 - Human Development across the Lifespan	3.0
PHYT 8102 - Systematic Reasoning and Scientific Investigation II	2.0
PHYT 8106 - Principles of Administration in Physical Therapy	2.0
PHYT 8112 - Management of the Complex Patient	3.0
PHYT 8221 - Clinical Internship	2.0
Semester Total	14.0
Curriculum Total	100.0

PROGRAM COSTS

Tuition and required fees for the program are detailed in the *HSC Catalog*. All students are required to purchase a laptop computer chosen by the program from the Health Science Center computer store upon matriculation. In addition to the required tuition and fees of approximately \$27,625, costs for other expenses such as textbooks, manuals, equipment, uniforms or scrubs, examination fees, and supplies are approximately \$6,038. There is no on-campus housing at the HSC and program expenses do not reflect day-to-day living expenses. Travel and living expenses for local and out-of-town clinical experiences are not included in this estimate.

CONTACT INFORMATION

School of Health Professions Welcome Center

E-mail: SHPWelcome@uthscsa.edu

Phone: 210-567-8744 or toll free 1-866-802-6288

<http://SHPWelcome.uthscsa.edu>

Department of Physical Therapy

(210) 567-8750

<http://www.uthscsa.edu/shp/pt/>

Office of Student Services Application Center

E-mail: AppCenter@uthscsa.edu

Phone: 210-567-2633

http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects_application_center.aspx

For additional information, see the policies and procedures in the School of Health Professions section of the *HSC Catalog* at http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/GI_catalog.aspx