

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT)

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) is a professional graduate program, which prepares individuals for licensure and entry into the physical therapy profession. As a graduate program, it includes theoretical, clinical practice, and research courses and experiences to prepare graduates to function in a variety of settings in physical therapy.

Physical therapy is concerned with the prevention and treatment of acute and chronic conditions that cause disorders of movement. In order to provide appropriate treatment, physical therapists evaluate the musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, cardiopulmonary and associated systems, calling on the basic sciences and behavioral sciences in the interpretation of this evaluation. Patient exercise programs are then developed to resolve movement dysfunctions. Physical therapists work in concert with all members of the health care team through a variety of referral relationships.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy at Oakland University is designed to prepare clinicians with the evaluation and examination skills necessary to make physical therapy differential diagnoses of movement-related impairments affecting the neuromusculoskeletal system. In addition, this degree will prepare students to provide effective care in the areas of prevention, screening, rehabilitation and community reintegration for their clients. Finally, graduates will be able to interpret and conduct research related to physical therapy.

ADMISSION

It is recommended that prospective DPT students meet with an academic adviser early to determine the prerequisite courses for upper-level classes such as anatomy, exercise physiology, physiology, psychology, and other baccalaureate degree requirements. Applicants must be able to complete their baccalaureate degree and all prerequisite courses prior to the start of the program. An overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above, an overall science and math GPA of 2.7 and an overall prerequisite GPA of 3.0 are required. A minimum grade of a C must be earned in all program prerequisite courses. Foreign-educated students must meet all University requirements for proficiency in English.

Additional application requirements and recommendations include:

1. Completion of an application through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) found at ptcas.org.
2. Official transcripts from all universities attended.
3. Two letters of recommendation, one from a physical therapist required.
4. Completion of the Graduate Records Examination (GRE). The **PTCAS OU GRE** code is **0650**.
5. Report having read the Essential Functions of Physical Therapy, the minimum physical, cognitive and behavioral abilities required for students to successfully complete the DPT program and to practice safely once student graduates. Essential functions guidelines can be found on the OU Doctor of Physical Therapy program web page.
6. Observation of physical therapists in different settings is considered and highly recommended. Documentation of hours by a physical therapist is not required and there is no minimum number of required observation hours.

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY CURRICULUM

YEAR I

Fall

PT 6511 Professional Issues I (2 credits)
PT 6615 Gross Human Anatomy for Physical Therapy (4 credits)
CDS 5010 Human Pathology (4 credits)
PT 6519 Clinical Medicine (4 credits)
PT 6517 Functional Anatomy (4 credits)
Total Credits/Semester: 18

Winter

PT 6751 Clinical Examination and Evaluation I (4 credits)
PT 6756 Patient Management (3 credits)
PT 6816 Neuroanatomy for Physical Therapy (4 credits)
PT 6881 Critical Inquiry I (3 credits)
PT 6740 Movement Science I – Biomechanics (3 credits)
Total Credits/Semester: 17

Summer (May–June)

PT 7241 Clinical Neuroscience (3 credits)
PT 7882 Critical Inquiry II (3 credits)
PT 7850 Imaging for Physical Therapists (1 credit)
Total Credits/Semester: 7

YEAR II

Fall

PT 7522 Clinical Examination & Evaluation II (3 credits)
PT 7520 Foundations of Therapeutic Exercise Interventions (3 credits)
PT 7510 Modalities & Electrotherapeutic Interventions (4 credits)
PT 7271 Lifespan Development I (4 credits)
PT 7420 Neurological Examination and Evaluation (2 credits)
PT 7151 Physical Therapy Clinical Education Experience I (3 credits)
Total Credits/Semester: 19

Winter

PT 7532 Advanced Therapeutic Exercise Interventions (3 credits)
PT 7611 Foundations of Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Interventions (3 credits)
PT 7340 Psychosocial Aspects of Patient Management (3 credits)
PT 7421 Neuromuscular Interventions I (4 credits)
PT 7550 Cardiopulmonary Interventions (3 credits)
Total Credits/Semester: 16

Summer (May–June)

PT 7140 Pharmacology for Physical Therapists (2 credits)
PT 7652 Physical Therapy Clinical Education Experience II (4 credits)
Total Credits/Semester 6

YEAR III

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Oakland University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) 1111 North Fairfax Street | Alexandria, Virginia 22314 | (703) 706-3245, accreditation@apta.org, capteonline.org
The program is accredited through 2031.

Fall

PT 8350 Educational Theory and Practice (3 credits)
PT 8622 Advanced Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Interventions (3 credits)
PT 8355 Health Promotion and Wellness in Physical Therapy (4 credits)
PT 8282 Lifespan Development II (2 credits)
PT 8510 Differential Diagnosis: Screening for Referral (4 credits)
PT 8610 Arthrology (1 credit)
Total Credits/Semester: 17

Winter

PT 8280 Pediatric Examination and Interventions (4 credits)
PT 8300 Administration and Practice Management (3 credits)
PT 8432 Neuromuscular Interventions II (4 credits)
PT 8322 Professional Issues II (3 credits)
PT 8550 Integumentary Diagnosis and Interventions (2 credits)
Total Credits/Semester: 16

PT Interns

Summer

PT 8600 Prosthetic and Orthotic Interventions (2 credits)
PT 8953 Physical Therapy Internship III (4 credits)
Total Credits/Semester: 6

Fall

PT 8954 Physical Therapy Internship IV (4 credits)
PT 8700 Capstone Examination in Physical Therapy (1 credit)
PT 8960 DPT Research Practicum (3 credits)
Total Credits/Semester: 8

TOTAL CREDITS 130*

DPT course requirements and sequence of courses are subject to change.

*Students may graduate from the DPT program with fewer than 130 credits if they have completed an approved equivalent human pathology course prior to entry into the professional program. This is a tentative curriculum that may change.

PROFESSION

Physical therapy is an integral part of the healthcare system. As defined in the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice published in 2001 by the American Physical Therapy Association, "Physical therapists provide services to patients/clients who have impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease or other causes. They interact and practice in collaboration with a variety of professionals; provide prevention and wellness services, including screening and health promotion; and they consult, educate, engage in critical inquiry and administrate." Evaluation, prevention and treatment of movement disorders require specific knowledge of basic and applied medical science. Such knowledge and understanding are built on a foundation of basic sciences such as biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, anatomy, physiology, kinesiology and pathology. Of equal importance is a background in behavioral sciences, for this provides basic knowledge in the understanding and development of interpersonal relationships with patients, families and other health professionals.

PRACTICE

Physical therapists are employed in a variety of settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, public schools, private offices, rehabilitation centers, community health centers, research centers, industry, home health care, athletic programs and physical therapy educational programs.

PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM MISSION

In concert with the University mission of instruction, research, scholarship, public service and student development, it is the mission of the Physical Therapy Program to bring high quality, relevant and affordable professional education in physical therapy to the residents of Michigan, to conduct and promote scholarly activity to advance the profession and to provide responsive and effective service.

PROGRAM COURSE PREREQUISITES

Introductory Biology: One lab is required in the biological sciences and it may be taken in any of the following prerequisite courses: biology, human anatomy or physiology.

Anatomy: One course is required. Combined human anatomy and physiology course accepted however must take two semesters or be a minimum of 6 credits

Physiology: One course is required. Combined human anatomy and physiology course accepted however must take two semesters or be a minimum of 6 credits

Chemistry I and II: Two-course sequence is required; inorganic, organic or Biochemistry courses accepted; lab is required for one semester only.

Physics I and II: Two-course sequence is required. Lab is required for one semester only.

Exercise Physiology: One course is required.

Introductory Statistics: One course is required.

Introductory Psychology: One course is required.

Developmental Psychology: One course is required. Child or lifespan psychology courses may be used to fulfill this prerequisite.

Math: One course is required. One semester of precalculus, one semester of college algebra or one semester of analytical trigonometry. AP credit or placement into calculus is accepted. (**this requirement has been changed as of December 2023 and begins in the 2024 admission review cycle/ class matriculating i the 2025-2026 academic year*)

Students may take a human pathology course prior to entry into the DPT program. Once enrolled in the DPT program, the student may request that the DPT program pathology course be waived. The course may be waived with approval from the program director if the course is determined to be equivalent to the DPT program human pathology course. The availability of waivers, depending on DPT program curricular revisions, is subject to change. Application evaluation will not be affected by the completion of this course.

IMPORTANT APPLICATION AND ADMISSION INFORMATION

Oakland University will be using a rolling admissions process. All applications must be completed and e-submitted on PTCAS by October 15th unless that day falls on a weekend or federal holiday, in which case it is the following business day. Verified applications will be reviewed by the admissions committee as they are received. However, if an applicant submits a fully completed application to PTCAS by August 15th (unless that day falls on a weekend or federal holiday, in which case it is the following business day) and meets the following criteria, they will receive an early assurance decision response by September 20th.

- Overall GPA: at least 3.5
- S/M GPA: at least 3.4
- Verbal GRE: 148 or greater
- Quantitative GRE: 148 or greater

All other applicants who meet the eligibility requirements for the program will receive a decision response no later than December 10th.

Late applications will not be reviewed. The DPT program accepts 36 students each year and the program begins in the fall.

Grade point averages, as calculated by PTCAS, that are considered in the admissions process include the overall GPA, the math/science GPA and the prerequisite GPA. Applicants will be considered for admission if they will be completing their baccalaureate degree and all prerequisite courses prior to the start of the program. **The average overall GPA for the class graduating in 2026 was 3.76, the average verbal GRE score was 150 and the average GRE quantitative score was 151. Applicants looking for an early assurance decision should take the GRE before July 31, 2024, and all others should take the exam before the end of September 2024,** so that test scores are received by the application deadlines.

The PTCAS OU GRE code is **0650**.

Questions regarding admissions should be directed to dptadmissions@oakland.edu.

Curriculum and Outcomes

The entry-level DPT is a three- and one-half-year program with classes during the fall, winter and summer (May-June) semesters of the first two years. The final year is year-round, including two 12-week internship experiences. The DPT curriculum follows a hybrid curriculum model beginning with basic sciences followed by clinical sciences and then by physical therapy sciences organized by systems. Outcomes (three-year averages): 97 percent of admitted students graduate from the program, 100 percent of the graduates passed the licensure exam, 100 percent of the graduates responding to surveys who wish to be employed are employed. State boards of physical therapy determine requirements for licensure and applicants should review the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy at www.fsbpt.org for requirements and eligibility for licensure.

Financial Aid

Information regarding financial aid can be obtained from:

Student Financial Services
North Foundation Hall, Room 120
318 Meadow Brook Road
Rochester, MI 48309
(248) 370-2550
oakland.edu/financialservices

Tuition and books

Based on 2022 tuition rates, the cost of tuition for an in-state student entering the DPT in 2022 was \$ 99,233.50 for the three- and one-half year program. The cost for out-of-state students was \$133,510. Books and other expenses are estimated to cost \$5,500. These costs are subject to change.

Clinical Education

During the course of the program, students must complete four full-time clinical experiences. An approximate breakdown of the associated costs

is listed below. In addition, some clinical sites may require additional checks or screens. The following are subject to change:

Professional attire \$100

Physical Exam and titres \$170

TB test –yearly \$12/yr through OU Graham Health Center

Criminal background check-yearly \$55/yr through Complio

Drug screen –yearly \$25/yr through OU Graham Health Center

Hepatitis B Immunization \$240 for all three shots through OU Graham Health Center

Flu shot –yearly \$32/yr through OU Graham Health Center

Insurance (Health)*-yearly (Student Dependent)

Car, insurance and gasoline (Student Dependent) to clinical sites*

* Students need to provide their own estimate of this expense as prices vary. If the student is placed at a site that requires long-distance travel and housing, extra costs must be budgeted. Send an estimate to University Housing, Hamlin Hall Room 448, Rochester, MI 48309. Call (248) 370-3570 with questions.

ADVISING

Students who are considering applying to the DPT program may contact the academic adviser for the School of Health Sciences to review prerequisite courses and application requirements. Upon acceptance to the program, students are assigned a faculty adviser. Please call (248) 370-2369 to schedule an appointment with the School of Health Sciences Academic Adviser.

Oakland University

Physical Therapy Program

Human Health Building, Room 3168

433 Meadow Brook Road

Rochester, Michigan 48309

(248) 364-8693

oakland.edu/shs/human-movement/physical-therapy-doctorate