

# DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

The doctor of physical therapy program reflects the mission of GW's School of Medicine and Health Sciences, which includes teaching with creativity and dedication; healing with quality and compassion; and discovering with imagination and innovation. This is an entry-level professional program that prepares graduates to examine, evaluate, diagnose, develop plans of care, provide interventions, and assess outcomes for patients with a wide range of musculoskeletal, neuromotor, cardiopulmonary, and integumentary dysfunctions. The program is offered full-time over eight semesters.

Students explore the legal and ethical aspects of patient care as well as issues of communication, patient education, health promotion, health policy, and practice management. The program is committed to the development of generalist practitioners prepared to practice in an evidence-based and ethical manner. Graduates are reflective practitioners who think critically to effectively solve problems; compassionate practitioners who demonstrate excellence in communication and interpersonal skills with respect for individual and cultural differences, and the core values of the profession; and dedicated practitioners who value the tenets of lifelong learning. Small classes enable students to engage in critical thinking activities that facilitate effective clinical decision making and problem solving. Faculty members use innovative teaching strategies and integrate clinical experiences to facilitate learning and retention throughout the curriculum.

This program is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association. Students are eligible to sit for the national licensing examination upon graduation.

Visit the program website (<https://smhs.gwu.edu/bulletin/smhs/graduate-programs/doctoral-physical-therapy/>) for additional program information.

## ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - December 1

The application and all supporting documentation (fees, statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, transcripts, test scores) must be received by the deadline in order for the application to be reviewed.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program uses the online application system PTCAS (Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service). Please go to the PTCAS website: (<https://ptcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>) to begin the application process. The fee for using PTCAS is based on the number of programs the applicant designates. A limited number of application fee waivers are available. Meeting PTCAS' eligibility criterion for a fee waiver does not guarantee a waiver will be granted for supplemental application fees.

In addition to the PTCAS application, all applicants must submit a GW Supplemental Application to the Health Sciences Office of Admissions.

**Standardized test scores:** The GRE is optional. If applicants choose to report GRE scores, please do so by the application deadline. The institution code for GW is 5246.

**Recommendations required:** Two (2) recommendations must be submitted with your PTCAS application.

**Prior academic records:** Official transcripts from every college and university attended must be submitted directly to PTCAS. All transcripts must be submitted, whether or not a degree was earned.

All non-U.S. transcripts (including those in English) must be evaluated by World Education Services and submitted directly to PTCAS.

**Statement of purpose:** In an essay of 250 to 500 words, describe your reasons for undertaking study in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at The George Washington University. You should state your academic objectives, career plans, and related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, as well as any other substantial accomplishments related to leadership and/or advocacy and any others not already mentioned on the application form.

**Additional Requirement:** Applicants to the program must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.

Prerequisite course work includes the following:

-Anatomy and Physiology (two semester sequence, or one semester of each; human focus preferred)

-Physics (two semesters with lab)

-Chemistry (two semesters with lab)

-Biology (two semesters with lab recommended)

-English (one semester: composition or literature)

-Statistics (one semester; mathematical focus preferred)

-Psychology (two semesters: must include psychology beyond the introductory level)

All science courses must be for science/health science majors.

All applicants are required to review the Technical Standards/Essential Functions for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program and the Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening Policy before applying.

Note: Accepted applicants will be required to pay a non-refundable tuition deposit.

**International Students:** International students should check with individual programs regarding eligibility for visa sponsorship. Generally, online and hybrid programs are not eligible for student visa sponsorship from GW. This would include transfer students from any other institution with an existing visa.

Official transcripts from institutions outside the U.S. must be accompanied by an official transcript evaluation from an accredited independent evaluating agency. Please be sure you request a detailed evaluation that includes all course titles, credit hours, grades, U.S. degree equivalency, grade-point averages (GPA), and date of degree conferral. For a list of acceptable foreign credential evaluation services, please click here (<https://www.naces.org/members.php>).

Applicants who are not U.S. citizens are required to submit official test scores for either Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or#Pearsons#Test of English (PTE), Academic the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Duolingo English Test (DET). The following are the minimum scores for admission consideration:#TOEFL: 600 on paper based, 250 on computer-based, or 100 Internet-based, PTE: overall score of 68, IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0, with no individual band score below 6.0, or DET overall score of 120. \*Scores can be no older than 2 years.

International applicants who meet the following conditions may be considered for admission without submitting TOEFL, PTE or IELTS or DET scores:#They are a citizen of countries where English is the official language (as identified by GW ISO list of Exempt countries) OR; They hold at least a#bachelor#degree from a country where English is the official language as well as language of instruction OR; They hold at least a#bachelor#degree from an institution accredited by a U.S. regional accrediting agency.

**Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:**

Office of Admissions  
 Health Sciences Programs  
 The George Washington University  
 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
 Suite 2000  
 Washington, DC 20006

**For questions contact:**

hsphora@gwu.edu  
 202-994-0384  
 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday

**REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 109 credits to be taken in the following sequence:

**Program of Study**

Code	Title	Credits
First fall semester		
PT 8201	Functional Anatomy	
PT 8311	Foundations of Examination	
PT 8312	Foundations of Interventions	
PT 8351	Professional Issues in Physical Therapy Health Care Management I	
PT 8361	Clinical Conference I	

Code	Title	Credits
First spring semester		
PT 8202	Applied Physiology	
PT 8313	Therapeutic Modalities	
PT 8352	Teaching in Physical Therapy Practice	
PT 8203	Neuroscience in Rehabilitation I	
PT 8271	Research in Practice	
PT 8362	Clinical Conference II	
PT 8483	Integrated Clinical Experience I	
PT 8204	Movement Science I	

Code	Title	Credits
First summer session		
PT 8205	Movement Science II	
PT 8206	Neuroscience in Rehabilitation II	
PT 8207	Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology	
PT 8363	Clinical Conference III	
PT 8481	Interprofessional Community Practicum	

Code	Title	Credits
Second fall semester		
PT 8315	Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction I	
PT 8208	Medical Imaging	
PT 8318	Management of Neuromotor Dysfunction	
PT 8323	Prosthetics and Orthotics	

PT 8364	Clinical Conference IV
PT 8272	Research Seminar
PT 8484	Integrated Clinical Experience II

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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Second spring semester

PT 8316	Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction II
PT 8320	Management of the Pediatric Client
PT 8322	Management of the Aging Adult
PT 8314	Management of Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction
PT 8317	Management of Integumentary Dysfunction
PT 8365	Clinical Conference V

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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Second summer session

PT 8321	Pelvic Health
PT 8366	Clinical Conference VI
PT 8491	Clinical Education Experience I

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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Third fall semester

PT 8492	Clinical Education Experience II
PT 8355	Professional Issues in Physical Therapy Health Care Management II
PT 8357	Capstone Seminar
PT 8356	Health Promotion and Wellness

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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Third spring semester

PT 8493	Clinical Education Experience III
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Elective