

# 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 practitioners prepared to practice in an evidence-based and ethical manner across the continuum of care and with individuals with conditions or needs commonly seen in physical therapy practice. 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      Fall - December 1  
deadlines:

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. One of the submitted recommendations must be from a licensed physical therapist.

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 applicants:** 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 includes transfer students from any other institution with an existing visa.

Applicants who have not completed a post-secondary degree from an institution where English is the sole language of instruction must submit TOEFL, IELTS, PTE Academic, or the Duolingo English Test scores to be considered for admission. The following are the minimum scores for admission consideration:

- Academic IELTS: An overall band score of 7.0, with no individual band score below 6.0.

- TOEFL: 600 paper-based or 100 internet-based.

- PTE: Overall score of 68

- DET: Overall score of 120

Undergraduate applicants who meet one of the following conditions can be considered for admission without submitting TOEFL, PTE or IELTS or DET scores:

Scores cannot be more than two years old. To ensure TOEFL scores are sent to GW, use institutional code 5246. An institutional code is not required to send IELTS or PTE scores to GW. DET scores must be submitted via the Duolingo English Test system directly to GW.

Based on their application and the results of the English proficiency examination students can be required to take English for Academic Purposes (EAP) during their first year of study at GW. GW evaluates each application holistically and applicants can be recommended for EAP even if they meet the requirements for exemption. Students placed in EAP courses should anticipate additional tuition expenses as well as possible extension of time needed to complete their degree programs.

### 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
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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	
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PT 8361	Clinical Conference I	
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Code	Title	Credits
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First spring semester

PT 8202	Applied Physiology	
PT 8313	Therapeutic Modalities	
PT 8352	Teaching in Physical Therapy Practice	

PT 8203	Neuroscience in Rehabilitation I	
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PT 8271	Research in Practice	
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PT 8362	Clinical Conference II	
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PT 8483	Integrated Clinical Experience I	
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PT 8204	Movement Science I	
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Code	Title	Credits
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First summer session

PT 8205	Movement Science II	
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PT 8206	Neuroscience in Rehabilitation II	
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PT 8207	Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology	
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PT 8363	Clinical Conference III	
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PT 8481	Interprofessional Community Practicum	
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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	

Code	Title	Credits
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	

Code	Title	Credits
Second summer session		
PT 8321	Pelvic Health	
PT 8366	Clinical Conference VI	
PT 8491	Clinical Education Experience I	

Code	Title	Credits
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	

Code	Title	Credits
Third spring semester		
PT 8493	Clinical Education Experience III	
Elective		