

BITONTE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Program Description

Physical therapy provides a career option for the student who wants to become a physical therapist practitioner and work with other health-care professionals. Physical therapy is provided to individuals who have temporary or permanent disturbances in body function, structure, activities, or participation, whether from birth, illness, disease or trauma. Physical therapists improve mobility, relieve pain, improve function and prevent disability. They also focus on creating fitness and wellness programs to promote healthy lifestyles. Physical therapists evaluate and treat individuals with conditions affecting movement and the related systems: musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, cardiopulmonary and integumentary.

Employment Opportunities

Physical therapists assume the roles of clinicians, educators, managers of physical therapy services, consultants and researchers. Therapists work in a variety of settings including hospitals, outpatient facilities, rehabilitation and extended care facilities, home health agencies, community and industrial health centers, public schools, universities, research centers and private practices. Some physical therapists treat a wide variety of problems, while others specialize in such areas as pediatrics, geriatrics, orthopedics, sports physical therapy, neurology and cardiopulmonary physical therapy. Most physical therapists work a 40-hour week, which may include evenings or weekends. The job may be physically demanding, because therapists often have to kneel, lift and stand for long periods of time. In addition, physical therapists frequently need to physically assist patients.

Job opportunities continue to be promising. The elderly population will continue to grow rapidly. The elderly are

particularly vulnerable to chronic and debilitating conditions that will require prevention or therapeutic services. The general population is concerned with physical fitness and the ability to engage in a variety of activities. Children with and without disabilities (and their caregivers) can be taught life-long skills for strength, endurance and function. Physical therapists can evaluate and treat all ages across many settings.

Degree Options

The Department of Physical Therapy offers an entry-level postbaccalaureate professional curriculum, granting a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. An entry-level doctorate requires undergraduate preparation in a field of study other than physical therapy, followed by postbaccalaureate professional study in physical therapy. Some majors, such as biological sciences, exercise science, and psychology, include many of the courses required as undergraduate preparation for the physical therapy program.

Facilities

The physical therapy program is housed on the ground floor of Cushwa Hall. The physical therapy facilities include two large teaching laboratories, two large classrooms, a student study with computers, locker rooms and faculty offices. An anatomy resource center and two research labs are under construction in 2020.

Faculty

The Department of Physical Therapy maintains an excellent faculty-student ratio of 1:15.



Accreditation

The DPT program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Youngstown State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.

Requirements

Students should apply to the physical therapy program if the following eligibility requirements are met:

1. A minimum overall GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 grading scale.
2. A 3.0 GPA in prerequisite courses. A minimum of 6 courses completed prior to applying. All prerequisite courses must be completed with C or better.
3. Completion of a bachelor's degree, and all prerequisite courses, prior to starting the program.
4. A recommended GRE score of at least 295 on Part I and 4.0 on Part II.
5. Documentation of 40 observation hours (paid or volunteer) under the direct supervision of a physical therapist(s) in a physical therapy setting. Two sites are recommended.
6. References: 3 total, a combination of physical therapists and faculty.

Applications are submitted online through the PT CAS system at www.ptcas.org. Instructions are included for the additional application to the College of Graduate Studies through this website. The application deadline is in early October and will be announced in the PT CAS system as well as on the program website. All information MUST be received at PT CAS by the deadline. Final admissions decisions are made at the end of fall semester, and the program begins the following summer. Meeting eligibility standards does not guarantee admission. Admissions are selective.

Special Fees

Course materials/computer services

Students will be assessed fees for course materials and computer services in the range of \$45-\$85 per course. It is also a program expectation that students join the American Physical Therapy Association, the Ohio Chapter and the YSU Student PT Association.

Instructional supplies

Students admitted into the PT program will be asked to purchase additional instructional supplies and/or equipment

which will be necessary for use in the classroom and clinical education. Students are also responsible for additional living expenses associated with clinical education experiences outside of the immediate area. Students are responsible for purchasing specific supplies that may include a clinical lab coat, non-sterile gloves, a clinical assessment kit and name tags. Students are expected to join the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) as a student member.

Medical/Health

Physical therapy students must obtain CPR certification prior to participating in a clinical education internship. They must also undergo an annual physical examination, a series of three Hepatitis B immunizations (or sign a waiver), and a tuberculin skin test. A clinical site may require additional tests. Students must also maintain medical health insurance.

Criminal Record

State Licensure: A criminal record may prohibit you from being able to practice as a PT in the State of Ohio. Questions regarding those offenses that would prohibit licensure in the State of Ohio must be directed to the State of Ohio OT/PT/ AT Licensure Board (<http://otptat.ohio.gov/>).

Clinical Experience

Clinical education is an essential component of the physical therapy educational experience. To assure competency, students will have an opportunity to practice their skills in a variety of settings with diverse groups of patients. All clinical work is performed under the supervision of physical therapists. Clinical experiences are completed in schools, hospitals, clinics and extended care facilities; most are located in Ohio or Pennsylvania, but some opportunities are available nationwide. Students need to provide their own transportation to these facilities.

Curriculum Overview

The DPT program is an 8-semester, full-time program, and students transition through the program in a cohort group. Early coursework includes basic science courses such as Human Anatomy, Pathology and Neuroscience. Courses progress to application of the knowledge as students move through the curriculum. Application of material is emphasized through case problem solving and attributes of clinical decision-making in the appropriate context of healthcare with professionalism. Clinical experiences are spread throughout the curriculum and are coordinated by the program.

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