Committed to Advancing the Profession
Welcome to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program – Omaha

For some, it’s driven by compassion. Others describe it as a calling—a desire to pursue a lifetime of challenge and discovery, scholarship and truth, reward and service. The Creighton University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program demonstrates national and international leadership in the theory, development, and provision of entry-level professional doctorate and post-professional residency education.

Here, you’re part of a close-knit community of professionals, including students and faculty, researchers and practitioners, alumni and mentors. All are working together to further the practice of physical therapy and its ability to build careers, improve lives, serve communities and strengthen outcomes.

At the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (SPAHP), you’ll not only become a member of one of the world’s most-respected professions. You’ll graduate with the confidence and preparedness that ensures no destination is out of reach.

A Pioneering School, Highly Regarded Graduates.

In 1992, Creighton led the entire profession by offering the nation’s first entry-level clinical Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The others soon followed, and today the DPT has become the standard degree for practicing physical therapists.

The DPT prepares our graduates—in eight semesters—for autonomous practice in the nation’s leading hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers and outpatient clinics, among other settings. Our innovative curriculum, supported by state-of-the-art classrooms and labs, has raised the standard in physical therapy education.

Achieving the DPT, of course, requires more than hard work. It also requires a deep commitment to patient care. World-renowned faculty are committed to educating future health care professionals who will serve patients and humanity with competence.

100% of students employed
WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF GRADUATION

#9 physical therapy program
IN THE NATION (TOP 4% OF ALL ACCREDITED PROGRAMS)
U.S. News and World Report

1,542 total service hours
for SPAHP in 2020–2021

10 board-certified clinical specialists
AND 10 PhD FACULTY
Leadership Through Teaching
We prepare the next generation of physical therapists who fully understand their professional obligation in meeting the present and future health needs of society.

Our experienced faculty are national and international leaders in their areas of expertise. Our 19 physical therapy faculty members hold many national leadership roles, regional leadership roles and institution roles within the world of PT. They are committed to leadership in DPT education through academic excellence, innovation, scholarly contributions to the profession, service to the local and international community and an unwavering commitment to fostering moral agency and professional values within our graduates.
Thrive in Clinical Experiences

As a part of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, you can thrive in an immersive, dedicated clinical environment that reflects the world in which you’ll practice.

The physical therapy program offers an expanse of clinical education sites in various settings, with excellent clinical instructors supervising students. Partnerships with regional and national providers offer students hours of experiential learning opportunities in a variety of professional settings, including inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient, acute care, long-term care, home health and specialty clinics. In addition, each student has the opportunity to practice with patients from pediatrics to geriatrics and everyone in between.

Our curriculum includes 44 weeks of clinical experiences, ensuring students are well prepared for practice with active affiliations in over 350 clinical partners around the nation.

Creighton physical therapy students also have the opportunity to interact with residents completing a year of additional clinical training. Creighton University Department of Physical Therapy’s ABPTRFE-accredited residency programs provide post-professional clinical residency education in specialty PT areas: geriatric, neurologic, orthopedic, pediatric, and women’s health. Our faculty includes board-certified specialists (ABPTS) in cardiovascular and pulmonary, geriatrics, orthopedics, pediatrics, neurology, sports medicine, women’s health, and wound care.

Resident experiences include clinical practice, clinical mentoring, teaching in the specialty area and opportunities for research and scholarly activity. The residency program is one year in length. Each program contracts with different community partners to provide the clinical work site and clinical mentorship.

“The faculty here at Creighton really set it apart from other colleges and universities. Creighton University is the home of the first Doctor of Physical Therapy program and some of those founding professors continue to teach. Additionally, many of my professors are active at a national level and others have been recognized nationally for their contributions to Physical Therapy. Their experience in this field is unmatched at other schools.”

TRAVIS SPARKS, DPT’17
Education in the Jesuit tradition

As a practitioner in the field of health care, physical therapists see the importance of combining their practice with faith, service and spirituality. You’ll find these ideas in the physical therapist oath that you take your first month of class and in many of the Jesuit values that encourage:

- Developing the whole person
- Respecting each person as an individual
- Striving toward excellence and the greater good
- Promoting justice and serving communities as women and men for and with others
- Reflecting critical thought and responsible, ethical action

1,542 hours of health-related service completed by health sciences students

During the Summer of 2020, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 terms
Dedicated to Service

Physical therapy faculty, students and staff embody the mission of Creighton University and the core value of “service to others.” Our students and faculty actively engage with local and international communities through participation in organizations and events that are intentionally woven throughout the curriculum.

Creighton has a department devoted to connecting students with diverse and meaningful service opportunities: the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER).

Students help alleviate health disparities by serving people in need through the Institute for Latin American Concerns (ILAC), China Honors Interprofessional Program (CHIP), Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Wounded Heroes Foundation: Military Sports Camp, Special Olympics and many other events.

“As a student I valued the opportunity to participate in the ILAC program which included 4 weeks of clinical practice in the Dominican Republic. I don’t think there is any other opportunity that would have allowed me the personal growth through the cultural experience and the professional growth of learning about physical therapy services in an underserved population. Creighton has only continued to expand these opportunities since my time as a student with an expansion of student organizations as well as an expansion of our global health initiatives.

As faculty, the support for professional growth and development has been greatly appreciated, and I truly believe that the quality of faculty and the quality of the learning experience we are able to provide our students are greatly improved by this support for faculty endeavors.”

HEATHER KNIGHT, PT, DPT'08, NCS, CBIS
Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy
Director, Neurologic PT Residency Program
Founded in 1878, Creighton University is one of 27 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. The University, based in Omaha, Nebraska, is well known for its outstanding interdisciplinary and comprehensive educational programs taught in the Jesuit tradition of educating the whole person—academically, spiritually and socially. Creighton’s nine schools and colleges span the arts and sciences, law, business and the health sciences, offering a broad array of undergraduate, professional and graduate programs for nearly 9,000 students.
About Omaha

With a metropolitan area population of nearly 1 million, Omaha is Nebraska’s largest city and is the major urban hub between Chicago and Denver and between Kansas City and Minneapolis.

Forbes has praised Omaha for its “modern culture” and called it “one of the most technologically advanced cities in the country.”

Consistently ranked as a best place to live in the U.S., Omaha’s cost of living is significantly lower than other metropolitan areas around the country. It’s convenient, too. Most everything in the city—including the airport—is a short drive from Creighton’s campus, accessible in less than 20 minutes by car.

Omaha combines big city convenience with a small town feel, and has the amenities to fit. A thriving food scene supported by some of the nation’s best local produce. A long list of excellent public and private schools throughout the city. Three entertainment districts, all within close proximity of Creighton. Great people. World-class health care. No matter what you’re looking for, you’ll find it here in Omaha.

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Top-10 Metro Areas in the Nation

- Forbes

Top-10 States to Get a Job

- U.S. News and World Report, 2021

2x the average national job growth

- Omaha Chamber

#9 Best City for Young Professionals

- SmartAsset, 2021

“I am excited to start this new journey at not only a new school but also a new city! Can’t wait to explore what Creighton and Omaha have to offer.”

CAITY ANGELL, CLASS OF 2023
The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Creighton University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).
3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085
703.706.3245 | accreditation@apta.org | capteonline.org
If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 402.280.2950 or email PTaccreditation@creighton.edu.