

GRADUATE STUDY IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

The University of South Dakota offers a full-time 3-year DPT program. Our mission is to develop scholars, practitioners, and life-long learners who provide evidence based physical therapist services throughout the patient lifespan and demonstrate leadership within rural and medically underserved practice environments.

We are pleased to provide a small class size with a 3:1 student to faculty ratio. Our students participate in 38 weeks of full-time clinical education experiences in 5 different settings in addition to several 1 day clinical experiences during the second year of the program. Clinical placements are available across the country and internationally.

Our facility houses carefully planned clinic space which allows our students to treat community volunteers and learn in realistic settings. Outreach activities include the opportunity to travel to Guatemala to treat underserved populations, assist with Special Olympics and Senior Games fitness screening and promote health and wellness locally with educational sessions.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be currently completing or have completed the following requirements for application:

- 1) Baccalaureate or master's/graduate degree (*if not completed at time of application, must be obtained prior to June 1*), No preference is given to any specific field;
 - Students intending to complete the Accelerated DPT Program at USD:
 - This 3+3 program is available, by application, to eligible University of South Dakota students in the DPT program and Biology – Human Dynamics specialization only.
- 2) Minimum of 50 hours of physical therapy clinical observation/experience is required; these hours should be accrued in a variety of settings (*urban and rural*) in order to expose the applicant to the diversity of PT (*must be acquired and verified by the application deadline*);
- 3) Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2;
- 4) Minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.2 (*based on the 12 content areas listed below*);
- 5) The Graduate Record Exam (*General GRE – submit via code 7814*). GRE scores can be no more than 5 years old.;
- 6) Three letters of reference (*no references from family members accepted and one reference is required from a physical therapist*);
- 7) Personal statement/essay
- 8) Required prerequisite course work
 - *All course work must be completed by June 1 prior to beginning the DPT program.*
 - *CLEP and pass/fail coursework may not be used in fulfillment of prerequisite courses that require a lab component.*
 - *AP coursework may be used in fulfillment of prerequisite courses. A minimum score of 4/5 must be met. Official score report must be sent directly to USD using code 6881.*
 - *Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended should be submitted directly to PTCAS.*
 - *For fall interviews: 9 of the 12 prerequisites must be completed at application submission with 10 of the 12 prerequisites completed by the end of the fall semester in which you are applying.*
 - *For spring interviews: 10 of the 12 prerequisites completed by the end of the fall semester in which you are applying.*

Biology (for majors) 8 semester credit hours*
 Chemistry (for majors)..... 8 semester credit hours*
 Physics 8 semester credit hours*
 Statistics 3 semester credit hours

* 2 courses with lab
 ** 1 course with lab

General Psychology3 semester credit hours
 Developmental Psychology.....3 semester credit hours
 Abnormal Psychology3 semester credit hours
 Human Anatomy3 semester credit hours
 Human Physiology3 semester credit hours**
or a combined Human Anatomy/Physiology course with a minimum of 6 credit hours with lab taken over 2 semesters

INTERVIEW SESSIONS

Applications will be initially reviewed to determine the applicants who will be invited for an interview. Those applicants who are accepted into the program start classes during the following fall semester which begins in mid-July.

Applicants must submit their application by September 15, 2022 in order to be eligible for the fall interview sessions scheduled November 17 & 18, 2022. Spring interview sessions are scheduled February 9 & 10, 2023. All applications must be received in [PTCAS](#) by 11:59pm Eastern Time on December 1, 2022 to be considered for interview/admission. **Applicants are encouraged to apply by the September deadline to improve their chance of admission.**

STUDENT SELECTION

Enrollment is limited to 32 students. Students are selected through a competitive application process based on evaluation of the following factors (in no order of importance): 1) academic preparation (minimum cumulative and prerequisite grade point averages of 3.2 are required); 2) essay; 3) physical therapy observation and/or experience; 4) references; 5) a personal interview; and 6) GRE scores.

ACCEPTED STUDENTS

Upon contingent acceptance into the physical therapy program, applicants are required to complete three steps to secure your seat.

1. Pay a \$400 seat deposit
2. Submit and pay for a criminal background check (approximately \$100)
3. Sign off that you are able to perform the tasks outlined in the Essential Functions and Technical Standards document.

SEMESTER DATES

Orientation: July 17-21, 2023

Fall 2023: July 24 – December 13, 2023

Spring 2024: January 3 – May 3, 2024

ACCREDITATION

The University of South Dakota Physical Therapy Program is accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. USD Physical Therapy was reaccredited in 2019 and is scheduled for reevaluation in 2029. For more information on accreditation status and filing of complaints, CAPTE may be contacted at:

American Physical Therapy Association

3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100

Alexandria, VA 22305-3085

Phone: 703-706-3245

<http://www.capteonline.org>

The Physical Therapists Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) is a service of the American Physical Therapy Association and allows you to use a single web-based application and one set of materials to apply to multiple physical therapy education programs.

You can visit their website at: <http://www.ptcas.org/home.aspx>.

Additional information regarding this program or general questions about application status can be directed to:

Rita Humphrey, Asst. Admissions Officer, at 605-658-6356

or email Rita.Humphrey@usd.edu or pt@usd.edu

For specific questions concerning prerequisites or the decision processes, please contact:

Dr. Becca Jordre, Admissions Chair, at 605-658-6370

or email Becca.Jordre@usd.edu

For further information regarding The University of South Dakota, please contact:

The University of South Dakota, Admissions Office, 414 E Clark St., Vermillion, SD 57069-2390, 605-677-5434

or view the USD catalog at <https://catalog.usd.edu/index.php>

The University of South Dakota, School of Health Sciences is committed to an environment of inclusiveness in classroom and clinical settings that honors the richness of diverse perspectives and inter-professional practice through valuing diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.