

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, DPT

The Baylor University Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program prepares physical therapists who are skilled, compassionate, and evidence-based clinicians; passionate in their pursuit of knowledge and professional development; and servant leaders to their community and profession. The program is 24 months in length and includes a blend of online coursework (synchronous and asynchronous) comprising 50% of the curriculum, 8 onsite lab immersion sessions in Waco, Texas comprising 20% of the curriculum, and 31 weeks of clinical education comprising 30% of the program. The core curriculum of foundational science, clinical science, and patient and practice management courses is delivered in a hybrid learning environment, integrates clinical reasoning and critical psychomotor skill development during onsite lab immersion sessions, and culminates in a structured and collaborative clinical education program. The DPT curriculum blends course content and assignments to foster professional formation and emphasize collaboration, critical thinking, and evidence-based practice.

Program Accreditation Status

The Baylor University Doctor of Physical Therapy program is accredited by the

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE)
3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100
Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085
telephone: 703-706-3245
email: accreditation@apta.org
website: <http://www.capteonline.org>

Admission Requirements

The Baylor University Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program is designed for qualified individuals who wish to further their academic studies in the field of physical therapy. The program specifically targets traditional and nontraditional students with the demonstrated potential to navigate the academic rigors of professional physical therapist education in a hybrid learning environment. Students accepted into the DPT Program must meet the following criteria:

1. Complete a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to the program start date. Admission may be granted pending completion of the degree.
2. Completion of all prerequisite coursework with a grade of "C-" or above, to include: Biology with laboratory recommended (6 semester hours), Chemistry with laboratory (8 semester hours), Physics with laboratory (8 semester hours), Human Anatomy and Physiology with laboratory (8 semester hours), Statistics (3 semester hours), Psychology (3 semester hours), Abnormal or Developmental Psychology (3 semester hours), and English Composition or Writing (3 semester hours). Applicants must complete Anatomy and Physiology courses within the last 5 years prior to application.
3. Minimum cumulative and prerequisite course GPA of 3.00.
4. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) completed within the last 5 years of anticipated program start date.
5. Two (2) letters of recommendation: One reference must be a licensed physical therapist.
6. Completion of a minimum of 100 hours of observation, volunteer, or work experience with a licensed physical therapist in at least two practice settings is recommended. Examples of different practice settings include: outpatient clinics; acute care hospitals; inpatient rehabilitation facilities; skilled nursing, extended care, or subacute facilities; home health; pediatric (community-based, inpatient, or outpatient); wound care; and hospice care.
7. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or Duolingo exam is required for all applicants for whom English is not their first language or have completed a degree and prerequisite courses in a foreign country.
8. Completion of a Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) application and a Baylor University Graduate School supplemental application.
9. Personal interview.
10. Fulfill Technical Standards with or without accommodation.
11. Background Check prior to matriculation.

A full description of the DPT Program admission requirements and technical standards are provided at www.baylor.edu/dpt (<http://www.baylor.edu/dpt/>).

Graduation Requirements

For a student to graduate from the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, the student must be in a good academic and professional standing, have had satisfactory progress in all trimesters of the academic program, and satisfactorily complete the following:

1. Successfully complete the required credit hours of academic and clinical education course work.
2. Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or above.
3. Achieve a "Pass" or letter grade of "C" (70%) or better in all academic and clinical courses as stipulated within each course syllabus.
4. Achieve entry-level competence as a physical therapist, as demonstrated on the Physical Therapist Clinical Internship Evaluation Tool (CIET).
5. Exhibit professional behaviors and abilities consistent with clinical practice as described in the Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy, Core Values for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant, Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist, and the Technical Standards within the DPT Student Handbook.

Curriculum

The professional curriculum leading to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree requires students to complete 97 semester credit hours of coursework in 6 continuous academic trimesters over a 24-month period. Students are enrolled into the DPT program as a cohort and complete required courses in a prescribed, sequential manner. Course sequencing within the curriculum is designed to optimize the student's ability to learn and integrate course material into future didactic and clinical education experiences. The curriculum is dynamic to keep abreast with best evidence in both clinical and educational practice.

Course	Title	Hours
Semester One		
DPT 6100	Professional Physical Therapist Practice I	1
DPT 6212	Functional Movement	2

DPT 6214	Clinical Medicine I (DPT 6214::Clinical Medicine I)	2
DPT 6300	Human Physiology	3
DPT 6540	Physical Therapy Examination	5
DPT 6610	Human Anatomy (DPT 6610::Human Anatomy)	6
Hours		19
Semester Two		
DPT 6620	DPT 6620::Musculoskeletal System I	6
DPT 6221	DPT 6221::Clinical Medicine II	2
DPT 6331	Physical Therapy Interventions	3
DPT 6421	Clinical Research (DPT 6421::Clinical Research)	4
DPT 6450	Applied Neuroscience	4
Hours		19
Semester Three		
DPT 6332	DPT 6332::Musculoskeletal System II	3
DPT 6334	DPT 6334::Musculoskeletal System III	3
DPT 6431	DPT 6431::Aging Adult	4
DPT 6470	Cardiopulmonary Practice	4
DPT 6531	DPT 6531::Neuromuscular System	5
Hours		19
Semester Four		
DPT 6220	Bracing, Orthotics, and Prosthetics	2
DPT 6341	DPT 6341::Clinical Medicine III	3
DPT 6350	Management of the Pediatric Patient	3
DPT 6351	DPT 6351::Clinical Integration I	3
DPT 6441	DPT 6441::Clinical Experience I	4
Hours		15
Semester Five		
DPT 6110	Capstone I	1
DPT 6151	DPT 6151::Pain Science	1
DPT 6310	Health Promotion and Fitness Management	3
DPT 6360	Advanced Patient Management	3
DPT 6370	Business Management and Entrepreneurship	3
DPT 6442	DPT 6442::Clinical Experience II	4
Hours		15
Semester Six		
DPT 6120	Capstone II	1
DPT 6270	Professional Competencies II	2
DPT 6710	DPT 6710::Clinical Experience III	7
Hours		10
Total Hours		97

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

DPT 6100 Professional Physical Therapist Practice I (1)

Pre-requisite(s): Admission to Doctor of Physical Therapy program
This course introduces the physical therapy profession, history, physical therapist roles, contemporary professional issues and advocacy, and the APTA. The student explores professional ethics and values, communication/collaboration, and cultural competence. Students self-reflect on their own values and mission to develop personal leadership and begin their journey as physical therapists and their lifelong professional identity development.

DPT 6110 Capstone I (1)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Trimester 4 courses
Integrates and applies knowledge gained from previous courses and clinical experiences. Comprehensively reviews body systems, pathophysiological mechanisms, examination procedures, and management strategies consistent with evidence-based practice and clinical guidelines. Utilizes independent study and sample examinations, with a musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems focus. Prepares students for exit examination based on FSBPT Content Outline.

DPT 6120 Capstone II (1)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Trimester 5 courses
Builds upon DPT 6110 Capstone I to integrate prior coursework and clinical experiences. Comprehensively reviews body systems, pathophysiological mechanisms, examination procedures, and management strategies consistent with evidence-based practice and clinical guidelines. Focuses on cardiovascular, pulmonary, other-systems, and non-systems domains. Culminates in completion of an exit examination based on the FSBPT Content Outline.

DPT 6212 Functional Movement (2)

Pre-requisite(s): Admission to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
This course introduces students to the science of movement and movement analysis. It begins by introducing physical therapy as a movement profession that uses the International Classification of Function, Disability and Health as vital in the process of clinical decision making. This course emphasizes concepts of neuroplasticity, theories of motor control, motor development, and motor learning.

DPT 6214 Clinical Medicine I (2)

Pre-requisite(s): Admission to Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
This course introduces and initiates the integration of medical screening, pathophysiology, diagnostic imaging principles and techniques, and pharmacotherapeutics across various practice settings. The application uses a system-based approach to identify disabilities across the lifespan.

DPT 6220 Bracing, Orthotics, and Prosthetics (2)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 1 DPT courses
This course takes students through common orthotics and braces utilized in physical therapy practice. Functional and surgical anatomy of lower limb amputations and conditions requiring lower quarter orthotic and prosthetic intervention are presented. Lab activities emphasize gait analysis, movement analysis, residual limb management, orthotics, prosthetics, and amputee rehabilitation.

DPT 6250 Integrative Pain Sciences (2)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 4 DPT courses
Provides an overview of managing patients with chronic pain syndromes and associated psychosocial factors using emerging evidence and contemporary concepts of pain assessment, treatment, and outcomes. Current best practice techniques and research are integrated to provide discussion of the multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary nature of chronic pain.

DPT 6270 Professional Competencies II (2)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 5 DPT courses
Prepares student professionally and emotionally for clinical practice, as a lifelong learner and educator in the physical therapy profession. Explores major forms of health care delivery and how they interact with physical therapy services, including but not limited to medical ethics, health care regulations, and risk management strategies.

DPT 6290 Primary Care Physical Therapy (2)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 4 DPT courses
Explores the therapist's role as an interdependent practitioner working within a collaborative medical model. Presents the clinical tools and decision-making processes necessary to efficiently and effectively collect, evaluate, and communicate examination data while promoting differential diagnostic principles and clinical decision-making.

DPT 6300 Human Physiology (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Admission to Doctor of Physical Therapy program
This course introduces students to the various physiological systems and principles that impact human movement and health across the lifespan through a multisystem approach to the human body. Students gain an understanding of how to apply key characteristics of physiological systems into clinical reasoning to enhance evidence-informed care and build the knowledge necessary for physical therapist practice.

DPT 6310 Health Promotion and Fitness Management (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Admission to Doctor of Physical Therapy program
Introduces patient-centered care that includes components of prevention, health promotion, wellness, and fitness. Students will explore the various domains and influencers of health while identifying appropriate screening/testing procedures, individual patient/client needs, and applicability to care, as well as targeted interventions at the individual and community level.

DPT 6331 Physical Therapy Interventions (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Trimester 1 courses
This course provides an introduction to selection, application, and progression of principles and interventions across the lifespan and various clinical settings. This course incorporates concepts from the International Classification of Function, Disability, and Health into clinical practice. Knowledge from this course will be integrated across the clinical management courses to prepare for physical therapist practice.

DPT 6350 Management of the Pediatric Patient (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 3 DPT courses
Presents fundamental concepts for the physical therapy management of children with musculoskeletal, neurological, and/or cardiopulmonary impairments. A framework of normal development and aging from birth to young adult serves as a course foundation. Topics include developmental delay and disability, family-centered care, advocacy, and assistive technologies.

DPT 6360 Advanced Patient Management (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 4 DPT courses
Develops advanced clinical reasoning and intervention skills for the management of patients with neuromusculoskeletal dysfunction. Students develop dry needling skills and refine previously introduced manual therapy and therapeutic exercise skills. Lab activities use case scenarios to challenge clinical reasoning for the development and progression of comprehensive treatment plans.

DPT 6370 Business Management and Entrepreneurship (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Completion of semester 4 courses
Provides an overview of practice management fundamentals and applies principles to various aspects of leadership and personal development, strategic planning, and business operations. Students gain knowledge in health care management, leadership, strategic planning, human resources, finance, organizational structures, and fiscal management as they relate to physical therapy practice.

DPT 6380 Management of the Aging Adult (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 2 DPT courses
Introduces the physiologic changes of aging and sociologic and economic consequences of an aging population. Reviews natural aging processes and how complicating factors such as vascular compromise, fall risk, and comorbidities negatively impact the aging adult. Lab activities focus patient management skills on the aging adult patient.

DPT 6421 Clinical Research (4)**DPT 6440 Musculoskeletal Practice II (4)**

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 1 DPT courses
Explores the clinical application of biomechanics, functional movement, and examination principles for musculoskeletal dysfunction of the lower extremities. Concentrates on the application of psychomotor skills related to regional palpation, examination, and evidence-based interventions emphasizing patient education, manual therapy, and therapeutic exercise in a patient-centered approach across the lifespan.

DPT 6450 Applied Neuroscience (4)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Trimester 1 courses
This course builds on prior knowledge of anatomical cellular structure and function. Emphasis is placed on the central and peripheral nervous system regulation of movement and movement impairments that present from nervous system pathology. Lab activities apply foundational knowledge of neuroscience to the neurologic screen and a comprehensive neurological examination. Common outcome measures and assessment tools are introduced.

DPT 6460 Musculoskeletal Practice IV (4)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 2 DPT courses
Explores the clinical application of biomechanics, functional movement, and examination principles for musculoskeletal dysfunction of the lower extremities. Concentrates on the application of psychomotor skills related to regional palpation, examination, and evidence-based interventions emphasizing patient education, manual therapy, and therapeutic exercise in a patient-centered approach across the lifespan.

DPT 6470 Cardiopulmonary Practice (4)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 2 DPT courses
Explores the management of patients with cardiovascular, metabolic, and pulmonary causes of movement dysfunction across a variety of clinical settings using the disablement framework. Lab activities include, but are not limited to, ECG analysis, exercise testing, heart and lung auscultation, lung function testing, and chest examinations.

DPT 6530 Management of Complex Patients (5)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 3 DPT courses
Introduces patient management strategies for the medically complex patient. Community-based strategies and outpatient management for patients with primary disease or comorbidities of the cardiovascular, pulmonary, metabolic, oncologic, lymphatic, and integumentary systems is emphasized. Students will design individual and community-based interventions for effective disease management.

DPT 6540 Physical Therapy Examination (5)

Pre-requisite(s): Admission to Doctor of Physical Therapy program
This course introduces interview, tests and measures, communication, and documentation skills used in physical therapist practice across multiple clinical settings. Lab activities include psychomotor skill training for vital signs, goniometry, muscle testing, anthropometric measures, and functional mobility skills inclusive of transfers and gait training with assistive devices.

DPT 6610 Human Anatomy (6)

Pre-requisite(s): Admission to Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
This course introduces gross human anatomy and the anatomical basis for various movement system impairments, and prepares the learner for future application and growth across the didactic and clinical learning experiences. Topics include exploration of embryology, histology, and functional anatomy. Laboratory experiences include 3-dimensional anatomy software, cadaver prosections, living/surface anatomy, and anatomical models.

DPT 6810 Physical Therapy Practice I (8)

Pre-requisite(s): Successful completion of Semester 3 DPT courses
Develops student examination, evaluation, and intervention skills during an eight-week mentored clinical internship. Utilizes interpersonal communication with patients/clients, family, and healthcare staff. Emphasizes evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning skills. Students are expected to demonstrate professionalism and progress towards competency as a clinician as rated on a standardized rating instrument.

DPT 6820 Physical Therapy Practice II (8)

Pre-requisite(s): Completion of semester 4 courses
Demonstrated readiness for clinical education progression (as determined by faculty). Develops student examination, evaluation, and intervention skills during an eight-week mentored clinical internship. Utilizes interpersonal communication with patients/clients, family, and healthcare staff. Emphasizes evidence-based patient management and clinical reasoning skills as an adult learner and medical professional. PT CPI performance expectations are at intermediate and advanced intermediate levels.

DPT 6V10 Physical Therapy Practice III (15)

Pre-requisite(s): Completion of semester 5 courses
Demonstrated readiness for clinical education progressions (as determined by faculty). Progresses student to entry-level patient management skills during a fifteen-week mentored clinical internship. Students refine interpersonal communication and professional socialization skills with patients/clients, family, and healthcare staff. Develops advanced evidence-based patient management and clinical reasoning skills. PT CPI performance expectations are at entry-level by the conclusion of internship.

DPT 6V20 Independent Study (1-3)

This course is organized as a variable credit (one-credit, two-credit, or three-credit) independent study course under the supervision of an assigned faculty member. It is designed to meet student-specific need and provides the student with an opportunity to receive direct interaction and guidance from a faculty member. This course integrates the core courses and elective courses within the DPT curriculum.