

# Physical Therapy (DPT)

## Degree Requirements

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The degree offered by the department is the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), designed as a first-professional degree for students who want to enter the physical therapy profession.

The entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program consists of eight consecutive semesters of full-time professional graduate study. The curriculum plan, by semester, of courses required once admitted to the DPT program can be found on the department website: <http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/alliedhealth/pt/courses.html>. The DPT is a clinical doctorate degree, not a research degree, and is awarded after successful completion of the prescribed sequence of 121 semester hours (listed below) including classroom and clinical laboratory coursework and 34 weeks of full-time physical therapy internships. As an entry-level program, the DPT is designed as a first PT degree and is not appropriate for students who already hold a PT degree. The goals and objectives of the program are guided by the criteria and guidelines set forth by the Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapists (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education). Graduates of the program are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Exam for licensure.

The program begins each year in the Fall semester. The application deadline for Fall semester is December 1st of the previous year. All applicants must apply through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) <http://www.ptcas.org/ptcas/public/Listing.aspx?seqn=405&navid=10737426783> and submit a supplemental application and supplemental application fee directly to the PT department. International Students should carefully review earlier deadlines and additional requirements listed after Minimal requirements for all applicants (see below).

### DPT Early Acceptance Program (DPTEAP)

The DPT Early Acceptance Program (DPTEAP) allows for some highly qualified high school seniors who meet the qualifications to gain early provisional acceptance to the graduate program prior to starting college. Details are described in the Early Acceptance Program section of the Office of Admissions website at <http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/admissions/earlyacceptance/index.html>

In addition, a link to the application for this program is also found on this webpage and the "Special Programs" section of the Office of Admissions Website. The application deadline for this program is February 1 of the senior year in high school.

### Regular Graduate Applicants

It is required that applicants complete a bachelor's degree prior to starting the PT program. These applicants must hold a bachelor's degree (or be able to complete the degree prior to starting the PT program) in any field from a regionally accredited college or university and complete all prerequisites for regular graduate admission as listed below with a GPA > 3.00. These applicants may apply by December 1st if they will complete their bachelor's degrees before the upcoming Fall semester.

### Minimum Requirements For All Applicants

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1. The applicant must meet all applicable requirements including prerequisites.
2. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores must be officially reported to the University of South Alabama Office of Admissions by December 1st (use institution code 7799). The GRE must have been taken within the last 5 years. Verbal, Quantitative and Analytical Writing sections will be utilized.
3. Regular Graduate applicants must have a minimum 3.0 (A=4.0) overall grade point average (GPA).
4. All applicants must have a minimum grade of "C" in each of the prerequisite courses.
5. Observation or work experience in Physical Therapy (50 hours minimum) under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist must be documented and submitted to PTCAS.
6. Applicants may only have a maximum of 2 science course prerequisites remaining by the application deadline. The remaining prerequisites must be completed in the spring and summer prior to the start of the program.

**International applicants** must have a TOEFL score = 600 (250 on computer based or 100 on Internet based tests), TSE = 60 and TWE = 4.5 and must submit the following to the Department of Physical Therapy by **October 15 of the year prior to admission: TOEFL score, official transcripts with certified translations of transcripts, supplemental application and non-refundable supplemental application processing fee of \$75.00. In addition, international students must submit PTCAS application**

**and official GRE scores by December 1st.** Materials being sent by mail carrier must be **postmarked NO later than December 1st.** This DPT program is not ideal for students who already have a physiotherapy degree.

NOTE: If selected for interview, the applicant must achieve a satisfactory interview score, and if accepted into the program, must submit a health form and physical examination which includes required immunizations.

### **Program Prerequisites<sup>a</sup> (For Optimal Preparation, On-line Science Labs Are Discouraged)**

Prerequisites Required For All Applicants:

- English Composition (2 courses)
- Social Sciences (3 courses--at least two of which must be Psychology)
- Precalculus Algebra/Trigonometry or Higher Mathematics (1 course)
- Statistics (1 course)
- College Physics - with labs (2 semester or 3 quarter sequence)
- General Chemistry for science majors - with labs (2 semester or 3 quarter sequence)
- General or Cell Biology for science majors - with labs<sup>b</sup> (2 semester or 3 quarter sequence)
- Human Physiology, OR a course sequence in Anatomy and Physiology (minimum 6 credits). Human Physiology is preferred.

<sup>a</sup>For all prerequisite courses, credit older than ten years from the application deadline must be repeated or validated by examination or other appropriate mechanism.

<sup>b</sup>Botany may not be used to satisfy this prerequisite.

Electives should be concentrated in a back-up major of the student's choice.

### **Essential Functions**

Core Performance Standards, which are fundamental tasks that must be performed to successfully complete the program, have been outlined and are available upon request from the program and on the department website.

### **Expenses**

Students admitted in the Physical Therapy program will be charged a matriculation deposit of \$300 required to secure a seat in the entering class. This amount is not refundable but will be applied towards tuition expenses after registration.

Students should be prepared for extra expenses (estimates available on the website) associated with professional studies including books, local travel to and from clinical facilities and for out-of-town travel and living expenses during the 34 weeks of clinical internship in the first year and the final year. It is highly recommended that students have a laptop computer. Special lab fees are assessed for the following courses:

Abbr	Course Description	Fee
PT 600	Human Anatomy	\$75.00
PT 601	Human Anatomy II	\$200.00
PT 603	Neuroscience	\$15.00
PT 612	Research Project	\$50.00
PT 621	Introductory PT Skills	\$20.00
PT 625	Therapeutic Intervention	\$20.00
PT 675	Comprehensive Capstone	\$81.00
PT 682	PT Internship I	\$83.00
PT 683	PT Internship II	\$83.00
PT 684	PT Internship III	\$83.00
PT 686	PT Internship IV	\$83.00

A Resource Fee of \$133/semester is charged to all health professions students.

A \$25.00 professional liability fee is assessed annually (\$12.00 each in fall and spring and \$1.00 in summer).

## Scholarships

The Department of Physical Therapy currently has eight scholarships that are awarded to students after admission to the program, in year-1, year-2 and year-3. These scholarships are listed on the department webpage.

## Accreditation And Licensure

The entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of South Alabama is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). 1111 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; Telephone: (703) 706-3245; Web site: <http://www.capteonline.org> E-mail: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org);

Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) to gain licensure. Applicants are hereby informed that a history of felony conviction, use of drugs or intoxicating liquors, which affects professional competence, or narcotic law conviction will prevent physical therapy licensure.

See Alabama Board of Physical Therapy site: <http://www.pt.alabama.gov/>

## DPT Curriculum Sequence

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

After admission, the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree requires the following course sequence to complete the professional degree:

First Year	Course Description	Cr Hrs
Fall Semester		17
PT 600	Human Anatomy I*	3 hrs
PT 601	Human Anatomy II	3 hrs
PT 610	Principles of Research	2 hrs
PT 620	Clinical Kinesiology*	3 hrs
PT 621	Introductory PT Skills*	4 hrs
PT 680	Professional PT Practice	2 hrs
Spring Semester		19
PT 604	Pathophysiology I	2 hrs
PT 622	Exercise Physiology	4 hrs
PT 625	Therapeutic Intervention	4 hrs
PT 631	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders I*	4 hrs
PT 632	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders II*	3 hrs
PT 681	Clinical Practice Issues	2 hrs
Summer Semester		12
PT 607	Pathophysiology II	2 hrs
PT 633	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders III*	4 hrs
PT 682	PT Internship I	6 hrs

Second Year		Course Description	Cr Hrs
Fall Semester			17
PT 602	Life Span Human Development	2 hrs	
PT 603	Neuroscience*	3 hrs	
PT 606	Pharmacology	2 hrs	
PT 611	Research Proposal	2 hrs	
PT 634	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders IV*	3 hrs	
PT 650	PT in Integumentary Disorders*	4 hrs	
PT 671	Clinical Case Studies I	1 hr	
Spring Semester			16
PT 612	Research Project	2 hrs	
PT 628	Mobility, Orthotics, and Prosthetics*	2 hrs	
PT 640	Neuromuscular PT Exam/Eval	4 hrs	
PT 641	Pediatric Neuromuscular PT Exam/Eval	2 hrs	
PT 660	PT in Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disorders*	4 hrs	
PT 672	Clinical Case Studies II	1 hr	
PT 687	Professional Behaviors in PT	1 hr	
Summer Semester			9 or 10
PT 627	Medical Screening	2 hrs	
PT 635	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders V*	2 hrs	
PT 642	Neuromuscular PT Intervention*	4 hrs	
PT 673	Clinical Case Studies III	1 hr	
Third Year		Course Description	Cr Hrs
Fall Semester			15 or 16
PT 605	Human Learning	1 hr	
PT 626	Health Promotion and Prevention in PT	2 hr	
PT 674	Clinical Synthesis and Patient Management	1 hr	
PT 683	PT Internship II	8 hrs	
PT 685	Management of PT Practice	3 hrs	
Spring Semester			15
PT 613	Clinical Case Report	2 hrs	
PT 675	Comprehensive Capstone	1 hr	
PT 684	PT Internship III	6 hrs	
PT 686	PT Internship IV	6 hrs	

Curriculum  
Total

121

## Graduation Plan

### Physical Therapy (DPT) : Pre-Professional Concentration (121 Total Hours)

#### First Year - Fall Semester

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PT 600	Human Anatomy I*	3
PT 601	Human Anatomy II*	3
PT 610	Principles of Research	2
PT 620	Clinical Kinesiology*	3
PT 621	Introductory PT Skills*	4
PT 680	Professional PT Practice	2
Total Hours		17

#### First Year - Spring Semester

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PT 604	Pathophysiology I	2
PT 622	Exercise Physiology*	4
PT 625	Therapeutic Intervention	4
PT 631	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders I*	4
PT 632	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders II*	3
PT 681	Clinical Practice Issues	2
Total Hours		19

#### First Year - Summer Semester

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PT 607	Pathophysiology II	2
PT 633	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders III*	4
PT 682	PT Internship I	6
Total Hours		12

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Total Hours 12

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**Second Year - Fall Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PT 602	Life Span Human Development	2
PT 603	Neuroscience*	3
PT 606	Pharmacology	2
PT 611	Research Proposal	2
PT 634	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders IV ( <i>spine</i> )*	3
PT 650	PT in Integumentary Disorders*	4
PT 671	Clinical Case Studies I	1
Total Hours		17

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**Second Year - Spring Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PT 612	Research Project	2
PT 628	Mobility, Orthotics, and Prosthetics*	2
PT 640	Neuromuscular PT Examination/Evaluation*	4
PT 641	Pediatric Neuromuscular PT Examination/Evaluation*	2
PT 660	PT in Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disorders*	4
PT 672	Clinical Case Studies II	1
PT 687	Professional Behaviors	1
Total Hours		16

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**Second Year - Summer Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PT 627	Medical Screening	2
PT 635	PT in Musculoskeletal Disorders V*	2
PT 642	Neuromuscular PT Intervention*	4
PT 643	Clinical Case Studies III	1
Total Hours		9

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**Third Year - Fall Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PT 605	Human Learning	1

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PT 626	Health Promotion and Prevention in PT	2
PT 674	Clinical Synthesis and Patient Management	1
PT 676	Advanced Topics in PT	1
PT 683	PT Internship II	8
PT 685	Management of PT Practice	3
	Total Hours	16

### Third Year - Spring Semester

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PT 613	Clinical Case Report	2
PT 675	Comprehensive Capstone	1
PT 684	PT Internship III	6
PT 686	PT Internship IV	6
	Total Hours	15

### Notes

## Department Information

Physical Therapy Administrative Staff	(251) 445-9330
Chair	Barry Dale
Professors	Dale
Associate Professors	
Assistant Professors	Burley, Cahanin, Jordan, McDermott, Saale, Warren, White
Emeritus	Fell, Gray, Kennedy, Wall

Department of Physical Therapy website  
<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/alliedhealth/pt>

A physical therapist, also called a PT, is a healthcare professional who provides direct patient care to persons who have disorders of movement, mechanical, physiological and developmental impairment and functional limitations, whether caused by injury, disease, or pain to help them achieve maximum physical function and mobility. Physical therapists have the necessary training to meet the total range of primary patient care responsibilities involved in preventing disabilities and promoting restoration of function to the physically impaired, including musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, cardiovascular/pulmonary and integumentary disorders

that interfere with physical function. The Physical Therapist performs an examination and then uses clinical reasoning to plan and implement patient-centered PT intervention. Physical Therapists practice in rehabilitation centers, private practices, hospital-based and outpatient-based centers, home health care, sports medicine centers, school systems, and in universities to restore movement and function.

As its mission: The Department of Physical Therapy is: "Committed to high quality education, promoting and generating scholarship, and engaging in local to global service."