Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Faculty

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Doctoral Degrees

Doctor of Physical Therapy
(See separate catalog section.)

Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy

About the Transitional Physical Therapy Degree Program

- Arcadia's Physical Therapy program is ranked seventh in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- All post-professional D.P.T. courses are 2-credit, fully online courses.
- The program can be completed in one to three years.
- Revised pricing schedule makes the program affordable and competitively priced.
- Students can start any semester, and there is no required course sequence.
- Course waivers based on experience are possible for up to 6 credits.
- Students network and connect with nationally recognized faculty and peers.
- Students can take two courses before formal application and matriculation.
- Interested students can participate in international experiences through service learning projects.

The profession and practice of physical therapy is rapidly changing. The demands imposed upon a physical therapist today are very different from those of even five or 10 years ago. These demands often go beyond the formal education provided in more traditional entry-level programs. Therapists increasingly are required to justify their practice patterns based on research evidence, to take on consulting and supervisory roles, and to provide administrative expertise and leadership.

Offered completely online, this program gives practicing clinicians easy access to make their formal education congruent with students graduating from entry-level D.P.T. programs. The program's goal is to educate clinicians who achieve practice consistent with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Vision 2020. Graduates will function with a high degree of professionalism and possess the requisite knowledge, skills and behaviors to practice physical therapy in a truly

scientific manner (i.e., using evidence-based practice).

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to do the following:

- Solve clinical problems based on evidence.
- Critically evaluate current literature and popular theories.
- Communicate professionally through scientific writing.
- Function as an effective teacher at multiple levels—with patients, students, peers, and the public.
- Lead others and advocate effectively (serve as a consultant or manager).
- Use skills required to be an independent and lifelong learner.

This is a program for practicing professionals who want to interact with nationally recognized faculty and network with exceptional peers. The program is highly interactive and capitalizes on the wealth of knowledge clinicians bring with them.

Admission to the Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree Program

Students can take two courses before formal application and matriculation. Acceptance into a course does not guarantee admission.

In addition to the general admission requirements for graduate students, the following program-specific requirements must be met:

1. Proof of graduation (transcript) from a physical therapist degree program accredited by an agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education (currently CAPTE) with a GPA of 2.75 or better
2. Current state professional license
3. Three written recommendations (professional or academic)
4. Brief essay articulating goals for D.P.T. study
5. Basic computer skills including Internet and e-mail
6. Computer system requirements that can be found at http://student.arcadia.edu/online/require_all.htm

Expenses

- Tuition: $725 per credit

Registration

- Register for a Course—Students can take two courses before formal application and matriculation. Acceptance into a course does not guarantee admission.
- Apply for Admission—Use this link to formally apply to the program.

Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree Requirements

(12-18 credits)
The program curriculum is 12-18 credits. A minimum of 12 credits are needed. Credit waivers are available for up to 6 of these credits (3 courses) based upon a student's prior professional experiences and coursework as demonstrated in a portfolio. (A portfolio review charge of $200 will be applied to review material submitted for consideration of course waivers.)

Students can start any semester, and there is no required course sequence except that PT 702 Case Analysis must be taken last. (PT 505 is recommended as a first course.)

Students are only required to take one course per semester but may take more as they are able. Therefore, most students will take two years to complete the program, but it may be completed in one to three years depending on student preference and experience.

The curriculum emphasizes evidence-based practice and addresses core competencies to enrich the practice of physical therapy. All courses are held online, both synchronously and asynchronously.

Core Courses (2 credits each)

PT	505	Clinical Decision Making
PT	508	Medical Screening
PT	547	Health Promotion and Wellness
PT	555	Pharmacology
PT	556	Diagnostic Imaging
PT	702	Case Analysis

Courses for which a waiver is possible

PT	504	Physical Therapist Teaching Methods*
PT	656	Neuromuscular Tissues and Motor Control*
PT	705	Orthopedic Physical Therapy* or PT 706 Neurological Physical Therapy or PT 707 Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy (Students can select from PT 705, 706 or 707 in the Clinical Practice Series.)

Course Waiver Criteria

Course waiver requests are evaluated on the following detailed criteria via portfolio review:

A waiver for **PT 504 Physical Therapist Teaching Methods** requires Portfolio Elements that provide evidence of the following:

- The ability to write educational objectives
- The ability to develop physical therapy-related course content
- The ability to use PowerPoint or equivalent presentation technology
- Peer or student evaluations of teaching effectiveness
- The ability to write test questions related to the content or some equivalent assessment of learning

A waiver for **PT 656 Neuromuscular Tissues and Motor Control** requires that prior coursework must be at the graduate level, and the student must submit the following:

- Course description
- Course syllabus
- Written documentation of content

A waiver for a course in the **Clinical Practice Series (PT 705 Orthopedic Physical Therapy; PT 706 Neurologic Physical Therapy; PT 707 Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy)** requires APTA Clinical Specialist Certification or prior post- professional coursework that may either be university-based or continuing education and total at least 42 contact hours in a particular specialty area. The student must submit the following:

- Course description
- Course syllabus
- Written documentation of content

Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Courses (PT)

505
Clinical Decision Making
(2 credits)

Physical therapists, like all other healthcare providers, routinely make decisions affecting patients in daily care. Such decisions may be based on a variety of sources, including experience, intuition, testimonials from teachers or colleagues, and findings from the literature. This course is designed to provide a framework for making future and evaluating past clinical decisions based on the best available evidence. This course assists the student in developing the tools needed to provide evidence-based physical therapy practice. The course includes projects and online discussions relevant to each student's clinical practice and ensures that the student applies the theories and tools to everyday situations.

508
Medical Screening
(2 credits)

This course helps to prepare the physical therapist to assume the role of an independent practitioner working within a collaborative medical model. Inherent in this role is the ability to recognize clinical manifestations that suggest physician or other healthcare provider contact is warranted regarding a patient's health status. Students apply the concept of threshold detection to identify impairments or "red flags" in medical screening that warrant referral to other professionals. An examination scheme is designed to promote efficient and effective collection of patient data to provide the structure for discussions. Patient cases are presented to illustrate important medical screening principles. Professional communication with patients and physicians is also a central theme.

547
Health Promotion
(2 credits)

Prevention, risk reduction and health promotion are activities included in the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice, and although physical therapists have performed these activities with individual patients and clients, participation in broader programs for communities or groups of people is an area of significant need and

opportunity. Health promotion and wellness theory are presented in this course to prepare physical therapists to integrate these concepts into their current practice and/or to expand their practices and consultative skills in the prevention arena. Students also are introduced to a variety of techniques commonly used in the strategic planning process and use those techniques to develop a plan for the introduction of a health promotion program relevant to their own practice settings or worksites. After the introduction and discussion of key concepts, including assessment and program planning, students complete a project and develop a health promotion program using the health promotion approach and strategic planning processes.

555
Pharmacology
(2 credits)

Individuals involved in healthcare recognize that drugs can influence patients' response to physical rehabilitation. Medication can provide beneficial effects that act synergistically with physical therapy treatments, or they can generate side effects that may adversely affect rehabilitation goals. This course presents some of the basic drug classes and the physiologic basis of their action. Drugs are grouped according to their general effects and the type of disorders for which they are routinely used to treat. Special emphasis is placed on drugs that are commonly used to treat disorders seen in patients receiving physical therapy and how drug therapy interacts with rehabilitation.

556
Diagnostic Imaging
(2 credits)

This course is an overview of the various types of diagnostic imaging procedures such as radiography, computerized tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and nuclear imaging. General principles related to indications, strengths and limitations of each method are discussed. Specific procedures related to various anatomic regions and pathologies also are covered. Case study presentations are used to emphasize the decision making related to diagnostic imaging studies and what relevant information can be provided. Clinical decision making in the context of evidence-based practice guides the discussion of each case.

702
Case Analysis
(2 credits)

Students develop a comprehensive case presentation based on a selected patient or client in their practice setting. The case analysis demonstrates the clinical decision-making process used to guide patient and client management throughout the episode of care, including the examination, evaluation, prognosis and planned interventions. Students address the use of specific diagnostic tests and imaging studies related to the case, the implications of the pharmacologic management of the patient and specific outcomes measures as they relate to decision-making and effective interventions.

504
Teaching Methods*
(2 credits)

Physical therapists assume the role of teachers in a variety of situations with a diverse group of learners. This course explores theories and methods related to effective teaching, student learning, and assessment strategies across multiple settings including clinic, classroom, laboratory, home setting and community. The role of educational technology in teaching and learning activities is emphasized. Examination of individual and social factors that influence health and wellness are discussed, and key concepts from behavioral theories are applied to patient education in clinical practice situations. There is an introduction to educational assessment strategies for community-based health programs.

656
Neuromuscular Tissues*
(2 credits)

This course material is covered via guided independent study. Using assigned readings and personal searches of the literature, students review the basic structure and function of various tissues within the neuromusculoskeletal system and integrate the information with clinical practice. For the musculoskeletal tissue component, new information relevant to skeletal muscle and various connective tissues such as tendon, ligament, cartilage and bone is examined. Case scenarios require the student to explore the effects of altered patterns of use with appropriate clinical application. The neural control of multi-joint limb movement is explored using current literature on motor control, cognition and motor learning. Case scenarios are used to describe the relevance of recent research on clinical practice. Traditional and contemporary theories are contrasted to assist in developing direct intervention strategies using skill acquisition theories. Emphasis is placed on reading and applying current basic science literature to justify and guide the practice of physical therapy.

705/706/707
Clinical Practice Series*
(only 1 required) (2 credits)

The Clinical Practice Series spans three separate 2-credit courses, each emphasizing recent advances in a particular specialty area of

physical therapy practice. Transitional D.P.T. students are required to choose one based upon their area of practice. These courses are meant to provide the most recent evidence-based information related to clinical practice. The content in these courses reinforces and reflects principles taught in the clinical decision making courses; however, emphasis is placed on specific recommendations for clinical management (i.e. content rather than process). Each course emphasizes a clinical reasoning process, use of appropriate tests and measures, use of appropriate interventions, and the most relevant outcome measures.

705
Orthopedic Physical Therapy*
(2 credits)
Management of common orthopedic conditions related to the extremities and spine including non-surgical and post-operative problems.

706
Neurologic Physical Therapy*
(2 credits)

Management of hemiplegia, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and common pediatric conditions such as cerebral palsy.

707
Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy*
(2 credits)

Management of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other respiratory illnesses and as well as patients following myocardial infarction or thoracic surgery including coronary artery bypass.

**Courses that may be waived based on Portfolio Assessment*