FAQ Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the UCA Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Degree

1. **What is the Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree?**
   The Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program prepares individuals to become licensed physical therapists. Following a selective admission process, a new class of 56 students is invited each fall semester to begin study in the three-year Professional DPT Program. The curriculum includes 123 credits (graduate level) where students progress from foundational sciences and skills to application to patient care concluding with full-time clinical internship rotations at clinical education facilities in and out of the state. The DPT Curriculum Sequence outlines professional program courses for each semester on page 7 of the DPT Brochure found at [http://uca.edu/go/DPTbrochure](http://uca.edu/go/DPTbrochure).

2. **What are the 41 undergraduate credit hours required to apply to UCA’s DPT Program?**
   - General Psychology and Psychology Elective – 6 hours
   - College Chemistry I & II or General Chemistry for Health Sciences & Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry!* – 8 hours
   - College Physics I & II!* – 8 hours
   - Biology: 4 hours of Principles of Biology*; 8 hours of Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II*; and 3 hours of upper-division animal-based Biology*
   - Statistics – 3 hours
   - Medical Terminology – 1 hour
   *31 of the above 41 credit hours are classified as science prerequisites (Chemistry, Physics, and Biology)

3. **How do I apply for DPT?**
   Complete the PTCAS application located on the PTCAS website at [http://www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org). Typically, PTCAS posts the applications in July for the next application period.

4. **What is the application deadline for DPT?**
   October 1 each year

5. **What is a 3 hour upper division animal-based Biology course?**
   A 3000* - 4000* numbered (upper-division) BIOLOGY course; 3 credit hour course; must be vertebrate animal or human-based BIOLOGY. The DPT program will not accept amphibian courses, insect, or one animal specific courses like Ornithology (bird biology). For in-state public institutions, refer to the specific institution for course equivalents at the following link. For in-state public institutions, refer to the specific institution for course equivalents at

6. **What is the minimum number of required prerequisite science hours that must be completed by the DPT application deadline?**
   22 hours of the 31 required prerequisite science hours (Chemistry, Physics, and Biology)
7. What is the minimum required GRE score?
   There is no minimum. The average revised GRE total score for recently admitted DPT students is 302 (average Verbal = 152, average Quantitative = 151) for students beginning Fall 2014. GRE scores are weighted twice as heavily as the cumulative GPA for ranking of applicants. GRE scores are good for 5 years. University of Central Arkansas’s PTCAS GRE code is 3630.

8. What are the requirements related to physical therapy observation hours?
   The applicant must complete a total of 45 hours of physical therapy observation at 3 different clinical settings (10-20 hours per facility) and 3 different kinds of physical therapy by the application deadline. Contact PTCAS Customer Service at http://www.ptcas.org for instructions on how to document observation hours. All documentation must be sent to PTCAS.

9. How are applicants ranked by the DPT Admissions Committee?
   Applicants are ranked using a composite score derived from the science grade point average (2/5 of total score), section scores on the GRE (2/5 of total score), the cumulative grade point average (1/5 of total score), and points earned from completing extra science coursework above the first-year level. Of the criteria, the science grade point average and GRE scores are weighted most heavily.

10. How many students are accepted in each first year class?
    56

11. What is the average science GPA of recently admitted DPT students (students beginning Fall 2014)?
    3.62

12. What is the average revised GRE score of recently admitted DPT students (students beginning Fall 2014)?
    302 Total (combined verbal & quantitative). Average verbal = 152, Average quantitative =151

13. What is the average cumulative GPA of recently admitted DPT students (students beginning Fall 2014)?
    3.71

14. What does acceptance rate, matriculation rate, and graduation rate mean?
    Acceptance rate is the proportion of all the students who applied for admission who were offered/accepted for admission (number applied divided by number offered). Matriculation rate is defined as the proportion of all the students who were offered/accepted for admission who actually went on to enroll in the program (number enrolled divided by number offered). Graduation rate is the proportion of all the students who enrolled in the program who went on to graduate (number graduated divided by number enrolled).

15. What are the most recent acceptance, matriculation, and graduation rates for the DPT Program?
    Rates for these 3 indicators are as follows:
    
    38% Acceptance rate
    82.3% Matriculation rate
    97.6% Graduation rate
16. How many applicants apply for DPT?
   In 2013, approximately 254 individuals applied for admission to the August 2014 DPT class. Of these 254 applicants, 181 were qualified.

17. How are applicants interviewed?
   Applicants are interviewed in a group setting. They are asked both individual and group questions. The interview is used to assess such factors as the ability to present oneself professionally, to use verbal and non-verbal communication appropriately, to express knowledge about the profession of physical therapy, to function within the group for the interview, and to express ideas quickly and succinctly.

18. How many applicants are interviewed?
   Approximately 85 individuals are interviewed for each DPT incoming class.

19. Does UCA require an essay?
   No. If only applying to UCA, write “UCA does not require an essay” in the PTCAS application.

20. Does UCA require letters of recommendation?
   No. If only applying to UCA, write “UCA does not require letters of recommendation” in the PTCAS application.

21. I’m an international student. How do I apply for DPT?
   International students must have their transcripts evaluated by an approved credentialing agency. World Education Series (WES) is the ONLY foreign transcript evaluation service for PTCAS applicants with non-US coursework in the upcoming 2014-2015 cycle. All DPT requirements must be met as listed on page 5 of the DPT Brochure found at [http://uca.edu/go/DPTbrochure](http://uca.edu/go/DPTbrochure). In addition, the international student must contact UCA’s International Engagement [http://uca.edu/international](http://uca.edu/international) for additional application requirements and procedures. International students apply for DPT through PTCAS at [http://www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org).

22. What are the outcomes of UCA DPT graduates over the past three years (2011, 2012, 2013)?
   - Graduation rate: 97.6%
   - First Time Pass Rate on NPTE: 90.7%
   - Ultimate pass rate on NPTE: 100%
   - Employment rate: 100% (of students passing the NPTE)

   For all NPTE outcomes, refer to [http://www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and search for “NPTE pass rates”.
