DEPARTMENT MISSION, VISION, AND CORE PURPOSE
Mission: Educating leaders in physical therapy. Vision: Moving individuals and communities toward optimal health. Core purpose: To advance and improve the profession and practice of physical therapy.

ACCREDITATION STATUS
The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) curriculum is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). CAPTE can be contacted at accreditation@apta.org or 1111 North Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

PHYSICAL THERAPY: A DYNAMIC HEALTH CARE PROFESSION
Physical therapists provide physical therapy services to patients/clients who have impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease, or other causes. These services include:

- Examination of individuals with impairment, functional limitations, and disability or other health related conditions in order to determine diagnosis, prognosis, and interventions;
- Alleviation of impairment and functional limitation by designing, implementing, and modifying therapeutic interventions;
- Prevention of injury, impairment, functional limitation, and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health, and quality of life in all age populations;
- And, participation in consultation, education, and research.

Therapeutic interventions provided by physical therapists include, but are not limited to, therapeutic exercise; functional training in self-care, home management, and community and work activities; manual therapy techniques; prescription, application, and fabrication of certain assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, supportive, and prosthetic devices and equipment; wound management; airway clearance techniques; electrotherapeutic modalities; and physical agents and mechanical modalities.

Starting salaries in Arkansas for new PTs are approximately $65,000. In May 2018, the median annual earnings of all physical therapists in the United States was $87,930 according to the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook on January 15, 2020 at http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm.

PROFESSIONAL DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT) DEGREE

The curriculum leading to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at the University of Central Arkansas requires 37 hours of prerequisite course work and a completed baccalaureate degree. The program is designed as a 4+3 curriculum (4 years of prerequisite course work culminating in a baccalaureate degree and 3 years of professional coursework) with a clinical doctorate degree awarded after the final 3 years of study. Forty-three weeks of the 3 year DPT curriculum are devoted to clinical experiences in physical therapy at clinical education sites.

PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DPT PROGRAM

To be considered for admission, candidates must complete a baccalaureate degree and meet the specific prerequisite requirements of the UCA Department of Physical Therapy prior to the enrollment date. Students may pursue the bachelor’s degree in any chosen field of study at UCA or at another accredited university or college, as long as the departmental prerequisite requirements are met. Prerequisite course work taken at another institution must be equivalent to or exceed the courses required at UCA (refer to http://uca.edu/ubulletin). Please visit http://uca.edu/ubulletin to access the UCA Undergraduate Bulletin or http://uca.edu/gbulletin to access the UCA Graduate Bulletin. For undergraduate or graduate admission applications, students should visit http://uca.edu/admissions/. Please call 1-800-243-8245 for more information. Applications to UCA for prerequisite course work must be submitted regardless of when completed or the nature of the course work.

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PREREQUISITE COURSE WORK

I. Completion of a Baccalaureate Degree

II. Completion of Departmental Prerequisite Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREREQUISITE COURSES</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry I and II*</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Physics I and II*</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology for Majors with Lab* (i.e. BIOL 1440)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology course* above BIOL 1440, not botany</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology two course sequence in anatomy and physiology* or one course in anatomy with lab and one course in physiology with lab</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours Required 37-38

Note: All science (biology, chemistry and physics) courses or their substitutes must be completed with a grade of C or above. Applicants must possess a science GPA of at least 3.00. All applicants must complete 22 of the 31 hours of the prerequisite science course work (see * items above) prior to the application deadline. Courses taken elsewhere must be equivalent or evaluated and approved in advance. All college course work must be submitted regardless of when completed or the nature of the course work.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The professional DPT program has strict admission requirements and enrollment limitations. Acceptance is by specific application and competitive admission only. A new DPT class begins each Fall semester. Applications for either freshman admission or admission to the professional DPT program are due on October 1st. Prior to the August enrollment date, all applicants must:

- Have an earned baccalaureate degree and
- Have completed all departmental prerequisite requirements.
OPTIONS FOR ADMISSION

Freshman Admission

Application for Freshman Admission should be completed with the Program Advisor by October 1 of the freshman year. Students who begin study at UCA as a freshman will be admitted to the DPT program, if they scored at least 30 on the ACT or 1320 on the SAT (Critical Thinking and Mathematics) from high school. Actual enrollment into the professional program will occur after completion of the baccalaureate degree. To maintain Freshman Admission status, the applicant must:

- Take all coursework at UCA,
- Attend three Pre-PT Club meetings each year (12 total in 4 years),
- By September 1 of application year hold a 3.70 cumulative GPA and a 3.50 cumulative science GPA for all undergraduate work,
- Complete a minimum of 30 hours of observation of a physical therapist (at least 10 hours in each setting including a variety of two or more clinical settings),
- Complete 22 hours of 31 required science prerequisite hours by the DPT application deadline, and
- Complete the baccalaureate degree and all required prerequisites by August of the year of enrollment in the DPT program.

No interview is required of applicants entering the program under Freshman Admission. Contact the Physical Therapy Program Advisor (Mike Hawkinson at 501-450-3611) for more details regarding Freshman Admission.

Regular Admission

The deadline for DPT application is October 1 of the year of planned enrollment. The UCA DPT application for Admission is posted on the American Physical Therapy Association's PTCAS at http://www.ptcas.org. To be eligible for Regular Admission, by the application deadline, the applicant must:

- Possess a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 based on a 4.00 scale.
- Possess a science GPA of at least 3.00 for all biology, chemistry, and physics course work.
- Have completed a minimum of 22 hours of the 31 required hours of science prerequisites by the DPT application deadline.
- Have received a score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Have all GRE scores sent to PTCAS GRE Code 3630. No minimum score is required, however average revised GRE combined total score (verbal and quantitative) was 309 (refer to next page). GRE scores are weighted twice as heavily as GPA for ranking of applicant.
- Have completed a minimum of 30 hours of observation of a physical therapist (at least 10 hours in each setting including a variety of two or more clinical settings). Contact PTCAS Customer Service for instructions of how to document observation hours.

Grade Point Averages for recent coursework (30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours): The GPA for recent course work may be considered by the DPT Admission Committee as a substitute for the cumulative GPA for admission purposes only. The substitution may be made if the GPA for the last 30 semester hours (45 quarter hour equivalent) is at least 10% higher than the cumulative GPA and includes 15 hours of appropriate science coursework. A minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA requirement and a minimal 3.00 science GPA requirement must be met before utilizing this option. The total hours for the recent college GPA are obtained by beginning with the last semester or quarter of course work and moving backwards chronologically on the transcript(s) until 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hour equivalents are obtained. All courses are included. No more than 8 hours of science course work may be repeated course work. No more than one-fourth of the non-science course work included in the recent course work GPA may be repeated course work. All other requirements still apply.

All applicants must submit the PTCAS Application. All applications of candidates who meet qualifications for DPT Admission are reviewed by the DPT Admission Committee composed of physical therapy faculty, other university faculty, the Graduate Dean, and the Registrar. Applicants are ranked using a composite score derived from the cumulative grade point average (CGPA), the science grade point average (SGPA), and scores on the GRE. Extra science course work above the prerequisites (beyond freshman level) will be considered, but will not be a part of the formula for the composite score. Of the criteria, the SGPA and GRE are weighted most heavily. No repeated science courses counts as extra science course work.

The top applicants are invited to a mandatory interview scheduled for the first Friday in December. The DPT Admission Committee Chair will inform invited applicants of their interview time. 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. Applicants accepted for admission are notified in December. A ranked alternate list is also prepared. Individuals may be chosen from this list to replace applicants who decline their appointment at any time. Ranking as an alternate is indicative of the Committee’s high opinion of a candidate’s potential, but does not assure placement in the class or in any future class.

Students who do not meet the stated criteria for admission may appeal to the DPT Admission Committee. Requests for exceptions to the prerequisite course work and policies must be submitted to the DPT Admission Committee by the application deadline. Failure to be admitted does not prevent reapplying for a later year.

REGARDING STUDENTS RECENTLY ADMITTED

Fall 2019

- Average Science GPA: 3.73 (BIOL, CHEM, PHYS)
- Average GRE Total Score: 305
- Average Cumulative GPA: 3.85

Fall 2017

- Matriculation Rate: 79.9% National Average = 53.5%
- Acceptance Rate: 31.3% National Average = 26.1%
UCA DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY COURSES SEQUENCE

1ST FALL SEMESTER (17 credits)
PTHY 5505 Gross Anatomy (5)
PTHY 6404 Clinical Foundations in PT Practice (4)
PTHY 6401 Kinesiology I (4)
PTHY 6307 Professional Dev. I (3)
PTHY 6105 Research I (1)

1ST SPRING SEMESTER (18 credits)
PTHY 6501 Neuroscience (5)
PTHY 6402 Kinesiology II (4)
PTHY 6406 Human Pathophysiology I (4)
PTHY 6303 Patient Management & Documentation (3)
PTHY 6205 Research II (2)

1ST SUMMER SEMESTER (13-14 credits)
PTHY 6406 Human Pathophysiology II (4)
PTHY 6250 Pharmacology in Physical Therapy (2)
PTHY 6405 Therapeutic Exercise (4)
PTHY 6314 Neurophysiological Princ. of Motor Control (3)
PTHY 7114* Research Practicum (1)

2ND FALL SEMESTER (16-17 credits)
PTHY 7403 Physical Agents (4)
PTHY 7515 Neurological Rehabilitation in Pediatrics (5)
PTHY 7404 Musculoskeletal PT I (4)
PTHY 7715 Research III (1)
PTHY 7114* Research Practicum (1)
PTHY 7228 Clinical Ed. Practicum I (2)

2ND SPRING SEMESTER (18-22 credits)
PTHY 7516 Adult Neurological Rehab (5)
PTHY 7411 Physical Rehabilitation (4)
PTHY 7520 Cardiopulmonary Prin.& Practice (5)
PTHY 7405 Musculoskeletal PT II (4)
PTHY 7715 Research Practicum (1)

2ND SUMMER SEMESTER (12-15 credits)
PTHY 7406 Musculoskeletal PT III (4)
PTHY 7720 Integumentary System: Principles & Practice (2)
PTHY 7307 Professional Dev. II (3)
PTHY 7209 Complex Patient Management in PT (2)
PTHY 7715 Research Practicum (1)

3RD FALL SEMESTER (13-16 credits)
PTHY 6424 Clinical Administration & Management (4)
PTHY 7409 Clinical Reasoning & Differential Diagnosis (4)
PTHY 7213 Analysis and Synthesis of PT Practice (2)
PTHY 7328 Clinical Ed. Practicum II (3)
PTHY 7715 Elective (optional) (0-3)

3RD SPRING SEMESTER (10 credits)
PTHY 7528 Clinical Ed. Practicum III (5)
PTHY 7529 Clinical Ed. Practicum IV (5)

3RD SUMMER SEMESTER (6 credits)
PTHY 7530 Clinical Ed. Practicum V (5)
PTHY 7103 Outcomes Assessment in Physical Therapy (1)

TOTAL REQUIRED = 124 CREDITS
TOTAL REQUIRED CLINICAL = 39 WEEKS

* Successful completion of 2 credit hours of Research Practicum are required as part of the DPT degree. The actual semesters of enrollment will depend upon the research project/mentor.

Course descriptions for physical therapy courses can be found in the UCA Graduate Bulletin at:  http://uca.edu/gbulletin

COST OF PROGRAM

Total costs for the three years of the UCA DPT program are below national average for public universities. As of the Fall 2019 semester, GRADUATE tuition and hourly fees for Arkansas residents AND residents of states contiguous to Arkansas (Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas) total $349.01 per graduate semester hour. When calculated with Fall 2019 tuition rates, the three year DPT program is estimated to cost approximately $43,277.24 (not including room/board or books) for an Arkansas resident (and residents of states contiguous to Arkansas). Out of state residents (of states non-contiguous to Arkansas) for Fall 2019 pay $627.81 per graduate semester hour. In addition, the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences Fee is $14.00 per credit hour and the Lab Fee is $5.00 per credit hour. In example, students in the first semester of the DPT Program take 17 credit hours resulting in combined tuition and fees of $6,236.17 for 2019 for an in-state student. Students seeking financial aid should make known in their application for aid the actual per semester hours in the DPT Program as noted in the curriculum sequence on page 7. Tuition and fees are subject to change at any time. Information on tuition and fees is available from the UCA Student Accounts office at http://www.uca.edu/studentaccounts.

Upon enrollment in the Professional DPT Program students are required to have personal health insurance covering at minimum accidental injury. Upon enrollment students must also provide a copy of immunization records and complete an annual Tuberculosis (TB) skin test or chest x-ray. During the first year of the program, students will be instructed regarding completion of a national criminal background check and become certified in Healthcare Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Depending on clinical education placements, students may possibly need to become certified in First Aid or complete a Child Maltreatment Registry Check; drug screen, physical exam, or update of immunizations. Students will be informed in advance and responsible for the costs of such items. Students should also anticipate potential expenses related to travel for clinical education experiences.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

UCA DPT graduates of 2018 achieved a First Time Pass Rate of 98% for the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) and an ultimate pass rate of 100%.

Performance of UCA DPT graduates over the past two years is as follows:
- Pass Rate on the NPTE: (2017, 2018) = 100%
- Graduation Rate: (2017, 2018): 96.4%
- Employment Rate (2017, 2018): 100%

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

PhD Program: Qualified students may be accepted to the DPT/PhD program allowing them to simultaneously pursue the DPT (CAPTE accredited) and PhD degrees (Higher Learning Commission Accredited). Application to this program occurs following admission to the DPT program.

Pediatric Residency Program: UCA offers an accredited residency program in Pediatric Physical Therapy, providing physical therapists an opportunity to achieve advanced skill and knowledge in this clinical practice area. Admission is competitive and occurs following completion of the DPT degree.