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2023-2024
DPT
Brochure

UNIVERSITY OF
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ARKANSAS™

Updated 2-1-2024

Department of Physical Therapy
University of Central Arkansas
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University of Central Arkansas

Department of Physical Therapy

Faculty

[Click here for Faculty Bios](#)

Melissa Allen, PT, PhD, DPT, NCS, CEEAA

William D. Bandy, PT, PhD, SCS, FAPTA

Misty Booth, PT, DPT, PCS

Mieke Corbitt, PT, DPT, OCS

Lara Davis, PT, PhD, DPT, NCS

Maritza Dominguez, PhD, PT, CBIST

James Fletcher, PT, PhD, ATC-Ret

Leah Lowe, PT, PhD, DPT, PCS

Margaret McGee, PT, PhD, PCS

Brian Odom, PT, PhD, CWS

Stacey Stephens, MS

David Taylor, PT, PhD

Charlotte Yates, PT, PhD, PCS

Department Chairperson: Kevin Garrison, PT, PhD

PhD Program Director: Mark Mennemeier, PhD

Pediatric PT Residency Program Director: Misty Booth, PT, DPT, PCS

DPT Program Advisor: pt@uca.edu, (501) 450-3611

DEPARTMENT MISSION AND VISION

Mission: Educating leaders in physical therapy.

Vision: Moving individuals and communities toward optimal health.

PHYSICAL THERAPY: A DYNAMIC HEALTH CARE PROFESSION

Physical therapists examine, diagnose, and treat individuals of all ages, from newborns to people at the end of life. Physical therapists work with patients who have injuries, disabilities, or other health conditions that need treatment. They optimize quality of life by maintaining, restoring, and improving patient's ability to move, function, and live more active lifestyles. Physical therapists are licensed doctors who work with multiple patient populations impacted by disease, injury, and movement dysfunction.

The outlook for a career as a physical therapist is strong: U.S. News & World Report listed physical therapist as the #3 "best job" in health care and #6 overall, based on number and percentage of projected openings from 2021 to 2031 as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. To practice as a physical therapist in the U.S., you must earn a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from a Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education accredited physical therapist education program and pass a state licensure exam.

◆ [2024's 100 Best Jobs in America](#) | [Best Jobs Rankings](#) | [US News Careers](#)

◆ [Best Health Care Jobs](#) | [Best Jobs Rankings](#) | [US News Careers](#)

◆ More information about physical therapy is available at <http://www.apta.org>.

Earnings for Physical Therapists

In May 2022, the median annual wage for physical therapists in the United States was \$97,720 according to the U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, last modified on December 11, 2023. (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm>) Mean annual salary for physical therapists in Arkansas is \$93,160 (<https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291123.htm#st>). Updated April 25, 2023. It is estimated that starting salaries in Arkansas for new physical therapists begin at \$70,000.

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 prerequisite course work culminating in a baccalaureate degree and 3 years of professional course-work) with a clinical doctorate degree awarded after the final 3 years of study. Thirty-nine weeks of the 3 year DPT curriculum are devoted to clinical experiences in physical therapy at clinical education sites.



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

PREREQUISITES FOR THE UCA DPT DEGREE

To be considered for admission, candidates must complete a baccalaureate degree and meet the specific prerequisite requirements of the UCA DPT program 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 uca.edu/ubulletin). Upon enrollment in the DPT program students must perform certain essential functions (click here to [see essential functions list and policy](#)). All prospective students should review the document "Essential Functions of the Student in the DPT Program" and the departmental policy prior to applying for admission to the DPT Program. International Applicants: Please note that World Education Services ([WES](#)) is the only foreign transcript evaluation service for PTCAS applicants with non-US coursework.

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PREREQUISITE COURSE WORK

- I. Completion of a Baccalaureate Degree
- II. Completion of Departmental Prerequisite Requirements

PREREQUISITE COURSES	CREDIT
General Psychology	3
Statistics	3
Chemistry I and II* (two semester sequence with lab)	8
College Physics I and II* (two semester sequence with lab)	8
Biology for Majors with Lab* (i.e. BIOL 1440)	4
Biology course* above BIOL 1440, not botany	3-4
Biology two course sequence in anatomy and physiology* or one course in anatomy with lab and one course in physiology	8
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 Early Assurance or Regular 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.



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PHYSICAL THERAPY

OPTIONS FOR ADMISSION

Regular Admission



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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 www.ptcas.org. To be eligible for Regular Admission, by the application deadline, the applicant must:

- Possess a cumulative GPA of at least a 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 301 (refer to next page). GRE scores are weighted twice as heavily as GPA for ranking of applicant.
- Observation hours are not required. Applicants are encouraged to learn about the profession of physical therapy in advance so that they are familiar with the role of a physical therapist and the variety of clinical practice.



Early Assurance Program

Application for the Early Assurance Program 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 1360 on the SAT from high school, or meet eligibility requirements by the end of their first year at UCA. Actual enrollment into the professional program will occur after completion of the baccalaureate degree. To maintain Early Assurance 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 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 Early Assurance. Contact the Department at pt@uca.edu or (501) 450-3611 for more details.

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.



APPLICANTS MUST APPLY THROUGH [PTCAS](#) AND SELECT UCA

Applications are initially reviewed by the Chair of the DPT Admissions Committee, who ranks the applications using a composite score derived from the cumulative grade point average (CGPA), the science grade point average (SGPA), and GRE scores. (Of the three criteria, the SGPA and GRE are weighted 40% each and the CGPA is weighted 20% of the composite score.)

DPT INTERVIEWS

The top applicants are invited to a mandatory interview scheduled for an early 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 believe they have been treated fairly 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

Average Scores & Ranges

Fall 2023 Incoming DPT Students

3.75 Science GPA	3.33 - 4.0	All biology, chemistry, and physics courses
301 GRE	277 - 317	Total score
3.85 Cumulative GPA	3.50 - 4.0	All coursework



UCA DPT COURSE 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 6407 Human Pathophysiology II (4)
PTHY 6250 Pharmacology in Physical Therapy (2)
PTHY 7403 Physical Agents (4)
PTHY 6314 Neurophysiological Principles of Motor Control (3)
PTHY 7115* Research Practicum (1)

2nd FALL SEMESTER 16-17 credits

- PTHY 6405 Therapeutic Exercise (4)
PTHY 7515 Neurological Rehabilitation in Pediatrics (5)
PTHY 7404 Musculoskeletal PT I (4)
PTHY 7105 Research III (1)
PTHY 7115* Research Practicum (1)
PTHY 7228 Clinical Ed. Practicum I (2) (5 weeks)

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 xxxx Elective (optional) (0-3)
PTHY 7115* Research Practicum (1)

2nd SUMMER SEMESTER 12-16 credits

- PTHY 7406 Musculoskeletal PT III (4)
PTHY 7210 Integumentary System: Principles & Practice (2)
PTHY 7307 Professional Dev. II (3)
PTHY 7336 Complex Patient Management in PT (3)
PTHY xxxx Elective (optional) (0-3)
PTHY 7115* Research Practicum (1)

The process and guidelines detailed in this brochure supersede any previously published or printed admissions policy for the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

3rd FALL SEMESTER 14-17 credits

- PTHY 6424 Clinical Administration & Management (4)
PTHY 7214 Medical Screening & Differential Diagnosis (2)
PTHY 7389 Clinical Reasoning and Reflection (3)
PTHY 7116 Analysis and Synthesis of PT Practice (1)
PTHY 7428 Clinical Ed. Practicum II (4) (8 weeks)
PTHY xxxx Elective (optional) (0-3)

3rd SPRING SEMESTER 9 credits

- PTHY 7429 Clinical Ed. Practicum III (4) (8 weeks)
PTHY 7529 Clinical Ed. Practicum IV (5) (9 weeks)

3rd SUMMER SEMESTER (5 credits)

- PTHY 7530 Clinical Ed. Practicum V (5) (9 weeks)

TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS = 124

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.

Note: Electives are optional.

Updated 7/06/2023

Course descriptions for physical therapy courses can be found in the UCA Graduate Bulletin at:

<http://uca.edu/gbulletin>



PROGRAM COSTS

[Click here for DPT Student Financial Fact Sheet](#)

Total costs for the three years of the UCA DPT program are below national average for public universities. Information on tuition and fees is available from the UCA Student Accounts office at www.uca.edu/studentaccounts. 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.

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

Graduates of UCA received the following Outcomes (updated 1-19-2024):

- First Time Pass Rate on the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) of 90.5% (2022,2023)
- Ultimate Pass Rate on the NPTE of 98.3% (2022, 2023)
- Graduation Rate of 97.5% (2022,2023)
- Employment Rate of 100% (2022,2023)



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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.