



WHEELING UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program

The professional curriculum utilizes Problem-Based Learning rather than the traditional lecture method of teaching. Students are assigned to small tutorial groups of eight to ten students and are guided by a faculty tutor toward independent study. Supervised physical therapy science classes and assignment to physical therapy clinical education sites are where students master clinical skills. Because of the unique curriculum design, transfer of professional course work is not recommended. The program offers the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (DPT).

The DPT Curriculum

Summer Term I	Fall Term II	Spring Term III	Summer Term IV	Fall Term V	Spring Term VI	Summer Term VII	Fall Term VIII
Courses (online)	Courses	Courses	Clinical Education & Service Learning	Courses	Courses	Courses	Clinical Education & Board Review Course
6 weeks	21 weeks	16 weeks	13 weeks	21 weeks	16 weeks	10 weeks	20 weeks
Basic Science I DPT 601-80 (Online) 2 Credits	Basic Science II DPT 611 5 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Basic Science III DPT 621 5 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Clinical Education I DPT 638 6 Credits (8 Weeks- 320 Hours) 40 Hours/Week	Basic Science IV DPT 631 5 Credits 5 Hours/Week for 16 weeks	Basic Science V DPT 641 3 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Basic Science VI DPT 651 3 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Clinical Education III DPT 668a 8 Credits (10 Weeks - 400 Hours) 40 Hours/Week
Clinical Science I DPT 602-80 (Online) 1 Credit	Clinical Science II DPT 612 5 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Clinical Science III DPT 622 5 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Regional Service Learning III (Appalachian Outreach) DPT 637-01 1 Credit 30 Hours	Clinical Science IV DPT 632 5 Credits 5 Hours/Week for 16 weeks	Clinical Science V DPT 642 3 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Clinical Science VI DPT 652 3 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Clinical Education IV DPT 668b 8 Credits (10 Weeks - 400 Hours) 40 Hours/Week
Physical Therapy Science I DPT 603-80 (Online) 2 Credits	Physical Therapy Science II DPT 613 5 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Physical Therapy Science III DPT 623 5 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Regional Service Learning III (Camp Gizmo) DPT 637-02 1 Credit 25 Hours	Physical Therapy Science IV DPT 633 5 Credits 5 Hours/Week for 16 weeks	Physical Therapy Science V DPT 643 3 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Physical Therapy Science VI DPT 653 3 Credits 5 Hours/Week	Board Review Course (Online) DPT 675 3 Credits 5 Hours/Week
Professional Issues I DPT 604-80 (Online) 1 Credit	Professional Issues II DPT 618 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week	Professional Issues III DPT 630 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week		Professional Issues IV DPT 634-80 2.5 Credits 2.5 Hours/Week for 16 weeks	Professional Issues V DPT 644-80 1.5 Credits 2.5 Hours/Week	Professional Issues VI DPT 654 1.5 Credits 2.5 Hours/Week	
	Integrated Seminar I DPT 615 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week	Integrated Seminar II DPT 625 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week		Integrated Seminar III DPT 635 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week for 16 weeks	Integrated Seminar IV DPT 645 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week	Integrated Seminar V DPT 655 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week	
	Research & Evidence Based Practice I DPT 616 2.5 Credits 2.5 Hours/Week	Research & Evidence Based Practice II DPT 626 2.5 Credits 2.5 Hours/Week		Research & Evidence Based Practice III DPT 636-80 1 Credit 5 Hours/Week for 3 Weeks	Research & Evidence Based Practice V DPT 650 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week	Research & Evidence Based Practice VI DPT 660-80 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week	
	Service Learning I DPT 617 1 Credit 2 Hours/Week	Service Learning II DPT 627 1 Credit 2 Hours/Week		Research & Evidence Based Practice IV DPT 640 1 Credit 1 Hour/Week for 16 Weeks	International Service Learning IV - Mexico DPT 657-01 2 Credits 45 Hours		
					International Service Learning IV - Haiti/DR DPT 657-02 2 Credits 45 Hours		
					International Service Learning IV - Peru DPT 657-03 2 Credits 45 Hours		

					Clinical Education II DPT 658 6 Credits (8 Weeks - 320 Hours) 40 Hours/Week		
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The Knowledge You Need To Be A Successful Physical Therapist

Each Term consists of the following academic courses:

1. Basic Science (BS) - (Terms II-VII) During the Basic Science course, which meets for 5 hours per week, faculty guide the students to refine their learning in the fundamental sciences of Anatomy, Biomechanics, Neuroanatomy, Kinesiology, Pathology, Histology, Embryology, and Pharmacology. Basic Science (Term I) - This 6 week intensive online course investigates medical specialties and body systems as facilitated by study of medical terminology.

2. Clinical Science (CS) - (Terms II-VII) BS, CS, and PTS courses are centered on the clinical case/problem, which is introduced in Clinical Science. This is a group tutorial session and meets for 2.5 hours 2 times per week. With the facilitation of the faculty tutor, the group determines what needs to be known to diagnose and treat a clinical case. Clinical Science (Term I) - The curriculum in the Department of Physical Therapy at WU is based on the Problem-Based Learning philosophy of learning. The DPT program utilizes an integrated approach in which all learning is driven by the patient cases. The core of this type of learning is the tutorial process. In this on-line course, the theoretical basis of this style of learning, including the assumptions that underlie the process, will be investigated. The process and the roles that individuals take in professional discussion will be explained. Group dynamics will also be briefly discussed.

3. Physical Therapy Science (PTS) - (Terms II-VII) - The information is processed in the Physical Therapy Science lab with hands-on, practical experiences guided by the faculty. The course meets 2 times per week for 2.5 hours. The Physical Therapy Science aspect is the laboratory equivalent in traditional learning. Physical Therapy Science (Term I) - This course is designed to allow the student to bring forward anatomy knowledge previously learned in prerequisite coursework and to apply it to the practice of physical therapy. This will be accomplished through 6 weekly on-line modules that will guide the student through the basics of anatomical surface palpation of bony structures, muscles, their actions, and attachments. These tasks and principles will be applied to the trunk and extremities.

4. Professional Issues (PI) - (Terms II-VII) In this thread of Professional Issues courses, students will discuss and understand the health care delivery systems nationally, cover legal and ethical dilemmas and implications in the healthcare arena, discuss professional issues and behaviors in healthcare, management of the clinical environment, and professional issues as a student of physical therapy in the clinical environment. Management of the Clinical Education part of the curriculum will also be covered and managed throughout this thread of courses. Professional Issues (Term I) - Introduction to the Profession of Physical Therapy. This course will define and describe professionalism as it applies to the profession of physical therapy. It will provide the student with the expectation of what a graduate of our physical therapy program should demonstrate with respect to professionalism in their daily practice as a physical therapist. In addition, a working knowledge of the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice and specific resources relating to professionalism, available through the American Physical Therapy Association's web page, will be presented.

5. Integrated Seminar (IS) - During these courses, specific topics, which are related to the case, are addressed in a seminar format. These include topics of medical diagnostic techniques, medical and pharmacological treatments, and physical therapy theories. Topics assist the student in understanding complex material. This course assists the student in integrating the information learned in the Clinical Science, Physical Therapy Science, and Basic Science courses.

6. Research & Evidence Based Practice (R&EBP) - Through the Research and Evidence-Based courses I-VI, students will be introduced to the APTA vision on training the next generation of PT professionals in the Scientist-Practitioner model. Students will learn the basics of evidence-based practice, designing a research project, hypotheses writing, and the basics of statistical tests in order to interpret research results. Students develop a research topic and methodology in Terms II and III. During Terms IV, V, and VI students begin to collect data and are responsible for presentations about their progress. Students are encouraged to submit their projects for a conference by the end of their 2 years in Term VII. Although students are encouraged to work on a faculty project, students may choose to complete an individual project.

7. Service Learning (SL) - The service learning courses provide physical therapy students the opportunity to evaluate and serve the needs of the local community utilizing basic examination and treatment skills, consultation, or community service under faculty supervision. The students will evaluate their roles as health care professionals and as citizens to promote positive change within their community during SL I and II. In addition to local service, each student will be required to select either a regional or international experience (SL III or IV). Proposed dates for these experiences are on the program schedule.

As the Terms progress, more complex and advanced material is added. Different clinical cases assist the students in learning the depth and breadth of information needed to be a competent entry-level physical therapy professional.

The Skills To Be A Master Problem-Solver

The Problem-Based Learning approach encourages students to view all material as part of the solution to a patient's problem. Adult learning theories have indicated that learning in the context of a problem increases retrieval of information in a similar situation. During the tutorials, students discuss different ways to solve the problem with the information learned. Therefore, in the clinical setting the student can recall the different options. Service Learning experiences during Terms II and III allow students to develop communication and patient interaction skills during the didactic portion. Two of the Terms (Term IV and Term VI) are shortened so that the students can be placed in a clinical environment and can apply their acquired knowledge and practice their new skills. There are 4 Clinical Education experiences, a total of 36 weeks of clinical experience: DPT 638 and DPT 658 (8 weeks each), DPT 668a and DPT 668b (10 weeks each). During this time, the student is supervised by a licensed physical therapist and works directly with patients. Supervision is gradually reduced so that by the end of the last Clinical Education experience, the student can function independently as an entry-level clinician.