

## Physical Therapy

### Department of Rehabilitation Science

Physical Therapy  
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### Overview

*\*This is not a baccalaureate degree program; it is, rather, a six-year Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT).*

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program comprises three academic years of undergraduate study and three calendar years of professional graduate study. The undergraduate portion of the curriculum is done as an exercise science major in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences. Students who follow the first three years of the exercise science (ES) curriculum will have completed all the prerequisite coursework for the DPT program.

### About our Degrees

#### Acceptance Criteria

All prerequisites must be completed with a grade of C or better.  
A minimum GPA of 3.0 is necessary in prerequisite courses.

#### Acceptance Information

The Doctor of Physical Therapy is the highest degree offered in the profession of physical therapy. It is a professional entry-level degree designed to produce outstanding clinicians.

Completion of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at UB requires a minimum of six years following high school. During the first three years (the prerequisite phase) students should major in Exercise Science (ES). ES juniors who have a minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.0 are eligible to apply in the fall semester for admission into the DPT the following August. Transfer students are encouraged to apply and should review the prerequisites required for admission to determine their eligibility for direct admission to DPT program. Students who have not completed the prerequisites should consider transferring to the Exercise Science program at UB, which prepares them for admission to the DPT.

The DPT is a full-time, three calendar-year program commencing in August of each year. Students accepted into the program, following completion of the three years of prerequisites, become graduate students. Applications are completed online and are due November 1 of the preceding year. Each year, 42 students are accepted.

#### Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

### About our Courses

All physical therapy courses are graduate courses. Undergraduate students planning to enter the DPT program should register for undergraduate exercise science courses.

For pre-physical therapy course descriptions, please see the required courses listed in the Physical Therapy chart in [Degrees](#).

### About our Faculty

The faculty offer knowledge and skills from a wide range of physical therapy practice areas including: orthopaedics, pediatrics, neurologic rehabilitation, acute care, and cardiopulmonary rehabilitation.

See a list of our [Undergraduate Faculty](#).

## Physical Therapy

### Acceptance Information

In the sophomore year of exercise science, students must submit a completed Promotion to Professional Sequence form, due on or before the last Friday in January, in order to be accepted into the upper division ES courses. At this point, students interested in physical therapy should select the pre-physical therapy track. To be eligible for this track, students must have a minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.0 and all grades in the prerequisite courses must be at least a C.

In the junior year of exercise science, students must complete the online application to the DPT program; the application must be submitted no later than November 1. If accepted, students begin the DPT program, in the Department of Rehabilitation Science, in the following fall semester. The prerequisite courses must be completed prior to the start of classes in August of each year.

Students who wish to receive the BS in exercise science as well as the doctor of physical therapy degree should submit the DPT application in their senior year.

### Transfer Policy

The Department of Rehabilitation Science does not differentiate between transfer and non-transfer students seeking admission into the DPT program. For transfer students, the general education required courses may be different from those of non-transfer students, but all other prerequisite requirements and admission criteria are the same.

Students seeking to transfer from other institutions should apply to the university and the Exercise Science program by December 15 of their sophomore year. They then must submit a completed Promotion to Professional Sequence form (due on or before the last Friday in January) in order to be allowed to take the upper division ES courses.

Transfer students may also be eligible to apply directly to the DPT program. Courses equivalent to the lower division and upper division prerequisite courses must be completed prior to the start of professional program classes in August of each year. Students seeking direct transfer to the DPT program should contact MaryAnn Venezia at 716-829-6742 or by email at [venezia3@buffalo.edu](mailto:venezia3@buffalo.edu) before applying.

### Extracurricular Activities

See the [UB Student Association](#).

### Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

In the course of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, students complete 52 weeks of clinical affiliations over the period of 3 years. During these affiliations, they practice physical therapy under the supervision of a clinical instructor in a typical physical therapy setting.

### Career Information and Further Study

Upon graduating from UB's program, students are eligible to take the National Physical Therapist Exam, which is required for licensure in any state. To practice physical therapy, one must be licensed in the state where employment is sought.

**Work settings include:** hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, extended care facilities, outpatient clinics, and schools.

The job market for physical therapists is currently very strong.

#### **Salary Information**

Salaries vary depending on the work setting and on the region of the country.

Information regarding the physical therapy profession and current salaries is available from the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#).

#### **Post-undergraduate Opportunities**

## Physical Therapy

After graduation, students may elect to pursue a post-professional degree such as an MS or PhD. Such degrees open up opportunities for teaching and/or research. Opportunities also exist for graduates who become practicing clinicians to gain board-certified specialization in areas such as pediatrics, geriatrics, respiratory and cardiovascular rehabilitation, orthopedic physical therapy, sports medicine, neurologic rehabilitation, and electromyographic and electrodiagnostic testing.

### Degree Options

The only physical therapy degree offered at UB is the Doctor of Physical Therapy, which requires a minimum of six years of study. Students may, however, elect to complete the BS in Exercise Science before starting the professional sequence of the DPT. In this case, the total length of study will be seven years.

### Degrees Offered

Graduate: DPT

### Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Rehabilitation Science](#)
- [School of Public Health and Health Professions](#)
- [American Physical Therapy Association](#)

### **Physical Therapy - D. P. T.**

#### **Acceptance Criteria**

All prerequisites must be completed with a grade of C or better.  
A minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.0 is required.

#### **Prerequisite Courses**

##### **Lower Division**

[ANA 113](#) Human Anatomy; or [APY 345](#) Comparative Primate Anatomy and [APY 346](#) Dissections in Comparative Primate Anatomy  
[CHE 101](#) General Chemistry  
[CHE 102](#) General Chemistry  
[ES 200](#) Science of Human Movement  
[MTH 121](#) Survey of Calculus and its Applications I or [MTH 141](#) College Calculus I  
[NTR 108](#) Human Nutrition  
[PGY 300](#) Human Physiology  
[PHY 101/PHY 151](#) College Physics I/Lab  
[PHY 102/PHY 152](#) College Physics II/Lab  
[PSY 101](#) Introductory Psychology  
[STA 119](#) Statistical Methods

##### **Upper Division**

[ANA 407](#) Gross Human Anatomy  
[ES 300](#) Theory of Athletic Injury  
[ES 310](#) Exercise Assessment, Prescription and Programming I  
[ES 330](#) Life Span Physiology  
[ES 341](#) Critical Analysis of Scientific Literature  
[ES 342](#) Neuroscience I  
[ES 343](#) Neuroscience II  
[ES 344](#) Neuroanatomy I  
[ES 345](#) Neuroanatomy II  
[ES 370](#) Biomechanics I  
[ES 380](#) Exercise Physiology

## Physical Therapy

### Required Courses

[PT 500](#) Professional Colloquium I  
[PT 501](#) Professional Development  
[PT 503](#) Medical Sciences I  
[PT 504](#) Medical Sciences II  
[PT 505](#) Evidence-based Practice  
[PT 508](#) Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy  
[PT 509](#) Foundations of Physical Therapy I  
[PT 510](#) Foundations of Physical Therapy II  
[PT 511](#) Health and Wellness  
[PT 512](#) Clinical Experience II  
[PT 600](#) Community Service in Physical Therapy  
[PT 601](#) Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy I  
[PT 602](#) Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy II  
[PT 603](#) Neuromuscular Physical Therapy I  
[PT 604](#) Neuromuscular Physical Therapy II  
[PT 605](#) Case Management I  
[PT 606](#) Case Management II  
[PT 611](#) Foundations of Physical Therapy III  
[PT 612](#) Integumentary Physical Therapy  
[PT 613](#) Clinical Experience III  
[PT 614](#) Clinical Internship  
[PT 701](#) Management Sciences for Physical Therapy  
[PT 703](#) Critical Analysis of Patient Care  
[PT 712](#) Clinical Residency I  
[PT 713](#) Clinical Residency II  
[PT 718](#) Enrichment Capstone  
[PT 724](#) Professional Colloquium II

### Summary

Total required credit hours for the undergraduate portion: 79  
Total required credit hours for the DPT: 186

See [Baccalaureate Degree Requirements](#) for general education and remaining university requirements.

### Recommended Sequence of Program Requirements

#### FIRST YEAR

Fall [CHE 101](#); [MTH 121](#) or [MTH 141](#); [PSY 101](#)  
Spring [CHE 102](#), [NTR 108](#); [STA 119](#)

#### SECOND YEAR

Fall [ANA 113](#) or [APY 345](#) and [APY 346](#); [PHY 101/PHY 151](#)  
Spring [PGY 300](#), [PHY 102/PHY 152](#), [ES 200](#)

#### THIRD YEAR

Summer [ANA 407](#)  
Fall [ES 300](#), [ES 310](#), [ES 341](#), [ES 342](#), [ES 344](#), [ES 380](#)  
Spring [ES 330](#), [ES 343](#), [ES 345](#), [ES 370](#)

#### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Information regarding the graduate courses included in the professional phase of the DPT can be found at [www.sphhp.buffalo.edu/rs/dpt](http://www.sphhp.buffalo.edu/rs/dpt) or obtained from the Department of Rehabilitation Science, 501 Kimball Tower, South Campus, Buffalo, NY 14214, (716) 829-3141.