



DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

M E R C E R U N I V E R S I T Y

Priority will be given to applicants who submit their application materials by November 1, 2012. December 15, 2012 is the firm deadline for acceptance of any application for the Fall 2013 entering class.

Program Description and Accreditation Information

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program provides the didactic and clinical preparation for a professional career as a physical therapist. The program of study is full-time and spans eight (8) consecutive semesters. Upon successful completion of the program, the student will be awarded the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

Mercer's Physical Therapy program has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone 703-706-3245; email accreditation@apta.org). Candidacy is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation. Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program is progressing toward accreditation.

Admissions Requirements

1. Undergraduate degree (Bachelor's) must be received from a regionally-accredited college/university prior to matriculation into the program.
2. Preferred undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.
3. Completion of all prerequisites prior to matriculation with required GPA of 3.00 (using best grades). We recommend you complete at least six (6) of the ten (10) prerequisites prior to application and include a plan for completing the outstanding prerequisites in your application. If you have taken a prerequisite more than once, we will use your best attempt in averaging your GPA.
4. Required minimum of 50th percentile scores for the Verbal and Quantitative sections on the GRE. Required Analytical Writing score of 3.5 ; 4.0 preferred. The best of attempt of each section will be considered.
5. Required Experiential Hours: Volunteer, observation, or work experience in physical therapy and service learning: A minimum of 60 hours total, divided among three settings with at least 20 hours in each setting.
 - a. Experiences should be in at least two different types of physical therapy clinical practice settings. Examples of physical therapy settings include: out-patient orthopedics, pediatrics (outpatient, home health, inpatient, rehab), geriatrics (home health, skilled nursing facility, rehabilitation center), and acute care (hospital). Thirty (30) of these hours should be completed prior to application.
 - b. The third experience should be as an active participant in a service or community project. Examples of this service/volunteer experience include working in an after-school program, volunteering with a food bank or shelter, or engaging in community improvement projects (locally, nationally, or internationally). Ten (10) of these hours should be completed prior to application.

What are the materials required to apply to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program?

Please check our website (<http://cophs.mercer.edu/admdpt.htm>) for more details about the application process before you apply.

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- Applicants are required to submit a primary application via PTCAS (<http://www.ptcas.org/>). All official college/university transcripts and GRE scores must be submitted to PTCAS.
- Applicants are also required to submit a Supplemental Application online (<http://cophs.mercer.edu/ptsuppapp.shtm>) and a Supplemental Application fee (\$25) must be submitted to our office. Check or money order made out to Mercer University can be sent to the address below. Please make sure you include your name and PTCAS number on your check or money order.

DPT Program Admissions – PAC-121
Mercer University COPHS
3001 Mercer University Dr
Atlanta, GA 30341

- Official GRE scores must be sent directly from ETS to our office using the following codes:
 - **Institution Code (*Mercer U COPHS Phys Therapy*): 7750**

Applicants are encouraged to take the GRE before the priority application deadline (November 15, 2012) to ensure scores are received in a timely manner.

- International applicants must also meet additional requirements regarding foreign course evaluations and English proficiency (TOEFL).

What are the required courses needed for applying to the Physical Therapy Program?

- two course introductory chemistry series (for science majors) with labs,
- two course physics series (for science majors) with labs,
- two course series of human anatomy and physiology with lab preferred,
- a statistics or biostatistics course,
- a biology course,
- a psychology course with an emphasis on individual behavior (general, abnormal or developmental), and
- a behavioral science course with an emphasis on group behavior (sociology, cultural anthropology)

Additionally, we recommend six (6) of these ten (10) courses be completed before application is submitted.

What courses do you take in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program?

Please see the attached curriculum outline. Course descriptions are available on the College's website at <http://cophs.mercer.edu/pt/curriculum.html>.

Can I work while I am in the DPT program?

The intensity and continuity of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program requires the full-time attendance and attention of students. The curriculum is demanding and does not allow extra time for employment. The administration, therefore, views outside employment with disfavor as such employment may interfere with the quality of a student's academic performance.

How much will the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program cost?

Tuition (per semester for 2012-2013)	\$ 9,105
Technology Fee (per semester)	\$ 150

Total estimated cost for students entering the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in August 2012	\$74,040
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Please note that these fees are subject to change each year after the Board of Trustees meeting in April. There also is an increase in tuition each year (3-5% in recent years). These fees are an estimation and do not include other expenses (i.e. books, equipment, housing, transportation, etc.). We recommend you budget an additional \$5,000 to cover expenses associated with the 36 weeks of clinical internship in the final three semesters of the program.

Who can I contact for financial aid information?

Student Financial Planning Office:	(678) 547 – 6444
Student Financial Planning Website:	http://atlanta.merceraid.com
FAFSA on the Web	www.fafsa.ed.gov

Where can I find information about housing for students?

For information about on and off-campus housing options for Physical Therapy students please visit the homepage for campus life (<http://campuslife.merceratlanta.org>).

Where can I find more information about the Physical Therapy profession?

For more information about the Physical Therapy profession, please visit the American Physical Therapy Association's website (<http://www.apta.org>).



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M E R C E R U N I V E R S I T Y

DPT Y1 Fall	Cr Hrs	DPT Y1 Spring	Cr Hrs	DPT Y1 Summer	Cr Hrs
500 Gross Anatomy I	4	530 Gross Anatomy II	4	561 Movement Sciences	4
501 Applied Anatomy I	2	531 Applied Anatomy II	2	562 Professional Development II: Health Care Systems and Policy	2
502 Professional Development I: Professional Behaviors and Communication	3	535 Management of Patients/Clients with Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Conditions	3	563 Research II: Methods and Assessment	2
503 Research I: Evidence-Based Practice	3	536 Clinical Examination and Interventions I	4	565 Management of Patients/Clients with Integumentary Conditions	2
504 Health Promotion Across the Lifespan	3	539 Clinical Experience I	1	566 Clinical Examination and Interventions II	4
508 Service-Learning I	1	540 Foundational Musculoskeletal Sciences	3	568 Service-Learning II	1
510 Pharmacology and Systems Pathophysiology	3	550 Neuroscience	3	571 Differential Diagnosis	1
	19		20		16
DPT Y2 Fall		DPT Y2 Spring		DPT Y2 Summer	
603 Research III: Critical Inquiry and Appraisal	2	633 Research IV: Research Intensive	2	669 Clinical Internship I (12 weeks)	12
604 Geriatric Considerations in Patient/Client Management	3	634 Pediatric Considerations in Patient/Client Management	4		
605 Management of Patients/Clients with Musculoskeletal Conditions I	3	635 Management of Patients/Clients with Musculoskeletal Conditions II	3		
606 Interventions for Patients/Clients with Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions I	4	636 Interventions for Patients/Clients with Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions III	4		
609 Clinical Experience II	1	638 Service-Learning III	1		
615 Management of Patients/Clients with Neuromuscular Conditions I	3	644 Psychosocial Considerations in Patient/Client Management	3		
616 Interventions for Patients/Clients with Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions II: Prosthetics and Orthotics	2	645 Management of Patients/Clients with Neuromuscular Conditions I	3		
	18		20		12
DPT Y3 Fall		DPT Y3 Spring			
702 Professional Development III: Management	2	732 Professional Development IV: Leadership	2		
703 Research V: Translation	1	737 Comprehensive Review	1		
709 Clinical Internship II (12 weeks)	12	739 Clinical Internship III (12 Weeks)	12		
	15		15	Total: 135 Credit Hours	