

Doctor of Physical Therapy



The MU PT program offers the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The professional program requires fulltime enrollment for three years and three summer semesters. Applications are due in January. Selection and notification occur in early March. The program starts with Gross Anatomy during the first summer. Students without a degree (Early Admissions) apply directly to the Department of Physical Therapy. Students with a degree apply online through the MU Graduate School.

SHarP Scholars

The School of Health Professions recognizes outstanding high school students with an option of acceptance to professional programs. High school students with a 30 or higher ACT score and who are in the top 10% of the graduating class, may apply to be a SHarP Scholar. Students may apply during their senior year in high school or by December 1st of their freshman year in college. Contact the School of Health Professions, Student Affairs Office for an application (573-882-8011).

Early Admission to Physical Therapy

College students with a grade point of 3.5 or better and who meet specified criteria may apply for early admission to the professional program. For more information, see the MU PT web site at <http://shp.missouri.edu/pt/> or contact the PT Department by email at MUSHPPT@missouri.edu.

What is the salary outlook for Physical Therapists?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2006, the average salary for physical therapists in the United States was \$66,200.

What is the career outlook for Physical Therapists?

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of physical therapists is expected to grow faster than the average for all other careers through 2016. As our population ages, more people will need physical therapy. Babies born prematurely, people with stroke and head injuries, as well as a professional and amateur athletes, create a demand for physical therapists.

For More Information

Department of Physical Therapy
106 Lewis Hall
Columbia, MO 65211-4250
573-882-7103 or 7250
MUSHPPT@missouri.edu
<http://shp.missouri.edu/pt/>

University Admissions
230 Jesse Hall
1-800-225-6075 Ext. 3 (MO & IL)
573-882-2456
<http://www.missouri.edu/admissions/>

School of Health Professions
504 Lewis Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-8011
MUSHPADVISING@missouri.edu
<http://shp.missouri.edu/>

Graduate School
211 Jesse Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-6311
<http://gradschool.missouri.edu/>

American Physical Therapy Association
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
1-999-2782 (APTA)
<http://www.apta.org>



Physical Therapy



Physical therapists help restore or improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit disability. They also may restore, maintain, and promote overall fitness and health. Physical therapists are essential to the rehabilitation of people with head or spine injuries, birth defects, arthritis, neurological and musculoskeletal disorders.

Discovery in Action... Excellence in Caring.



MUPT student Katie McQueen, an exchange student in South Africa, assisting a child to walk again.

The University of Missouri-Columbia School of Health Professions and the Department of Physical Therapy offer a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) entry-level degree to students entering the professional program starting in 2007. The professional program requires three years of study. A bachelor's degree is usually required for admission, although there is an early admission option available. Successful completion of core course requirements is necessary for all applicants.

Why should I consider a career in Physical Therapy?

If you have an interest in the science of the human body and care about helping others achieve their potential, physical therapy may be the perfect career for you. Physical therapy can be a rewarding career both professionally and personally. Helping people achieve their goals to attain or regain the ability to walk and carry out daily life can lead to a great feeling of personal satisfaction. The need for physical therapists is great in the U.S. and salaries and career opportunities are excellent. Most physical therapists work in clinical settings such as hospitals and clinics and care for people of all ages.

What can I do now to prepare for a career in Physical Therapy?

The profession of physical therapy calls for people who are self-motivated, critical thinkers, problem-solvers, interested in science and health and want to help people achieve their best. High school students who are interested in PT should take as many classes in biology, physics, chemistry and psychology as possible and explore the field of health professions. In college, it is important to do well in your coursework and complete all of the requirements for admission. Most students will need a bachelor's degree to enter the DPT program; however, there is an early admission option available. It is important to communicate with School of Health Professions and PT Department advisors as you select your courses and prepare to apply.



PT students in a PBL (Problem-Based Learning) class.

Job shadowing a physical therapist and volunteering in a PT department are good ways to learn more about the field. Forty hours of observation in at least two different physical therapy settings are required for admission. Knowing about the various health professions and the profession of physical therapy also will help you make good choices about your career.

Application to MU PT

The MU PT program is open to both Missouri and non-Missouri residents. A bachelor's degree is required for most students; however, there is an early admission opportunity available for some students.

Students who apply as undergraduate students must first apply directly to the PT program (<http://shp.missouri.edu/pt/>) and if accepted, to the University (<http://www.missouri.edu>).

Students with a degree must apply through the Graduate School online process. (<http://gradschool.missouri.edu>).

Contact an SHP or PT advisor or see the MU PT website (<http://shp.missouri.edu/pt/>) for more information on admission options and requirements.

Core Course Requirements for Admission

The following are the core courses required for all applicants to the MU PT professional program.

- College Chemistry – 5 credit hours
- College Physics – 8 credit hours
- General Biology with lab - 4-5 credit hours
- Physiology with lab - 4-5 credit hours
- Statistics or Math beyond College Algebra - 3 credit hours
- Medical Terminology– 1 credit hour

For more information on choosing your classes in preparation for applying, please contact the School of Health Professions, Student Affairs Office at 573-882-8011. For more information on the PT Program, visit <http://shp.missouri.edu/pt/>.

Information in this brochure is subject to change.

Physical Therapy Professional Program Courses

FIRST PROFESSIONAL YEAR (SUMMER)

Gross Human Anatomy
Principles of Physical Therapy

FIRST PROFESSIONAL YEAR (FALL)

Essentials of Pathology
Foundations of Therapeutic Exercise
Applied Therapeutic Exercise
Clinical Evaluation and Procedures
Intro to Clinical Education I
Applied Neurophysiology
Human Kinesiology

FIRST PROFESSIONAL YEAR (WINTER)

Intro to Orthopedics
Physical Agents
Intro to Clinical Education II
Clinical Pathophysiology
Clinical Kinesiology
Pharmacology

SECOND PROFESSIONAL YEAR (SUMMER)

Clinical Education I

SECOND PROFESSIONAL YEAR (FALL)

Differential Diagnosis in Rehabilitation
Evidence Based Practice
Orthopedic Physical Therapy
Pediatric Physical Therapy
Adult Neurological Rehabilitation

SECOND PROFESSIONAL YEAR (WINTER)

Clinical Education II
Bridging the Clinical-Research Gap
Medical Testing in Rehabilitation
Case Management I

THIRD PROFESSIONAL SUMMER

Clinical Education III

THIRD PROFESSIONAL (FALL)

Professional Issues
Case Management II
Special Skills Lab
Clinical Education IV

(WINTER)

Seminar
Case Management III
Special Skills Lab
Clinical Education V