

# Doctor of Physical Therapy

**Make a difference  
in people's quality of life.**

Every day in the United States, nearly one million people are helped by a physical therapist. As essential participants in the health care system, physical therapists diagnose and treat people of all ages as well as promote fitness and health. The aging U.S. population ensures that physical therapists will remain in high demand.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Franklin Pierce University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and prepares graduates for work in hospitals, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, outpatient clinics, wellness and sports facilities, and private homes. Coursework is derived from an established theoretical and scientific base that offers broad clinical applications in restoration, maintenance and promotion of optimal physical function.

Students take classes in Concord at a modern, spacious facility that includes classrooms, seminar rooms, computer labs and three clinical labs where students learn hands-on practical skills. Clinical experience is a vital part of the program and can be completed in sites throughout the country. The program can be completed in three academic years. This includes 32 weeks of full-time clinical affiliation in various settings.

Graduates of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Franklin Pierce are skilled and compassionate clinicians who partner with patients to make their lives healthier and more enjoyable. The employment rate of Franklin Pierce graduates has been 100% within six months of passing the license exam.

For more information, contact the College of Graduate & Professional Studies at 1.800.325.1090 or e-mail [cgps@franklinpierce.edu](mailto:cgps@franklinpierce.edu)



# DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

## The Program

The Physical Therapy educational program is an entry-level curriculum leading to a Doctoral degree in Physical Therapy.

Students seek admission following the receipt of an undergraduate degree and completion of prerequisite coursework. Students who hold a BS/BA degree from an accredited college or university in Biology or Exercise Physiology may be deemed to have met the prerequisite requirements of the program.

The program is designed as an integrated model closely following the concepts of the Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education developed by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). This curriculum prepares the student to integrate the five elements of patient/client management - examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention - in a manner to optimize outcomes. Examination, evaluation, and establishment of a diagnosis and a prognosis are all part of the process that helps the physical therapist determine the most appropriate intervention(s) to address outcomes that are desired by the patient/client.

## Admissions Prerequisites

In order to be considered for admission to the physical therapy program, the applicant must show evidence of having completed the following:

- Achievement of a minimum 2.8 cumulative grade point average (GPA) (on a 4.0 scale) in all previous coursework
- Completion of a BS/BA degree from an accredited college or university
- Completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

The applicant who has attained a BS/BA\* degree from an accredited college or university in: Biology, Exercise Physiology or a related professional degree may be deemed to have met the prerequisites for admission. A minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA must be achieved for the required prerequisite courses:

- Anatomy & Physiology (8 credits, including labs)
- Chemistry (4 credits, including lab)
- Statistics (3 credits)
- Physics (8 credits, including lab)

Science prerequisites should be at the science major level.

Franklin Pierce University is willing to work with all individuals to determine the degree to which previous courses of study meet the prerequisites.

A limited number of applicants will be accepted who have special circumstances. In particular experienced Physical Therapist Assistants are encouraged to apply to the program.

The Director of Physical Therapy has discretion to accept students who show potential to succeed and may not meet the requirements listed above.

## Required Courses:

### Professional Year I

- PTH 500 Anatomy I ( 3)
- PTH 501 Anatomy II (3)
- PTH 502 Kinesiology I (3)
- PTH 503 Kinesiology II (3)
- PTH 504 Pathophysiology of Muscles and Cardiopulmonary System (3)
- PTH 505 Foundations of Physical Therapy Practice (5)
- PTH 508 Neuroscience I (3)
- PTH 510 Physical Therapy Practice I - Examination, Evaluation & Intervention (5)
- PTH 511 Physical Therapy Practice I – Pediatrics & Adolescents (5)
- PTH 512 Life Span Development: Theory and Applications (3)
- PTH 517 Mentor Clerkship (1)
- PTH 527 Integrated Clinical Experience (1)

### Professional Year II

- PTH 509 Neuroscience II (2)
- PTH 513 Physical Therapy Practice II – Adults (5)
- PTH 514 Health Care Systems (3)
- PTH 515 Physical Therapy Practice III – Geriatrics (5)
- PTH 516 Behavioral Science (3)
- PTH 518 Research Methods in Physical Therapy (2)
- PTH 519 Critical Inquiry (1)
- PTH 524 Clinical Pharmacology (2)
- PTH 525 Directed Clinical Experience (3)
- PTH 620 Advanced Topics in Imaging & Diagnostics (3)
- PTH 624 Advanced Differential Diagnosis (5)
- PTH 627 Integrated Clinical Experience II (2)
- PTH 628 Special Topics: Sports Physical Therapy (2)\*\*
- PTH 629 Special Topics: Selected Topics (2)\*\*

### Professional Year III

- PTH 601 Clinical Affiliation I (6)
- PTH 602 Clinical Affiliation II (6)
- PTH 603 Clinical Affiliation III (6)
- PTH 610 Professional Seminar (2)
- PTH 720 Evidence Based Practice I (2) (online)
- PTH 730 Evidence Based Practice II (2) (online)

Total Credits: 98 required

## Accreditation

New England Associate of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

\* *It is assumed that, in completing a BS/BA degree, the applicant has completed appropriate liberal arts and science courses in preparation for a career in physical therapy.*

\*\* *Optional electives*

*Please note; information accurate at time of printing. See the full Academic Catalogue on our web site for complete program description and course information.*