

Physical Therapy

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About the Department

The Department of Physical Therapy is part of the **College of Nursing and Health Sciences**.

The Mission of the Department of Physical Therapy is to meet the physical therapy needs of the local, regional, national, and global community by:

- providing entry-level and advanced physical therapy education,
- advancing the knowledge base of physical therapy,
- providing the community with an ethnically and racially diverse group of physical therapy practitioners poised to help eliminate health disparities.

The curriculum is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), and has been since its inception in 1975, allowing graduates of the program to apply for licensure as Physical Therapists throughout the United States.

The department occupies over 6,000 square feet of offices and laboratories on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus of FIU. The departmental inventory includes the full range of clinical equipment used by practicing physical therapists, and is continually updating equipment to support faculty and student research projects. The Kinesiology Laboratory houses several state of the art computer systems with the capability to analyze human movement with high speed digital video, force sensors, and surface electromyography.

There are 9 full-time faculty members, and numerous adjunct faculty. Collectively, the faculty possess well over 100 years of teaching, research, and clinical experience.

The clinical and research interests of the faculty range from pediatrics to geriatrics, and from neuroscience to biomechanics.

The faculty prides itself on its intellectual, cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity. There are approximately 150 students in the department.

Academic Program

The department offers only one program of study; a three-year, 113-credit program leading to Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. In contrast to a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) program that emphasizes research, the DPT is a clinical doctorate, similar to an MD (Medical Doctor) or a JD (Juris Doctor).

Advanced standing in the program may be granted on a case-by-case basis to health care practitioners who already hold undergraduate or graduate degrees in physical therapy or a closely related field.

The DPT program is rigorous, and is recommended only for highly motivated students with proven records of success as undergraduates. Admission to the program is limited to approximately 48 students per year.

Upon completion of this program, students will be eligible to apply for licensure as a Physical Therapist anywhere in the United States and several other jurisdictions.

Minimum Admission Requirements

- A GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 hours of the undergraduate coursework overall undergraduate coursework, and prerequisite coursework.
- A GRE score at or above the 40th percentile (e.g. 1000 combined Verbal and Quantitative on the GRE)
- Completion of the following prerequisites courses:

Courses	Cr
Chemistry with laboratories	8-10
Developmental Psychology	3
General Biology and Lab	4
Human Anatomy**	3
Human Physiology or Exercise Physiology	3
Physics with laboratories	8-10
Psychology	3
Statistics	3
Medical Terminology	3

**Three credits are required, but 8 credits (6 Lecture, 2 Laboratory) of Human Anatomy with cadaver dissection highly recommended (eg. ZOO 4733, 4733L, 3731 and 3731L at FIU).

Additional Items:

- Essay which explains why you want to become a physical therapist and why you are interested in attending FIU.
- A curriculum vitae/resume.
- Admission into FIU as a graduate student.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- A minimum of 40 hours of observation and/or work experience (paid or unpaid) with physical therapists.

Advising, Application and Admission Processes

Prospective students are assigned to faculty advisors based on the first letter of their surname. Please refer to the departmental website to obtain the name and contact information for your advisor.

The application and admission process is composed of two parts:

- First, students must apply for admission to the University Graduate School, and meet all University-wide standards for admission, including specific requirements for graduates of non-US institutions if applicable. This process is entirely online, and is described elsewhere in this catalog, and at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/admissions.html>.
- Second, applicants must submit a supplemental application directly to the Department of Physical Therapy. Instructions are available from the departmental office or website: <http://physicaltherapy.fiu.edu>.

Admission to the program is highly competitive. The Departmental Admissions Committee selects students based primarily on their record of academic performance,

although evidence of non-academic outstanding personal qualities is also considered.

Deadlines

There is only one admission cycle per year. Both parts of the application process must be completed by January 15 in order to be eligible for admission for the Fall term.

Program of Studies

Fall Semester 1: (12 credits)

PHT 5174	Analysis of Movement and Function	3
PHT 5174L	Analysis of Movement and Function Lab	1
PHT 5180	Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Management I	3
PHT 5180L	Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Management I Lab	1
ZOO 5371	Applied Musculoskeletal Systems	3
ZOO 5371L	Applied Musculoskeletal Systems Lab	1

Spring Semester 1: (14 credits)

PHT 5181	Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Management II	3
PHT 5181L	Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Management II Lab	1
PHT 5505C	Physical Therapy Constructs of Health and Wellness	3
PHT 5523	Dimensions of Professional Practice Seminar I	3
PHT 6341	Diagnosis and Management of Disease	3
PHT 6341L	Diagnosis and Management of Disease Lab	1

Summer Semester 1: (14 credits)

PHT 5027	Clinical Education Seminar	1
PHT 5182	Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Management III	3
PHT 5182L	Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Management III Lab	2
PHT 5205	Clinical Skills	3
PHT 5205L	Clinical Skills Lab	1
PHT 5524	Dimensions of Professional Practice Seminar II	3
PHT 5960	Comprehensive Exam I	1

Fall Semester 2: (12 Credits)

PHT 5525	Dimensions of Professional Practice Seminar III	3
PHT 5805	Clinical Internship I (8 weeks)	5
PHT 6163	Neurological Diagnosis and Management I	3
PHT 6163L	Neurological Diagnosis and Management I Lab	1

Spring Semester 2: (14 credits)

PHT 6127	Advanced Pathologic Movement Analysis	3
PHT 6164	Neurological Diagnosis and Management II	3
PHT 6164L	Neurological Diagnosis and Management II Lab	1
PHT 6381	Diagnosis and Management of Cardiopulmonary Systems	3
PHT 6381L	Diagnosis and Management of Cardiopulmonary Systems Lab	1
PHT 6970	DPT Project 1	3

Summer Semester 2: (13 credits)

PHT 5373	Advanced Therapy Assessment of the Elderly	3
PHT 6169	Neurological Diagnosis and Management III	3
PHT 6169L	Neurological Diagnosis and Management III Lab	1
PHT 6526	Dimensions of Professional Practice Seminar IV	3
PHT 6970	DPT Project 2	3

Fall Semester 3: (14 credits)

PHT 6325	Advanced Clinical Pediatric Physical Therapy	3
PHT 6365	Theories in Sports Physical Therapy	3
PHT 6817	Clinical Internship II (8 weeks)	5
PHT 6xxx	Elective	3

Spring Semester 3: (14 credits)

PHT 6009	Differential Diagnosis in Physical Therapy	3
PHT 6353	Principles of Diagnostics and Pharmacology in Physical Therapy	3
PHT 6827	Clinical Internship III (8 weeks)	5
PHT 6xxx	Elective 2	3

Summer Semester 3: (6 Credits)

PHT 6828	Clinical Internship IV (8 weeks)	5
PHT 6961	Comprehensive Exam II	1