

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 at Florida International University is to contribute to the health of the global community. Our student centered program will prepare an ethnically, racially and culturally diverse group of students to be caring and competent Doctors of Physical Therapy. The department will foster critical thinking, scholarship and leadership through the conduct of an evidenced based curriculum and dissemination of basic and clinical research related to populations who have, or are at risk for developing movement problems. Faculty and students will be engaged in community activity that is aligned with our research and teaching.

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 Human Performance Laboratory contains state-of-the-art biomechanics equipment to measure many aspects of human movement.

There are 10 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 160 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.

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 55 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 Bachelor's degree
- A GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 hours of the undergraduate coursework, overall undergraduate coursework, and prerequisite coursework.
- GRE scores
- A minimum of 40 hours of observation and/or work experience with physical therapists.
- Three letters of recommendation one of which must be from a physical therapist.
- Completion of the following prerequisites courses:

Courses	Cr
Chemistry with Lab	8
Developmental Psychology	3
General Biology with Lab	4
Human Anatomy with Lab	4
Human Physiology with Lab	4
Physics with Lab	8
Psychology	3
Statistics	3

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.

Application and Admission Processes

Applying for admission to the DPT program is via the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) at the below address.

<http://www.ptcas.org/FloridaInternational.html>.

The applicant also needs to complete a Supplemental Graduate School Online Form at <https://intra.fiu.edu/Facts/PTCAS>.

Admission to the program is highly competitive. The Department selects students based primarily on their record of academic performance, although evidence of non-academic outstanding personal qualities is also considered.

Timelines

Final application deadline is mid-January to begin the program the following Fall semester.

Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview.

Early Admission

We will review applicants on a monthly basis beginning in September prior to the January deadline. Well qualified students who apply within this time frame will be invited to campus for an early interview. Successful candidates will be offered early admission contingent on completing all admission requirements.

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: (13 credits)

PHT 5027	Clinical Education Seminar	1
PHT 5182	Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Management III	3
PHT 5182L	Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Management III Lab	1
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
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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