



Jones Hall

Physical Therapy

Physical therapy provides a career option for the student who wants to become a physical therapist practitioner and work with other health-care professionals. Physical therapy is provided to individuals who have temporary or permanent impairments or disabilities from birth, illness, disease or trauma.

Physical therapists improve mobility, relieve pain and prevent or limit impairments, functional limitations and physical disabilities. Physical therapists evaluate and treat individuals with conditions affecting the musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary, neuromuscular or integumentary systems.

Employment Opportunities

Physical therapists assume the roles of clinicians, educators, managers of physical therapy services, consultants and researchers. Therapists work in a variety of settings including hospitals, outpatient facilities, rehabilitation and extended care facilities, home health agencies, community and industrial health centers, public schools, universities, research centers and private practices. Some physical therapists treat a wide variety of problems, while others specialize in such areas as pediatrics, geriatrics, orthopedics, sports physical therapy, neurology and cardiopulmonary physical therapy.

Most physical therapists work a forty-hour week, which may include evenings or weekends. The job may be physically demanding because therapists often have to kneel, lift and stand for long periods of time. In addition, physical therapists frequently need to physically assist patients to move, stand or walk.

As in all health careers, the job opportunities in physical therapy have been impacted by changes in the health care environment. However, job prospects continue to exist.

During the early part of the 21st century, the elderly population will continue to grow rapidly. The elderly are particularly vulnerable to chronic and debilitating conditions that will require prevention or therapeutic services. The general population is concerned with physical fitness and the ability to engage in a variety of activities at home, work and in their communities.

Children with and without disabilities (and their caregivers) can be taught life-long skills for strength, endurance and function. Physical therapists, due to their expertise in human movement, can evaluate and treat all ages across many settings. There are many future opportunities for physical therapists to contribute to the health care team.

Degree Options

The Department of Physical Therapy offers an entry-level postbaccalaureate professional curriculum, granting a Master of Physical Therapy degree. An entry-level master's requires undergraduate preparation in a field of study other than physical therapy followed by postbaccalaureate professional study in physical therapy. Some majors, such as biological sciences, exercise science, and psychology, include many of the courses required as undergraduate preparation for the physical therapy program.

Accreditation

The physical therapy baccalaureate program at Youngstown State University accepted its first class in 1996. In June 2000, the physical therapy program transitioned to an entry-level master's degree. The MPT program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Facilities

The physical therapy program is housed on the ground floor of Cushwa Hall. A physical therapy laboratory classroom, dedicated traditional classroom, new computer classroom, research laboratory, student study equipped with computers, locker rooms and faculty offices comprise the physical therapy facilities. All major physical therapy equipment is available for student practice. Whirlpools and a variety of exercise equipment are available in the athletic training facility. An indoor swimming pool, physical fitness room and cardiovascular laboratory are used for demonstrations.

Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM) provides cadavers and instructors for human anatomy in their excellent facilities. The course of study includes dissection and interactive learning through the use of computer programs.

Faculty

YSU maintains a faculty-student ratio of 1:19, among the lowest of state-affiliated universities in Ohio.

Application Process and Eligibility Requirements

Students should apply to the physical therapy program if the following eligibility requirements are met:

- 1) A recommended minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.
- 2) A 3.0 grade point average in prerequisite courses, although lower prerequisite GPAs may be considered. All prerequisite courses must be completed with C- or better.
- 3) Completion of a bachelor's degree, or the ability to complete the degree no later than the end of the first fall term in the MPT program.
- 4) A recommended GRE score of 1000 on Part I and 3.5 on Part II.
- 5) Documentation of 40 clock hours (paid or volunteer) under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist(s) in a physical therapy setting. Two sites are recommended; twenty hours must be from a hospital or skilled nursing facility.
- 6) References from supervising physical therapist(s) and academic faculty member(s).

Application packets can be obtained each fall from the Office of Graduate Studies or Department of Physical Therapy. Completed applications should be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies by the deadline. Early admission is December 1. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis until the class is filled. Interviews will be extended to the most qualified applicants. Final admission decisions are made by spring; the program begins each summer.

Meeting eligibility standards does not guarantee admission. Admissions are selective; typically classes do not exceed twenty students.

Special Fees

Course materials/computer services

Students will be assessed fees for course materials and

computer services in the range of \$45-\$60 per course. It is also a program expectation that physical therapy students join the American Physical Therapy Association, the Ohio Chapter, and the YSU Student PT Association.

Instructional supplies

Students admitted into the physical therapy program will be asked to purchase additional instructional supplies and/or equipment which will be necessary for use in the classroom and clinical education. Students are also responsible for additional living expenses associated with clinical education experiences outside of the immediate area.

Physical therapy students are responsible for purchasing specific supplies that may include an anatomy lab coat, a clinical lab coat, a dissection kit, non-sterile gloves and name tags.

Medical/Health

Physical therapy students must obtain CPR certification prior to participating in a clinical education internship. They must also undergo an annual physical examination, a series of three Hepatitis B immunizations (or sign a waiver), and a tuberculin skin test. A clinical site may require additional tests. Students must also maintain medical health insurance.

Clinical Experience

Clinical education is an essential component of the physical therapy educational experience. To assure competency, students will have an opportunity to practice their skills in a variety of settings with a diversity of patients. All clinical work is performed under the supervision of licensed physical therapists. Clinical experiences are completed in schools, hospitals, clinics and extended care facilities; most are located in Ohio or Pennsylvania but some opportunities are available nationwide. Students need to provide their own transportation to these facilities.

Curriculum Overview

The Master of Physical Therapy Program is based on a 3 + 3 curriculum model: 3 years of pre-professional preparation followed by 3 years of professional courses and clinical experiences. During the first 3 pre-professional years, interested students will complete general education requirements, requirements for a major in a selected non-PT degree program and physical therapy prerequisite courses. Any undergraduate degree is accepted. Many PT prerequisites, however, are taken as part of biology, exercise science and psychology undergraduate degrees at YSU.

(see following page)



To obtain the Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Application and/or a copy of the current Undergraduate Bulletin, please contact the Office of Admissions at:

Telephone: (877) 468-6978 330-941-2000 TDD: 330-941-1564 Fax: 330-941-3674 E-mail: enroll@ysu.edu

The Office of Admissions is open Monday and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Office is also open every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, except on holiday weekends and during term breaks

Students who meet eligibility criteria may apply to the MPT program at this point. In year four, admitted students must be able to complete their undergraduate degrees no later than the end of the first fall term in the MPT program. Year 4 will also include physical therapy professional courses. Years 5 and 6 will be full-time MPT courses and clinical experiences.

To accomplish the pre-professional phase in a timely manner, students will need to be carefully advised regarding their undergraduate degree progress. Any student may, however, choose to complete an undergraduate degree and then apply to the professional program. The 3+3 model works primarily for YSU students. Transfer students need to have completed their undergraduate degree by the time of admission to the program. The MPT, nonetheless, remains 3 years in length for all admitted students.

For more information about this program, go to
<http://bchhs.ysu.edu/dpt/dpt.html>



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