UCF Doctor of Physical Therapy
Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Where can I find more information on becoming a Physical Therapist?

The professional association for physical therapy, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) provides detailed information about the profession on their official web site www.APTA.org. Information specifically geared for potential physical therapy students can also be found at: www.APTA.org/ProspectiveStudents/.

Does UCF offer anything other than a doctorate degree in physical therapy?

UCF only offers a doctorate degree in physical therapy (DPT) after transitioning from a master’s program in 2008. Applicants must earn a baccalaureate or higher degree, prior to the start of the term for which the student is admitted, from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or from a recognized foreign institution.

What should I get my bachelor’s degree in?

The UCF DPT program does not require a specific undergraduate degree as a prerequisite for admission; however there are some undergraduate majors that may better prepare students for DPT coursework and the profession as a whole. Some of the common majors of past applicants have included health sciences- pre-clinical, exercise science, biology/microbiology, athletic training, communication sciences and disorders, health services administration, kinesiology/exercise physiology, nursing and physical education/exceptional education.

Is the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program only offered on the main campus?

At this time, the DPT program is only offered on the main UCF campus in Orlando, FL. As part of the Department of Health Professions in the College of Health & Public Affairs, the DPT program courses are primarily housed on the second floor of the Health & Public Affairs (HPA) I building.

Can I take courses online?

While the DPT program does offer some courses in mixed mode, the majority of the curriculum is offered face-to-face in a lecture or lab format. The course work is taken in a prescribed sequence over nine semesters, as outlined in the Graduate Catalog, and all course work is required.

How long is the DPT program?

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program is a full-time, three (3) year graduate professional program composed of 112 credit hours offered over nine (9) consecutive semesters.

When does the program start?

Admissions decisions will be made only once per academic year. Incoming students will begin the program in the summer semester. Check the UCF Academic Calendar for the specific date each year.

Who can I talk to for more information?

There are several ways you can learn more about the UCF Program in Physical Therapy.

1. For General Questions about the Program: We recommend starting with our Webpage: http://www2.cohpa.ucf.edu/health.pro/physical_therapy.shtml for general questions about the program. Admission information can also be found here on the ‘Admissions’ tab and keep current by following our links to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn. General questions about the program can also be provided by the Program Assistant during regular business hours by calling (407) 823-3470 or by emailing ptinfo@ucf.edu.
2. **UCF Undergraduate Students:**
   If you have questions regarding undergraduate advisement and enrollment in prerequisite courses, please visit the COHPA Undergraduate Student Services (Academic Advising) Office in HPA II- Suite 115, email hpainfo@mail.ucf.edu or call (407) 823-0010. Additional advising services for pre-health students are available through the Office of Pre-Health & Pre-Law Advising in Ferrell Commons, Building 7G, room 203, email phpladvising@ucf.edu or call (407) 823-3033.

3. **Questions on How to Apply:** Admission advising is by appointment only. To make an appointment, or if you have general questions about admission to the UCF DPT program, please email Samantha Moya, at Samantha.Moya@ucf.edu. The UCF Doctor of Physical Therapy program will participate in the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service, known as PTCAS, beginning in July 2014. Applicants applying to the entry-level physical therapist education program for the 2015 entering class will apply online using the PTCAS application. For questions regarding the PTCAS application system or materials submitted to PTCAS, please contact them directly at www.PTCAS.org or call (617) 612-2040.

**ADMISSIONS**

**When is the application deadline?**

The anticipated application deadline for 2014 - 2015 is **October 15, 2014** for all applicants. Applications are only accepted for summer admission and applicants are encouraged to submit their completed applications early. The PTCAS application will open to applicants on July 1, 2014.

**Does the UCF DPT program use the PTCAS system?**

Yes, the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at UCF will participate in the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service, known as PTCAS, beginning in July 2014. Applicants applying to the entry-level physical therapist education program for the 2015 entering class will apply online using the PTCAS application. To learn more about the PTCAS application process, visit **www.ptcas.org**.

**What is the GPA requirement to apply?**

The DPT program requires a 3.00 GPA in the last 60 credit hours of your undergraduate degree and a 3.00 GPA or higher for prerequisite courses. Grades less than "C" in the required prerequisite courses will not be accepted.

**If I repeat a prerequisite course, will the Admissions Committee take the average of the two or is the highest grade accepted when calculating my prerequisite GPA?**

If you elect to repeat any of the required prerequisite courses, the highest grade for that course will be calculated for your prerequisite GPA.

**Does the DPT program require the GRE and what is the minimum scores accepted?**

Yes, like many professional and graduate programs the UCF DPT program requires applicants to submit scores from the GRE within the last five years from the date of application. Minimum Scores are as follows:

- **Verbal Reasoning Score: 146**
- **Quantitative Reasoning Score: 144**
- **Analytical Writing Score: 3**

The UCF DPT program is highly competitive and the average scores earned on the GRE for students accepted into the program in past years have been a Verbal score of 154, a Quantitative score of 156 and a Writing Analysis score of 4. GRE scores must be sent directly to PTCAS using the UCF DPT program code: **3871**.

**What should I include in my biographical essay?**

The biographical essay is no longer required for admission, however PTCAS does require an essay portion that is also required by our program. For more information please refer to **www.ptcas.org**.
What courses are recommended to prepare me for a Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy?

The following courses are recommended for pre-physical therapy students (Course numbers are specific to UCF). Some of these courses are required for your undergraduate degree. The list of courses below may not be required for entry into a PT program, but simply a list of recommended courses that will prepare a student for success in a graduate physical therapy program. It is strongly recommended to include some of these courses in your undergraduate degree program or elective courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSC 4555</td>
<td>Pathophysiology I</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSC 4558</td>
<td>Pathophysiology II</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSC 4730</td>
<td>Applied Health Research Methodology</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSC 4501</td>
<td>Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATR 3203C</td>
<td>Upper Extremity Function &amp; Measurement</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATR 3204C</td>
<td>Lower Extremity Function &amp; Measurement</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATR 3312C</td>
<td>Injury, Management, and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZOO 4704C</td>
<td>Clinical Neuroanatomy &amp; Neuroscience</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZOO 3744</td>
<td>Neurobiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PET 4312C</td>
<td>Kinesiology/Biomechanics</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSC 4572</td>
<td>Clinical Nutrition</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSC 3211</td>
<td>Preventive Health Care</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSC 3147</td>
<td>Introduction to Pharmacology</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSC 3432</td>
<td>Occupational Safety for the Health Care Professional</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSC 4008</td>
<td>Professional Development in Health Professions</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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PREREQUISITE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

What are the prerequisite courses required for the DPT program?

For an up-to-date list of the required prerequisite courses, please refer to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program’s page in the current UCF Graduate Catalog, which can be found at the following link:


Do prerequisite courses expire?

Starting with the 2014- 2015 application cycle, courses older than seven (7) years will not be accepted.

Can I take prerequisite courses after the application deadline?

The program recommends all prerequisite courses be completed at time of application. Candidates with all prerequisites completed at time of application may be given preference over those still completing courses. No more than two (2) prerequisite courses may be in progress the fall semester and one (1) course the spring semester prior to the start of the program. To submit fall grades, PTCAS allows a one-time change to your application during the Academic Update time period, which opens on December 12, 2014. Any updates to fall grades must be received by January 15, 2015 to be considered as part of the program’s admissions decision making process. All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to entering the program in the summer. A final transcript will be required.

Does the Admissions Committee accept AP credits for the prerequisite courses?

The Admissions Committee accepts AP credits for the prerequisite courses only if the courses are documented on your transcripts and have been accepted by your accredited College or University. AP credits do not count towards GPA.
Does the program accept online courses for prerequisites?
Online courses are NOT accepted for the following prerequisites: biology courses, anatomy courses, physiology courses, physics courses, or chemistry courses.

I already completed my undergraduate degree. How do I apply to take prerequisite courses as a non-degree seeking student?
To register for and complete any remaining prerequisite courses required by the program, you will need to apply to UCF’s College of Graduate Studies as a non-degree seeking student. Additional information regarding the application process should be directed to the College of Graduate Studies directly by calling (407) 823-2766 or visiting their web page at www.graduate.ucf.edu/.

PT OBSERVATION HOURS

How do I submit my observation hours?
Documentation verifying a minimum of thirty (30) hours of observation/work experiences under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist in the field of physical therapy is required. PTCAS allows for two options for verification - electronic or paper-based. The electronic verification is strongly preferred, but if you already have hours verified on another form, follow the paper-based instructions (you will need to fill out the PTCAS form but can attach the UCF DPT form if the PT has already signed off on your hours). Please refer to www.PTCAS.org for further instructions.

Where can I go for the required volunteer/observation hours?
The UCF DPT program maintains strong relationships with many practicing physical therapists in the Central Florida area and as a result can recommend several for observation purposes. For a list of potential volunteer/observation sites, please contact the program by emailing: PTinfo@ucf.edu.

What is the program looking for when reviewing observation hours?
While the minimum requirement for volunteer hours under the supervision of a licensed PT is 30 hours, the DPT faculty encourages applicants to strive for additional experiences beyond the requirement. Volunteering in various settings and interacting with diverse populations is a great way to learn more about the profession, strengthen your application to the program and further instill your desire to become a physical therapist.

FINANCIAL AID & ASSISTANCE

Where can I find information about fellowship opportunities?
For information regarding graduate fellowships please refer to the UCF College of Graduate Studies Fellowship web page at: http://www.admissions.graduate.ucf.edu/funding/fellowships/.

How do I apply for financial assistance for graduate school?
For all questions relating to financial assistance, please refer to the UCF Office of Student Financial Assistance by calling (407) 823-2827 or by visiting their web page at http://finaid.ucf.edu. All students must apply or reapply yearly for financial aid. Complete the online FAFSA, found at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on myUCF.

**For the most complete, up-to-date degree and program requirements, see the official UCF Graduate Catalog at www.graduatecatalog.ucf.edu and look up “Physical Therapy”. The information contained in this document should not be used as a replacement for the Graduate Catalog.**