STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree is a highly structured 25-month course of study in six consecutive trimesters. Coursework includes foundational sciences (anatomy, pathophysiology and physiology), management of professional life and practice, clinical sciences, clinical applications and substantive clinical practical experiences.

Students will be involved in meaningful professional clinical experiences under the supervision of carefully selected practitioners in settings such as acute care or skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation sites throughout California and in selected sites nationally and internationally. All students must successfully complete the clinical internship requirements as an inherent part of the professional program.

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Pacific’s physical therapy program prepares lifelong learners who are skilled, reflective, autonomous practitioners. The program is committed to educating individuals who will be leaders within the profession advocating for optimal health, wellness and performance for all members of society.

We accomplish this through a concise program of study emphasizing evidence-based reasoning and creative skills grounded in the basic and clinical sciences. Our academic program is enhanced by a wide variety of innovative clinical experiences and involvement in professional societies.

The Physical Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association. Successful completion of an accredited program qualifies the graduate to take the licensing examination. Admission to the program is highly competitive and limited to 36 openings each year.
Graduate Course Offerings

FIRST YEAR

PTHR 311  Gross Human Anatomy.......................................................6
PTHR 312  Exercise Physiology in Physical therapy ................................2
PTHR 313  Clinical Kinesiology I ..........................................................3
PTHR 314  Introduction to Physical Therapy & Clinical Observations I ....1
PTHR 316  Physical Therapy Examination & Evaluation .....................4
PTHR 318  Physical Therapy Patient Care Skills ....................................1
PTHR 319  Physical Agents: .................................................................1
PTHR 321  Nervous System & Behavior ................................................5
PTHR 323  Clinical Kinesiology II ..........................................................3
PTHR 326  Therapeutic Exercise: Basic Theory & Application...............4
PTHR 327  Clinical Observations II ......................................................0
PTHR 328  Research: Theory & Application ..........................................2
PTHR 329  Pathophysiology .................................................................4
PTHR 332  Electrotherapy .................................................................2
PTHR 333  Analysis of Human Movement through the Life Span ...........3
PTHR 334  Medical Conditions and Screening for Medical Disease .......4
PTHR 335  Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy ...............4
PTHR 336  Clinical Experience I .........................................................1
PTHR 338  Clinical Experience II .........................................................1
PTHR 339  Motor Learning and Motor Control ....................................2
PTHR 397  Research .........................................................................1

SECOND YEAR

PTHR 341  Integumentary Physical Therapy .........................................1
PTHR 342  Administration & Management of Physical Therapy Services I ..2
PTHR 343  Geriatric Physical Therapy ..................................................1
PTHR 344  Neuromuscular Physical Therapy ........................................5
PTHR 345  Advanced Clinical Problems I .............................................1
PTHR 346  Seminar .............................................................................2
PTHR 347  Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy I ......................................5
PTHR 391  Graduate Independent Study (Elective) ...............................1-3
PTHR 395  Prosthetics and Orthotics ...................................................1
PTHR 351  Administration and Management of Physical Therapy Services II .........................................................2
PTHR 352  Diagnostic Imaging for Physical Therapists ..........................2
PTHR 354  Pediatric Physical Therapy ..................................................1
PTHR 355  Advanced Clinical Problems II ..........................................1
PTHR 356  Psychosocial Aspects of Illness & Disability .........................3
PTHR 357  Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy II ....................................2
PTHR 358  Clinical Education and Professional Behavior .....................1
PTHR 359  Clinical Internship I ............................................................4
PTHR 391  Graduate Independent Study (Elective) ...............................1-3
PTHR 368  Clinical Internship II ...........................................................6
PTHR 369  Clinical Internship III ..........................................................6
PTHR 391  Graduate Independent Study (Elective) ...............................1-3

In addition students are encouraged, where appropriate, to select courses offered by other departments or units of the University, such as Chemistry or the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in a major of student's choice.
- Successful completion of the listed prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or above. Pass/fail courses are not acceptable. Biological science, chemistry and physics courses must all include significant laboratory experiences and must have been taken within the last ten years.
- Correspondence, online or extension coursework is not acceptable without approval from the Admissions Committee or Department Chair. All coursework must have defined objectives, course description, an objective grading system, and meet the content expectations of the prerequisite.
- At least 50 hours spent in one or more physical therapy practice settings, including at least 25 hours with inpatients in an acute care hospital setting.
- GRE test scores less than 5 years old at the time of application.
- A personal interview at the invitation of the selection committee is required.

Prerequisites

- General Biology with lab or Cell Biology: 4 semester units/5-6 quarter hours minimum
- Human Anatomy with lab: 4 semester units/5-6 quarter hours minimum.
- Human Physiology with lab: 4 semester units/5-6 quarter hours minimum.
- General Chemistry with lab: 8 semester units/12 quarter hours minimum.
- General Physics with lab: 8 semester units/12 quarter hours minimum.
- Abnormal Psychology plus one other psychology course: 6 semester imots/9 quarter hours minimum.
- Statistics: 3 semester units/4-5 quarter hours minimum.
- Exercise Physiology: 3 semester units/4-5 quarter hours minimum.
- Medical Terminology: 1-3 semester units/2-4 quarter hours minimum.