Physical Therapy

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Faculty

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Doctoral Degrees

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy
(See separate catalog section.)

About the Physical Therapy Program

The entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy program is designed to create practitioners as specified in the American Physical Therapy Association Vision Statement for Physical Therapy 2020:

> Physical therapy, by 2020, will be provided by physical therapists who are doctors of physical therapy and who may be board-certified specialists. Consumers will have direct access to physical therapists in all environments for patient/client management, prevention, and wellness services. Physical therapists will be practitioners of choice in clients' health networks and will hold all privileges of autonomous practice. Physical therapists may be assisted by physical therapist assistants who are educated and licensed to provide physical therapist-directed and supervised components of interventions.
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> Guided by integrity, life-long learning, and a commitment to comprehensive and accessible health programs for all people, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants will render evidence-based service throughout the continuum of care and improve quality of life for society. They will provide culturally sensitive care distinguished by trust, respect, and an appreciation for individual differences. While fully availing themselves of new technologies, as well as basic and clinical research, physical therapists will continue to provide direct patient/client care. They will maintain active responsibility for the growth of the physical therapy profession and the health of the people it serves.

Arcadia's entry-level program runs over a three-year period. The D.P.T. program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. All graduates of Arcadia's program to date have passed the licensure examination in their state of choice.

The Profession: Physical therapy is a health-care profession whose practitioners evaluate, treat and instruct individuals in order to prevent or overcome the effects of disease or injury. Physical therapists work in a variety of settings, including acute care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient centers, individual homes, skilled nursing facilities and the public school system. Patients of all ages, from newborn to elderly, may be encountered. Physical therapists also work as educators, researchers and consultants. Physical therapy is an integral part of today's changing health-care system. Practitioners serve in a range of

capacities—they may be a patient's entry point into the health-care system as they conduct appropriate screening and examination techniques and make professional assessments. Clinical practice is based on theory and/or evidence.

Physical therapy is a profession that offers a lifetime of satisfaction in helping people to function more effectively. Each patient presents a new challenge, and the constantly changing clinical situations provide for a stimulating and exciting career.

Admission to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

(See separate catalog section for the Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy requirements.)

Program-Specific Admissions Requirements: In addition to the general admission requirements of the University, the following program-specific requirements must be met:

1. A Doctor of Physical Therapy application, including personal statements, to be completed online at *www.ptcas.org*.
2. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of 3.0 or better. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better is expected for all undergraduate- and graduate-level study.
3. Include one official transcript from each college, university or professional school attended in your PTCAS application. Transfer credits included on a transcript must include grades earned; if not, an official transcript from the original school must be submitted. Transcripts must be sent from the issuing school in a sealed envelope and contain the appropriate signatures and seals to be considered official. **Do not send transcripts directly to Arcadia.**
4. The following minimum prerequisite courses with grades of "**C**" or better and a cumulative GPA in these course areas of no less than "**B**" (3.0) is expected. When calculating the prerequisite GPA, Arcadia includes all courses in the prerequisite areas. A grade of "**C–**" is not acceptable for the minimum prerequisite courses. Courses used toward the minimum prerequisite biological and physical science requirements should be taken through the appropriate science departments (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Physics). All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to the start of the Physical Therapy program. One-half of the prerequisite courses, including Physiology and Statistics, must have been taken within 10 years prior to application.
    a. Biological Sciences—four courses (a minimum of 12 semester credits) from a biology department, which should include the following:
        i. One lab/lecture course in Human or Mammalian Physiology. (Note that a two-semester lab/lecture course of Anatomy-Physiology will meet the requirements of one Physiology course.)
        ii. Anatomy is recommended but not required.
        iii. One upper-level course (300- to 400-level) of least 3 credits with a biology focus. This course can be taken through another department, such as exercise science or kinesiology, but preferably should be taken through a biology department. Examples of courses that would fulfill this requirement are Neuroscience, Principles of Motor Control, Anatomy and Biology of Aging.
    b. Physical Sciences—four lab/lecture courses to include the following:
        i. Two courses in Chemistry.

ii. General Physics I and II.

c. Psychology—two courses.

d. Statistics—one course.

5. Three letters of recommendation, at least one from a currently practicing licensed physical therapist and one from a college professor who is able to judge the applicant's academic qualification and readiness for rigorous work at the graduate level. This professor should have taught one of the academic courses for the applicant's major.
6. Test scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), taken within the last five years. A minimum total score of 1050 is expected for the verbal and quantitative portions of the test with no single score below 450. A minimum score of 4 is expected on the analytical writing portion of the test. The GRE code for the D.P.T. program is 7637. NOTE: The GRE will change significantly effective Aug. 1, 2011. Minimum score requirements for the revised test will be noted here as soon as they are determined.
7. **International Applicants:** Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS are required for all students for whom English is a second language, except for non-native speakers of English who hold degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an independent evaluation service based in the United States also is required. **NOTE:** International students applying to the Physical Therapy program must send scores to the PTCAS code 5312.
8. Knowledge of the profession through documented work or volunteer experiences in at least two different areas of practice as defined in the PTCAS instructions for reporting observation hours.
9. Increasingly, clinical facilities are requiring that participating students undergo various criminal background checks, child abuse clearances, and/or drug screens. Therefore, students should be prepared to participate in these screenings.

Application Deadline: All students seeking admission to the D.P.T. program must apply through the centralized application system (www.ptcas.org). Applicants are required to complete all components of their application by the hard deadline of Dec. 15, 2011. Allow time for PTCAS to verify and forward it to Arcadia, which can take as long as six weeks. Applications are not reviewed until all materials are received by Arcadia. (This includes the PTCAS application, the required recommendations, and GRE scores.)

If an offer of admission is accepted, a $500 deposit must accompany the acceptance reply. This deposit is applied to the first semester's tuition, and it is non-refundable if students fail to enter the program on the date for which they are accepted.

Following official acceptance into the program, each student must supply information about his or her health and medical history and is required to submit the results of a physical examination. Institutions participating in clinical internships require a certificate of good health before permitting students to work with patients. All students are required to have some form of medical insurance throughout the entire curriculum and must provide proof. If needed, medical insurance can be purchased through the University. Information and applications are available in the Office of Student Health Services.

Other requirements for the clinical education portion of the curriculum include a Pennsylvania criminal background check, Pennsylvania child abuse clearance, FBI clearance, and 10-panel drug screen prior to the start of the program. If a student has a felony or misdemeanor conviction or does not pass a required screening, the student may not be able to fulfill requirements for graduation and/or be licensed as a physical therapist.

Registration will be considered complete when the University is satisfied that the student is physically able to undertake the year's work and results from all requirements/screens are acceptable.

Deferred Admission: Students who have secured a seat in the program and want to defer their admission for one year must submit their request to do so in writing to the Director of Physical Therapy Admissions. Deferrals will be considered on an individual basis. Once a

deferral is granted, a student must submit the required deposit to reserve a seat in the class. This deposit will be credited toward tuition. A student who is granted a deferral must understand that he or she will be subject to the prevailing tuition at the time of matriculation to the program.

Expenses

Tuition* and fees for students entering Fall 2011:

- $25,260 (Fall and Spring combined); $12,630 (Summer)
- $250/semester (computer purchase/service fee)
- $165/academic year (registration, parking fee)

Additional Expenses (estimated)
Books and supplies

Year one $1,800
Year two $500
Year three $500
Room and Board: off-campus
Travel for clinical and experiential learning: varies
Health insurance: varies
Screens/checks upon entry: $75

*****12,630 per semester tuition charge over seven (7) semesters. For the final eighth semester of the program (Spring 2014), students will be billed $1,000 in tuition plus a computer user/service fee of $250 and $35 registration fee.

Students will be responsible for expenses associated with various criminal background checks, child abuse clearances and/or drug screens; physical examinations including required titers; and medical insurance. There may be requirements during the program in addition to the ones upon entry to the program.

Students are responsible for the additional costs of travel and housing associated with all their clinical experiences and should plan accordingly.

Financial Aid: Students automatically are considered for merit scholarships and graduate assistantships based on their academic records upon applying for admission to the program. Additionally, students can borrow annually through the Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program at a fixed interest rate. In addition to the Stafford Loan, students can choose to borrow either a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan or a private alternative student loan to cover remaining expenses. For information on scholarships, graduate assistantships and student loans, see "Financial Aid" in the Graduate Academic Policies section of this catalog and the Financial Aid section of the website at www.arcadia.edu/finaid.

Request a list of financial aid sources directly from the American Physical Therapy Association, 1111 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314-9902 or go to the APTA website at www.apta.org.

Assistantships: A limited number of graduate assistantships are available. For more information, contact Financial Aid in the Office of Enrollment Management.

Academic Policies and Procedures for the Physical Therapy Program

A student accepted into the Physical Therapy program is expected to abide by the regulations set forth by Arcadia University and the written policies of the Physical Therapy program. For a discussion of the general academic policies and procedures for graduate students, see the Academic Policies section in this catalog and the Student Handbook www.arcadia.edu/handbook on the Web. The policies of the Physical Therapy program are published in the Physical Therapy Policies and Procedures Student Handbook, revised annually.

To remain in good academic standing, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.7 in each semester. If a student receives less than a 2.7 for a semester, the student will be placed on probation. Failure to improve the grade point average in the subsequent semester will result in dismissal from the program.

A cumulative Unit average of 70 percent must be achieved each semester Failure to achieve at least 70 percent on two written exams for two Units each semester will result in dismissal from the program. Also, if a student fails to pass a Unit practical exam three times, the student will receive an "**F**" for the Unit grade. If the student fails to pass two Unit practical exams three times within one semester, the student will be dismissed from the program. A

cumulative Course average of 60 percent must be achieved by the end of the semester for each course. Failure to achieve 60 percent or greater in a course will require a remedial examination. Failure to achieve at least 60 percent on the remedial examination will result in dismissal from the program. A comprehensive practical examination is provided at the end of the first year of the program. If the student fails the comprehensive practical examination three times, the student will be dismissed from the program. If the student fails to meet minimum performance expectations in a clinical experience, the student will receive a grade of unsatisfactory for the clinical education course and be dismissed from the program. If a student at any time during the course of an experience is performing in an unsafe manner causing a patient's well-being to be jeopardized, or behaves in an unprofessional, unethical, or illegal manner, the student will be immediately removed from the clinical setting. The student then will receive a grade of unsatisfactory for the clinical education course.

If the student is dismissed from the program for reasons noted above, he or she must submit a letter to the Dean of the College of Health Sciences, with a copy to the Chair of the Physical Therapy Department, requesting permission to repeat the course or to progress in the program. Permission to continue following unsatisfactory performance is determined by the Physical Therapy Review Committee. If the student is allowed to continue in the program, the Committee will establish an appropriate plan for remediation. If the student withdraws from the program for reasons other than those given above and wants to re-enter, the student must apply for re-acceptance to the Physical Therapy Review Committee and receive permission.

Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree Requirements

(111 credits)

Students must meet the following requirements:

1. A minimum of 79 weeks of classroom work. (Courses are listed below.)
2. A minimum of 34 weeks of full-time clinical study.
3. An overall minimum GPA of 2.70 maintained throughout the program. A grade below "**C**" is not acceptable toward the degree.
4. Continuous enrollment. If extenuating circumstances make additional time necessary, approval to continue beyond the expected 2 1/2 years must be obtained from the Department Chair and the Physical Therapy Review Committee. Students who withdraw for reasons other than academic or clinical performance may re-apply for admission. Departmental approval is necessary for re-admission.

First Year

Fall (18 credits)

PT	605	Introduction and Exposure to Physical Therapist Practice (4 credits)
PT	615	Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills I (2 credits)
PT	625	Physical Therapy Intervention Skills I (4 credits)
PT	645	Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice I (3 credits)
PT	675	Biomedical Foundation Sciences I (5 credits)

Spring (22 credits)

PT	616	Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills II (4 credits)
PT	626	Physical Therapy Intervention Skills II (5 credits)
PT	636	Exposure to Physical Therapy in a Health Care System (1 credit)
PT	646	Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice II (4 credits)
PT	676	Biomedical Foundation Sciences II (8 credits)

Second Year

Summer (17 credits)

PT	717	Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills III (2 credits)
PT	727	Physical Therapy Intervention Skills III (2 credits)

PT	747	Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice III (4 credits)
PT	777	Biomedical Foundation Sciences III (9 credits)

Fall (12 credits)

PT	718	Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills IV (2 credits)
PT	728	Physical Therapy Intervention Skills IV (2 credits)
PT	738	Clinical Education Experience I (8 weeks) (4 credits)
PT	748	Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice IV (2 credits)
PT	778	Biomedical Foundation Sciences IV (2 credits)

Spring (22 credits)

PT	819	Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills V (6 credits)
PT	829	Physical Therapy Intervention Skills V (6 credits)
PT	849	Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice V (4 credits)
PT	879	Biomedical Foundation Sciences V (6 credits)

Third Year

Summer (6 credits)

PT	860	Clinical Education Experience II (3 months) (6 credits)

Fall (6 credits)

PT	870	Clinical Education Experience III (3 months) (6 credits)

Spring, ending in February (8 credits)

PT	805	Physical Therapist Practice II (4 credits)
PT	869	Independent Study—Research (2 credits)
PT	899	Clinical Decision Making (2 credits)

Clinical Experience

Each student must successfully complete 34 weeks of full-time clinical experience before graduation and a part-time experience equivalent to one week of clinic time. The full-time clinical experience consists of eight weeks in an inpatient or outpatient setting in the second fall of the program after completion of the first didactic year. Upon completion of the second academic year, students begin their culminating clinical experience, referred to as an internship. This final clinical assignment, which lasts for 26 weeks, is a hybrid between traditional clinical education and the residency model of clinical training that is rich in mentoring and structured learning experiences to facilitate accelerated learning. Clinics affiliated with this program are among a select group with strong relationships to Arcadia's program and the patient-centered curriculum. These facilities are primarily in southeastern Pennsylvania and offer a wide variety of experiences designed to foster clinical decision-making skills necessary for physical therapists in today's healthcare environment.

Physical Therapy Courses (PT)

Each semester consists of four courses (Examination, Intervention, Biomedical Sciences and Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice) that become more complex as students advance through the program. The courses are integrated around case presentations (units) that last for two to three weeks. Each unit provides an example of one or more of the Practice Patterns defined by the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice of the American Physical Therapy Association.

FALL, FIRST YEAR

605
Introduction and Exposure to Physical Therapist Practice
(4 credits)

This course will be given the first month of the fall semester and is designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of physical therapy practice as described in the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice published by the American Physical Therapy Association. The spectrum of physical therapy roles in the healthcare system is explored. A basic comprehensive approach to examination is presented, and the requisite skills are learned. Basic forms of intervention are introduced, including coordination, communication, documentation, instruction and direct intervention. Students also will be introduced to core academic areas not directly addressed in the Guide that inform physical

therapy practice in order to begin the lifelong learning necessary for safe and effective practice. These areas include anatomy, biomechanical properties of tissues, principles of measurement, and behavioral and management sciences.

615
Physical Therapy Examination/ Evaluation Skills I
(2 credits)

This course covers basic aspects of patient/client management related to examination and evaluation in the context of the specific patient cases. Examination refers to the process of obtaining a relevant patient history, as well as selecting and performing appropriate tests and measures. Evaluation refers to the process of making clinical judgments (including diagnosis and prognosis) based on the information gathered during an examination. The applied anatomy and biomechanics component of this course addresses the application of physical principles to the human body. The content addresses functional aspects of the neuromusculoskeletal system using the principles of basic Newtonian mechanics.

625
Physical Therapy Intervention Skills I
(4 credits)

Basic aspects of patient/client management are covered that are related to intervention in the context of the specific patient cases. Intervention includes appropriate selection and application of specific treatment procedures as well as other skilled interactions with the patient and other individuals as required. Intervention strategies are based on the results of an appropriate examination and evaluation. Several skills and intervention strategies that are central to the practice of physical therapy are covered at a basic level.

645
Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice I
(3 credits)

This course is intended to help provide an understanding of the complexities of working within the healthcare delivery system and to enhance critical thinking with an introduction to research methods and skills. Students are introduced to the theories and principles required to understand the psychological and social aspects of working with patients, clients, families and other healthcare professionals and the operation of clinical physical therapy services in a variety of settings. This course enhances students' understanding of clinical practice and the healthcare delivery system in the United States by exploring in-depth the finance and delivery mechanisms employed and familiarizing students with the terminology used in healthcare today. Literature relevant to clinical practice is critically examined within each unit.

675
Biomedical Foundation Sciences I
(5 credits)

This course includes traditional biological sciences of microscopic anatomy, physiology of exercise, and neuroscience. In addition, there is a survey of various medical and surgical conditions and their underlying pathological processes. Gross anatomy objectives are included, although students are responsible for self-directed study in this topic.

SPRING, FIRST YEAR

616
Physical Therapy Examination/ Evaluation Skills II
(4 credits)

This course continues to cover basic aspects of patient/client management related to examination and evaluation in the context of the specific patient cases. The anatomy of relevant regions is reviewed and is followed by a close analysis of the function of each component. The labs provide an opportunity to analyze the functional requirements of a variety of activities of daily living.

626
Physical Therapy Intervention Skills II
(5 credits)

This course is a continuation of basic aspects of patient/client management related to intervention in the context of the specific patient cases. Intervention includes appropriate selection and application of specific treatment procedures as well as other skilled interactions with the patient and other individuals as required.

636
Exposure to Physical Therapy in a Health Care System
(1 credit)

Fall (First Year), Spring (First Year)

This course is designed to expose first-year physical therapy students to current physical therapy practice in a given healthcare system. This is not designed to be a full-time clinical experience. Students will be exposed to physical therapy practice and clinical decision making in inpatient and outpatient settings. This course provides the student an opportunity for a practicing clinician to evaluate the student behavior in areas such as safety, personal and interpersonal professional demeanor, ethical and

legal standards, communication, and responsibility for self-learning. Students are assigned to a clinical site four hours every other week for 10 weeks in the fall and 10 weeks in the spring of the first year. A clinical activity is assigned for each clinical week and coincides with the current academic learning unit. Assignments are completed in response to each clinical activity, and in the “off week” students meet on campus during the Tuesday afternoon time slot in small groups to complete and share assignments in a problem-based, collaborative experience.

646
Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice II
(4 credits)

This course is a continuation of working within the healthcare delivery system as a physical therapist, the psychological and social aspects of working with patients, and critical thinking. This course prepares students to assume management responsibilities appropriate to their position and stage of clinical practice.

676
Biomedical Foundation Sciences II
(8 credits)

This course is a continuation of the traditional biological sciences of microscopic anatomy, physiology of exercise, and neuroscience. In addition, there is a survey of various medical and surgical conditions and their underlying pathological processes. Gross anatomy objectives are included, although students are responsible for self-directed study in this topic.

SUMMER, FIRST YEAR

717
Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills III
(2 credits)

This course continues to cover basic aspects of patient/client management related to examination and evaluation in the context of the specific patient cases.

727
Physical Therapy Intervention Skills III
(2 credits)

This course is a continuation of basic aspects of patient/client management related to intervention in the context of the specific patient cases.

747
Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice III
(4 credits)

This course is a continuation of working within the healthcare delivery system as a physical therapist, the psychological and social aspects of working with patients, and critical thinking. This course prepares students to assume management responsibilities appropriate to their position and stage of clinical practice.

777
Biomedical Foundation Sciences III
(9 credits)

The course includes the traditional biological science of gross human anatomy, the physical science of biomechanics and applied anatomy, and components of patient management related to examination, evaluation, and intervention, including advanced topics in the use of imaging in clinical practice. The study of the basic structure and function of the human body is accomplished through lecture, demonstration and dissection. Gross anatomy emphasizes the extremities and trunk, although the whole body is examined. Also included is a review of embryology. The laboratory sessions are devoted primarily to handling the bony skeleton and supervised dissection. Biomechanics and applied anatomy and the clinical content highlight the function of the spine using a patient case for reference.

FALL, SECOND YEAR

718
Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills IV
(2 credits)

This course continues to cover basic aspects of patient/client management related to examination and evaluation in the context of the specific patient cases.

728
Physical Therapy Intervention Skills IV
(2 credits)

This course is a continuation of aspects of patient/client management related to intervention in the context of the specific patient cases.

738
Clinical Education Experience I (8 weeks)
(4 credits)

This first of two full-time clinical experiences in the curriculum is eight weeks in length and occurs after one year of academic coursework. This clinical experience is the student’s first formal full-time exposure to the practice of physical therapy. Arcadia respects that not all patient types can be available to each student during a clinical experience, but a varied caseload is encouraged. Close supervision and

additional clinical teaching may be required in all areas of clinical practice. Emphasis is placed on developing good interpersonal skills with supervisors, patients, and other healthcare practitioners. The experience also focuses on oral and written communication skills, performing physical therapy examinations, evaluation, intervention planning and implementation on cardiac, pulmonary, neurological, medical/surgical and orthopedic patients, and providing basic functional training. The student should begin to appreciate the role of the physical therapist in the interdisciplinary team and the responsibilities involved in carrying a patient caseload. By the final two weeks of the clinical experience, the student should be managing approximately two-thirds of a caseload that is setting-appropriate.

748
Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice IV
(2 credits)

This course is a continuation of working within the healthcare delivery system as a physical therapist, emphasizing the psychological and social aspects of working with patients, and critical thinking. This course prepares students to assume management responsibilities appropriate to their position and stage of clinical practice.

778
Biomedical Foundation Sciences IV
(2 credits)

This course includes traditional biological sciences of microscopic anatomy, physiology of exercise, and neuroscience. In addition, there is a survey of various medical and surgical conditions and their underlying pathological processes.

SPRING, SECOND YEAR

819
Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills V
(6 credits)

This course continues to cover basic aspects of patient/client management related to examination and evaluation in the context of the specific patient cases.

829
Physical Therapy Intervention Skills V
(6 credits)

This course is a continuation of basic aspects of patient/client management related to intervention in the context of the specific patient cases.

849
Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice V
(4 credits)

This course is a continuation of working within the healthcare delivery system as a physical therapist, the psychological and social aspects of working with patients, and critical thinking. This course prepares students to assume management responsibilities appropriate to their position and stage of clinical practice.

879
Biomedical Foundation Sciences V
(6 credits)

This course includes traditional biological sciences of microscopic anatomy, physiology of exercise, and neuroscience. In addition, there is a survey of various medical and surgical conditions and their underlying pathological processes.

SUMMER, THIRD YEAR

860
Clinical Education Experience II (3 months)
(6 credits)

This is part one of the six-month internship and is three months in length. It encompasses two years of didactic information and experience gained in the first clinical setting. Since students are encouraged during the program to complete clinical work in both inpatient and outpatient settings, this experience is probably different from the previous experience.

FALL, THIRD YEAR

870
Clinical Education Experience III
(6 credits, 3 months)

This is Part 2 of the 6-month internship and will most likely occur within the same health system as Part 1, however it may include a different continuum of care or patient diagnosis.

SPRING, THIRD YEAR

805
Physical Therapist Practice II
(4 credits)

This course begins early in the curriculum and culminates during the final week of the curriculum. The course final serves to integrate content and focus on professional behavior, the physical therapy science related to examination, evaluation, and intervention, and gaps in our current knowledge. It encompasses both experiential learning opportunities and traditional didactic experiences.

869 a, b, c, d
Independent Study
(2 credits)

This elective course is offered beginning in year one of the entry-level curriculum with a final grade given in the spring semester of the third year. The course is designed to offer students the opportunity to explore one of four opportunities: a) research, b) international experiential learning, c) education, or d) administration. The course provides the student with an opportunity to delve more deeply into the subject matter of a wide range of professional topics. The purpose of this course is to provide the entry-level physical therapy student with an in-depth experience while working with an experienced mentor. Regardless of the area selected, critical thinking is emphasized. The process of identifying a relevant physical therapy problem requires the definition of the relevant question, an outline of the knowledge or skills that must be mastered to address the problem, and acquisition of information or data that informs decision making. In order for a topic to qualify for course credit, the topic requires practice and guidance by a mentor and knowledge and skills that go beyond the scope of the entry-level content.

899
Clinical Decision Making
(2 credits)

This course is designed to help students determine the role of clinical databases and relevant literature in clinical decision making. The content for this course is introduced in the semester preceding the final clinical education experience. Data, without patient or clinic identifiers, is collected from a sequential series of patients during the final clinical education experience and collated with the work of other students. Students compare the plan of care, i.e., examination, evaluation, prognosis, and intervention, and clinical outcomes for data collected to the aggregated student data and to current literature and discuss differences. Students not enrolled in PT 869a, c, or d will orally present the collated data, results, and reflection.