Master of Public Health/Doctor of Physical Therapy
at Arcadia University

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

Coordinators
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Admissions

Dual Degree Program
Master of Public Health and Doctor of
Physical Therapy

About Arcadia’s Dual Degree Program in Public Health and Physical Therapy

With dual degrees, students gain knowledge in
two fields as they prepare for their professional careers.

Arcadia’s College of Health Sciences has
nationally recognized health care, science and
business programs that make the world a
laboratory by providing real-world, integrative
learning experiences. Graduate programs use
evidence-based research and project-based
learning to prepare health care and business
professionals for a rapidly changing global
environment. Applied and pro bono clinical
research, clinical rotations, international
fieldwork, and multicultural assessment are
threaded through the curricula. Graduate
students also conduct research and publish
with expert faculty in many fields.

Dual degree candidates must be accepted into
each of the programs in order to pursue dual
degrees: Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)
and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).

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 public school systems.
Physical therapists also work as educators,
researchers and consultants.

Arcadia’s entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy program, where students enter with a
bachelor’s degree and prerequisites, is ranked
14th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

The Master of Public Health Degree with a
concentration in Community Health trains
graduates to work effectively as public health professionals in a wide array of health-related
organizations. It provides training in public
health focusing on the health needs of
communities and populations domestically and
internationally. The core curriculum includes
the five core areas of public health
(epidemiology, biostatistics, social and
behavioral sciences, environmental health,
and health care administration), an internship
and capstone that prepare graduates to work
as program planners, researchers, evaluators,
and educators.

The dual-degree program enables graduates
to apply both their public health and clinical
skills within diverse work settings. The MPH
trains professionals to promote the health of
individuals, families, communities, and the
environment. This is accomplished through a
program that integrates education, research
and practice in a global environment.

This three-year dual degree program requires
students to complete a total of 153 credits and
is a year-round program where students earn
111 credits for the D.P.T. program and 42
credits for the M.P.H. program.

Admission to the Doctor of Physical Therapy/Master of Public Health Dual Degree Program

Students applying for admission to the dual
degree program in Public Health and Physical
Therapy need to meet the admission requirements for the DPT Program and write an additional three essays for the MPH Program. The MPH essays are listed below.

Program-Specific Admissions Requirements:

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 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 must include the following:
      i. Either one lab/lecture course in Human or Mammalian Physiology and one lab/lecture course in Anatomy OR a two-semester lab/lecture course sequence of Anatomy & Physiology.
      b. Physical Sciences—four lab/lecture courses directed toward science majors to include the following:
         i. Chemistry I and II or higher (e.g., Biochemistry, Organic).
         ii. General Physics I and II.
      c. Behavioral Sciences—two courses: one course in Psychology and one course from the following: Anthropology, Sociology or Psychology.
      d. Statistics—one course.
4. 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.
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6. Test scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), taken within the last five years. Applicants are expected to meet the minimum scores in all areas of the GRE: (1) Verbal & Quantitative Reasoning scores > 150, (2) Combined Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning > 300, (3) Analytical Writing > 4. NOTE: the GRE code for the D.P.T. program is 7637.

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 Physical Therapy profession through documented work or volunteer experiences in at least one inpatient and one outpatient setting as defined by PTCAS. These observations must be completed by November 1st of the year of application to the program. 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 for this observation experience.

9. Knowledge of the Public Health profession through work or volunteer experience.

10. Complete the following additional essay questions on the PTCAS application pages for the M.P.H. program. Each essay response should be at least 250 words.
   a. Describe yourself including perceptions of your strengths and weaknesses.
   b. Explain your reasons for wanting to pursue an MPH degree. Please include career goals and how you think public health will enhance your potential as a health professional.
   c. Describe any work or volunteer community health-related experience you have had, including international experiences and work with refugee or immigrant populations within the U.S.

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 November 3, 2015. 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 the deposit is non-refundable if the student fails 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.

Prior to beginning the program, students are required to complete specific background checks and a drug screen as directed by the department. Increasingly individual clinical sites require additional background clearances prior to participating in a clinical experience. These may include but are not limited to additional child abuse clearances, FBI background checks, fingerprinting, OIG/GSA checks, sex offender website checks, and drug screens. Failure to pass a criminal background check or other required screening

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may affect the student's ability to fulfill the 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 the dual degree program are billed in equal increments over the program’s nine semesters. Information on current costs is available at www.arcadia.edu/finaid. Financial aid is available to assist qualified students in covering tuition and related expenses, as well as living costs. Upon review for admission, students are automatically considered for merit scholarships and graduate assistantships based on their academic records upon applying for admission to the program. 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.

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 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 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.

**Essential Functions for Participation**

Essential functions are the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills necessary for a student to participate in the physical therapy program and become a physical therapist. Below are the “Clinical Performance Criteria for the Physical Therapist Student” as outlined in the “Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument for Students” developed by the American Physical Therapy Association. Students must have the physical and mental capacity, with or without reasonable accommodations, to meet all of the below criteria. These essential functions apply in the classroom, lab, community, and clinical settings as part of the physical therapy program. Independent facilities used for clinical education may or may not be willing or able to provide the same reasonable accommodations provided by the university.

1. Practices in a safe manner that minimizes the risk to patient, self, and others.
2. Demonstrates professional behavior in all situations.
3. Practices in a manner consistent with established legal and professional standards and ethical guidelines.
4. Communicates in ways that are congruent with situational needs.
5. Adapts delivery of physical therapy services with consideration for patients’ differences, values, preferences, and needs.
7. Applies current knowledge, theory, clinical judgment, and the patient’s values and perspective in patient management.
8. Determines with each patient encounter the patient’s need for further examination or consultation by a physical therapist or referral to another health care professional.
9. Performs a physical therapy patient examination using evidenced-based tests and measures.
10. Evaluates data from the patient examination (history, systems review, and tests and measures) to make clinical judgments.
11. Determines a diagnosis and prognosis that guides future patient management.
12. Establishes a physical therapy plan of care that is safe, effective, patient-centered, and evidence-based.
13. Performs physical therapy interventions in a competent manner.
14. Educates others (patients, caregivers, staff, students, other health care providers, business and industry representatives, school systems) using relevant and effective teaching methods.
15. Produces quality documentation in a timely manner to support the delivery of physical therapy services.
16. Collects and analyzes data from selected outcome measures in a manner that supports accurate analysis of individual patient and group outcomes.
17. Participates in the financial management (budgeting, billing and reimbursement, time, space, equipment, marketing, public relations) of the physical therapy service consistent with regulatory, legal, and facility guidelines.
18. Directs and supervises personnel to meet patient’s goals and expected outcomes according to legal standards and ethical guidelines.

Sample behaviors for each of the above performance criteria are available upon request.

### Requirements for the Dual Degrees in Public Health and Physical Therapy

(153 credits; 111 credits for the D.P.T. program and 42 credits for the M.P.H. program)

**SUMMER – MPH Program only**

(12 credits)

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<td>Social Determinants of Health and Disease</td>
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<td>PBH 530</td>
<td>Theories of Health Behavior and Health Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBH 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBH 640</td>
<td>Research Methods and Design for Public Health</td>
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**FALL YEAR 1 – DPT Program begins**

(24 credits)

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<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
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<td>PBH 630</td>
<td>Program Planning and Evaluation for Health Professionals</td>
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<td>PT 605</td>
<td>Intro and Exposure to Physical Therapy Practice</td>
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<td>PT 615</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills I</td>
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<td>PT 625</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Intervention Skills I</td>
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<td>PT 645</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice I</td>
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<td>PT 675</td>
<td>Biomedical Foundation Sciences I</td>
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**SPRING YEAR 1**

(25 credits)

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<tr>
<td>PBH 645</td>
<td>Evaluation of Public Health Programs: Case Studies</td>
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**SUMMER YEAR 1**

(17-20 credits)

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<td>Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills II</td>
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<td>PT 626</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Intervention Skills II</td>
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<td>PT 636</td>
<td>Exposure to Physical Therapy in a Health Care System</td>
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<td>PT 646</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice II</td>
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**FALL YEAR 2**

(18 credits)

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<td>PBH 510</td>
<td>Health Care Systems (OL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR PBH 585</td>
<td>Spring Yr 3 Health Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 717</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills III</td>
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<td>PT 727</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Intervention Skills III</td>
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<td>PT 747</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice III</td>
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<td>PT 757</td>
<td>Biomedical Foundation Sciences III</td>
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<td>PT 560</td>
<td>Community and Environmental Health</td>
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<td>PBH 695</td>
<td>Public Health Capstone Thesis Seminar I</td>
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<td>PT 718</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Examination/Evaluation Skills IV</td>
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<td>PT 728</td>
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<td>PT 748</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice IV</td>
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<td>PT 758</td>
<td>Biomedical Foundation Sciences IV</td>
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</table>
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SPRING YEAR 2
(25 credits)

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<td>Public Health Capstone Thesis Seminar II</td>
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<td>PT 819</td>
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<td>PT 829</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Intervention Skills V</td>
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<td>PT 849</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Integrative Care and Practice V</td>
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<td>PT 859</td>
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SUMMER YEAR 2
(6 credits)

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<td>PT 860</td>
<td>Clinical Education Experience II</td>
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FALL YEAR 3
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<td>PT 870</td>
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SPRING YEAR 3
(10-13 credits)

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<td>Public Health Internship Field Placement</td>
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<td>PBH 585</td>
<td>Health Policy, Law &amp; Bioethics (3 credits)</td>
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<td>PT 805</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Practice II</td>
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<td>PT 869</td>
<td>Independent Study (2 credits*)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 899</td>
<td>Clinical Decision Making (2 credits)</td>
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1 PBH 696 will be taken and counted as the PT Electives/Independent Study PT 869
2 PT 747/748 will be taken and counted as the MPH electives