Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy
at Arcadia University
Global Perspectives...Personal Attention...Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Faculty

Program Coordinator
Brian Eckenrode, PT, DPT., OCS Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy
William G. Boissonnault, PT, DHScFAAMOPT, Professor at University of Wisconsin
Charles D. Ciccone, PT, Ph.D., FAPTA, Professor at Ithaca College
Rebecca L. Craik, PT, Ph.D., FAPTA, Professor and Dean of the College of Health Science at Arcadia University
Martha E. Eastlack, PT, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy and Director of Entry-Level Physical Therapy Admissions
Stephan Kareha, PT DPT, OCS, ATC, St. Luke's Physical Therapy
Dan Malone, PT, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at University of Colorado
Philip McClure, PT, Ph.D., FAPTA, Professor and Chair of Physical Therapy
Amy Miller, PT, D.P.T., Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy and Curriculum Director
Michael Mullen, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Kerstin Palombaro, PT, Ph.D., CAPS, Assistant Professor, Community Engagement Coordinator, Widener University
Scott Stackhouse, PT, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physical Therapy
Kristin von Nieda, PT, M.Ed., DPT, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy

About the Transitional Physical Therapy Degree Program

- All post-professional D.P.T. courses are 2-credit, fully online courses.
- The program can be completed in one to three years.
- Pricing schedule makes the program affordable and competitively priced.
- Students can start any semester, and there is no required course sequence.
- Course waivers based on experience are possible for up to 6 credits.
- Students network and connect with nationally recognized faculty and peers.
- Students can take two courses before formal application and matriculation.
- Arcadia’s Physical Therapy program is ranked 14th among the 210 accredited programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

The profession and practice of physical therapy is rapidly changing. The demands imposed upon a physical therapist today are very different from those of even five or 10 years ago. These demands often go beyond the formal education provided in more traditional entry-level programs. Therapists increasingly are required to justify their practice patterns based on research evidence, to take on consulting and supervisory roles, and to provide administrative expertise and leadership.

Offered completely online, this program gives practicing clinicians easy access to make their formal education congruent with students graduating from entry-level D.P.T. programs. The program’s goal is to educate clinicians who achieve practice consistent with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Vision 2020 and beyond. Graduates will function with a high degree of professionalism and possess the requisite knowledge, skills and behaviors to practice physical therapy in a truly scientific manner (i.e., using evidence-based practice).

Doctoral Degrees
Doctor of Physical Therapy
(See separate catalog section.)

Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy

Arcadia University Graduate Catalog 2015-16 www.arcadia.edu/pt
Graduates will demonstrate the ability to do the following:

- Solve clinical problems based on evidence.
- Critically evaluate current literature and popular theories.
- Communicate professionally through scientific writing.
- Function as an effective teacher at multiple levels—with patients, students, peers, and the public.
- Lead others and advocate effectively (serve as a consultant or manager).
- Use skills required to be an independent and lifelong learner.

This is a program for practicing professionals who want to interact with nationally recognized faculty and network with exceptional peers. The program is highly interactive and capitalizes on the wealth of knowledge clinicians bring with them.

**Admission to the Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree Program**

Students can take two courses before formal application and matriculation. Acceptance into a course does not guarantee admission.

In addition to the general admission requirements for graduate students, the following program-specific requirements must be met:

1. Proof of graduation (transcript) from a physical therapist degree program accredited by an agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education (currently CAPTE) with a GPA of 2.75 or better
2. Additional information for internationally educated physical therapist
3. Current state professional license
4. Three written recommendations (professional or academic)
5. Brief essay articulating goals for D.P.T. study
6. Basic computer skills including Internet and e-mail
7. Computer system requirements that can be found at [http://student.arcadia.edu/online/requ ire_all.htm](http://student.arcadia.edu/online/requ ire_all.htm)

**Expenses**

- $800/credit
- Student trained in a CAPTE accredited program and matriculating into the program 2015-2016: $10,000 total program, billed over 6 equal installments of $1,667/semester. Prior to matriculation students will be charged per credit, which will be applied to the $10,000 tuition total upon matriculation.
- All students may choose to be billed on a course by course basis at the current cost/credit fee.

**Academic Policies & Procedures**

A student accepted into the Transitional Physical Therapy program is expected to abide by the regulations set forth by Arcadia University. For a discussion of the general academic policies and procedures for graduate students, see the Academic Policies.

**Please note, as an International Student in the TDPT program:**

- You will not be permitted to stay or enter the US (we will not issue an I-20).
- Your US state PT license must be valid for the duration of the program.

If your state license is only valid for 2 years, you must complete all required courses and finish the last course by the expiration date on your license.

**Registration**

- Register for a Course—Students can take two courses before formal application and matriculation. Acceptance into a course does not guarantee admission.
- Apply for Admission—Use this link to formally apply to the program.

**Transitional D.P.T. Course Schedule**

**Summer 2015**

- **PT504** – Teaching Methods, May 4 – June 19, 2015
- **PT656** - Neuromuscular Tissues OL1, May 4 – June 19, 2015
- **PT547** – Health Promotion, June 29– August 14, 2015
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**Fall 2015**
- PT556 – Diagnostic Imaging, August 24 – October 9, 2015
- PT555 - Pharmacology – October 19
- PT508 - Medical Screening, March 7 – April 22, 2016
- PT656 Neuromuscular Tissues - Offered every semester as an independent study
- PT702 Case Analysis – Offered every semester

**Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree Requirements**

(12-22 credits)
The program curriculum for US educated physical therapists is 12-18 credits. A minimum of 12 credits are needed. Credit waivers are available for up to 6 of these credits (3 courses) based upon a student's prior professional experiences and coursework as demonstrated in a portfolio. (A portfolio review charge of $200 will be applied to review material submitted for consideration of course waivers.)

Students can start any semester, and there is no required course sequence except that PT 702 Case Analysis must be taken last. A student must maintain a 2.7 cumulative grade point average to remain in the program. If the student GPA falls below 2.7 the student may be dismissed.

Students are only required to take one course per semester but may take more as they are able. Therefore, most students will take two years to complete the program, but it may be completed in one to three years depending on student preference and experience.

The curriculum emphasizes evidence-based practice and addresses core competencies to enrich the practice of physical therapy. All courses are held online, both synchronously and asynchronously.

**Core Courses** (2 credits each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>PT 505</td>
<td>Clinical Decision Making</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 508</td>
<td>Medical Screening</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 547</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Wellness</td>
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<td>PT 555</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 556</td>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 702</td>
<td>Case Analysis – December</td>
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**Spring 2015**
- PT505 – Clinical Decision Making, January 11 – February 26, 2016

**Required courses for which a waiver is possible. Note the course waiver is not guaranteed.**

- PT 504 Physical Therapist Teaching Methods*
- PT 656 Neuromuscular Tissues and Motor Control*

**Clinical Practice Series**

- PT 705 Orthopedic Physical Therapy* or PT 706 Neurological Physical Therapy or PT707 Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy (Students can select from PT 705, 706 or 707 in the Clinical Practice Series.)

**Physical Therapy Courses**

505 **Clinical Decision Making**
(2 credits)
Physical therapists, like all other healthcare providers, routinely make decisions affecting patients in daily care. Such decisions may be based on a variety of sources, including experience, intuition, testimonials from teachers or colleagues, and findings from literature. This course is designed to provide a framework for making future and evaluating past clinical decisions based on the best available evidence. This course assists the student in developing the tools needed to provide evidence-based physical therapy practice. The course includes projects and online discussions relevant to each student’s clinical practice and ensures that the student applies the theories and tools to everyday situations.

508 **Medical Screening**
(2 credits)
This course helps to prepare the physical therapist to assume the role of an independent practitioner working within a collaborative medical model. Inherent in this role is the ability to recognize clinical manifestations that suggest physician or other healthcare provider contact is warranted regarding a patient’s health status. Students apply the concept of threshold detection to identify impairments or “red flags” in medical screening that warrant referral to other professionals. An examination scheme is
designed to promote efficient and effective
collection of patient data to provide the structure
for discussions. Patient cases are presented to
illustrate important medical screening principles.
Professional communication with patients and
physicians is also a central theme.

547
Health Promotion
(2 credits)
Prevention, risk reduction and health promotion
are activities included in the Guide to Physical
Therapist Practice, and although physical
therapists have performed these activities with
individual patients and clients, participation in
broader programs for communities or groups of
people is an area of significant need and
opportunity. Health promotion and wellness
theory are presented in this course to prepare
physical therapists to integrate these concepts
into their current practice and/or to expand their
practices and consultative skills in the prevention
arena. Students also are introduced to a variety
of techniques commonly used in the strategic
planning process and use those techniques to
develop a plan for the introduction of a health
promotion program relevant to their own practice
settings or worksites. After the introduction and
discussion of key concepts, including
assessment and program planning, students
complete a project and develop a health
promotion program using the health promotion
approach and strategic planning processes.

555
Pharmacology
(2 credits)
Individuals involved in healthcare recognize that
drugs can influence patients’ response to
physical rehabilitation. Medication can provide
beneficial effects that act synergistically with
physical therapy treatments, or they can generate
side effects that may adversely affect
rehabilitation goals. This course presents some
of the basic drug classes and the physiologic
basis of their action. Drugs are grouped
according to their general effects and the type of
disorders for which they are routinely used to
treat. Special emphasis is placed on drugs that
are commonly used to treat disorders seen in
patients receiving physical therapy and how drug
therapy interacts with rehabilitation.

556
Diagnostic Imaging
(2 credits)
This course is an overview of the various types of
diagnostic imaging procedures such as
radiography, computerized tomography,
magnetic resonance imaging and nuclear
imaging. General principles related to indications,
strengths and limitations of each method are
discussed. Specific procedures related to various
anatomic regions and pathologies also are
covered. Case study presentations are used to
emphasize the decision making related to
diagnostic imaging studies and what relevant
information can be provided. Clinical decision
making in the context of evidence-based practice
guides the discussion of each case.

702
Case Analysis
(2 credits)
Students develop a comprehensive case
presentation based on a selected patient or client
in their practice setting. The case analysis
demonstrates the clinical decision-making
process used to guide patient and client
management throughout the episode of care,
including the examination, evaluation, prognosis
and planned interventions. Students address the
use of specific diagnostic tests and imaging
studies related to the case, the implications of the
pharmacologic management of the patient and
specific outcomes measures as they relate to
decision-making and effective interventions.

504
Teaching Methods*
(2 credits)
Physical therapists assume the role of teachers
in a variety of situations with a diverse group of
learners. This course explores theories and
methods related to effective teaching, student
learning, and assessment strategies across
multiple settings including clinic, classroom,
laboratory, home setting and community. The
role of educational technology in teaching and
learning activities is emphasized. Examination of
individual and social factors that influence health
and wellness are discussed, and key concepts
from behavioral theories are applied to patient
education in clinical practice situations. There is
an introduction to educational assessment
strategies for community-based health programs.

656
Neuromuscular Tissues*
(2 credits)
This course material is covered via guided
independent study or as a seven-week online
course. Using assigned readings and personal
searches of the literature, students review the
basic structure and function of various tissues
within the neuromusculoskeletal system and
integrate the information with clinical practice. For
the musculoskeletal tissue component, new
information relevant to skeletal muscle and
various connective tissues such as tendon,
ligament, cartilage and bone is examined. Case
scenarios require the student to explore the
effects of altered patterns of use with appropriate
clinical application. The neural control of multi-
Joint limb movement is explored using current literature on motor control, cognition and motor learning. Case scenarios are used to describe the relevance of recent research on clinical practice. Traditional and contemporary theories are contrasted to assist in developing direct intervention strategies using skill acquisition theories. Emphasis is placed on reading and applying current basic science literature to justify and guide the practice of physical therapy.

705/706/707
**Clinical Practice Series***
(only 1 required) (2 credits)

The Clinical Practice Series spans three separate 2-credit courses, each emphasizing recent advances in a particular specialty area of physical therapy practice. Transitional D.P.T. students are required to choose one based upon their area of practice. These courses are meant to provide the most recent evidence-based information related to clinical practice. The content in these courses reinforces and reflects principles taught in the clinical decision making courses; however, emphasis is placed on specific recommendations for clinical management (i.e. content rather than process). Each course emphasizes a clinical reasoning process, use of appropriate tests and measures, use of appropriate interventions, and the most relevant outcome measures.

705
**Orthopedic Physical Therapy***
(2 credits)

Management of common orthopedic conditions related to the extremities and spine including non-surgical and post-operative problems.

706
**Neurologic Physical Therapy***
(2 credits)

Management of hemiplegia, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and common pediatric conditions such as cerebral palsy.

707
**Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy***
(2 credits)

Management of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other respiratory illnesses and as well as patients following myocardial infarction or thoracic surgery including coronary artery bypass.

*Courses that may be waived based on Portfolio Assessment*