

**TDPT courses for Internationally-educated Physical Therapists (22 credits)**

Please see following list of courses (22 credits) that Internationally-educated Physical Therapists would complete:

**Core Courses:**

- PT 505 Clinical Decision Making (2 credits)
- PT503 Ethics and Law (2 credits)
- PT 504 Teaching Methods (2 credits)
- PT 508 Medical Screening (2 credits)
- PT528 Healthcare Systems (2 credits)
- PT 547 Health Promotion (2 credits)
- PT 555 Pharmacology (2 credits)
- PT 556 Diagnostic Imaging (2 credits)
- PT 656 Neuromuscular Tissues and Motor Control (2 credits)
- PT 702 Case Analysis (2 credits)

**Clinical Practice Series (Students select one of the following)**

- PT 705 Orthopedic Physical Therapy (2 credits)
- PT 706 Neurologic Physical Therapy (2 credits)
- PT 707 Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy (2 credits)
- PT 708 Geriatric Physical Therapy (2 credits)
- PT 709 Pediatric Physical Therapy Practice (2 credits)

**(Course Descriptions for all courses are available on the next few pages)**

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**PT 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.

**PT 503 Ethics and Law (2 credits)**

This course is an overview of ethical principles, including major ethical theories. Emphasis is on identifying and analyzing ethical dilemmas in the practice of physical therapy and applying the ethical principles, as well as the APTA Code of Ethics to resolve ethical dilemmas. This course also includes aspects of constitutional, state, federal and case law as it applies to physical therapy in the United States and how ethics and law interact in practice.

**PT 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.

**PT 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.

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**PT 528 Health Care Systems (2 credits)**

This course is an introduction to the American health system, examining four major components: resources, delivery systems, planning and regulatory structure, and consumers. Emphasis is on the interactions among the identified components of the system, as well as the roles and responsibilities of physical therapists as professionals in the system. Potential changes in the system and in the role of physical therapy as a profession also are discussed.

**PT 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.

**PT 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.

**PT 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

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

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.

**PT 656 Neuromuscular Tissues and Motor Control (2 credits)**

This course reviews the basic structure and function of various tissues within the neuromusculoskeletal system. These will include muscle, nerve and various connective tissues such as tendon, ligament, cartilage and bone. Using the Physical Stress Theory as a guiding model, the effects of altered patterns of use, common pathologies, and common interventions will be discussed for each tissue. The neural control of multi-joint limb movement will be discussed using current literature on motor control, cognition and motor learning including discussion of the relevance of the research on clinical practice. Traditional and contemporary theories will be contrasted to assist in developing direct intervention strategies using skill acquisition theories. Emphasis will be placed on reading and applying current basic science literature to justify and guide the practice of physical therapy.

**PT 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.

**Clinical Practice Series (Students select one of the following)**

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

This course will provide the physical therapist with an overview of the evaluation and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions commonly encountered in orthopedic practice. A regional approach will be utilized to present an evidence-based assessment and management utilized in orthopedic physical therapy practice.

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

This course builds upon entry-level knowledge of the physical therapist's management of neurologic patient populations and is intended to challenge current practice while assisting with knowledge translation. A broad scope of current basic science and clinical research will be integrated to introduce and apply principles of neuroplasticity and motor learning for

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

neuromuscular rehabilitation. Opportunities are provided for students to explore their own clinical interests and critically analyze clinical decisions, from examination to treatment to outcome measurement, in the context of updated literature.

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

Physical therapists routinely examine, evaluate and treat patients with cardiovascular and/or pulmonary dysfunction. This course addresses the physical therapy management of persons with cardiac and/or pulmonary diseases. Examination techniques, evaluation considerations, diagnostic tools, prognostic indicators, physical therapist interventions and outcomes will be reviewed. The course is designed to facilitate self-paced learning with the use of various resources to review the topics listed in the course schedule below. Assignments, quizzes and discussion boards are utilized throughout the course to assist students with synthesizing and applying the information discussed.

**PT 708 Geriatric Physical Therapy (2 credits)**

This course will help promote best practice in the management of conditions commonly encountered in geriatric physical therapy practice. Class structure will consist of a combination of web-based activities, weekly live sessions, weekly readings and mini-lectures, and a final project. Students will complete guided weekly readings and interactions with students on an online discussion board. Relevant patient cases will be utilized to illustrate application of best practice. The instructor will interact with students and encourage interaction among students via the Internet.

**PT 709 Pediatric Physical Therapy Practice (2 credits)**

This course will promote best practice in the management of conditions commonly encountered in pediatric physical therapy practice. The class will consist of a combination of online activities including weekly live sessions, readings, mini-lectures, and a final project. Students will interact with one another on an online discussion board, and relevant patient cases will be utilized to illustrate application of best practice. The instructor will interact with students and encourage interaction among students via the Internet.