

UCF Doctor of Physical Therapy

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Where can I find more information on becoming a Physical Therapist?

The professional association for physical therapy, the *American Physical Therapy Association* (APTA) provides detailed information about the profession on their official web site www.APTA.org. Information specifically geared for potential physical therapy students can also be found at: www.APTA.org/ProspectiveStudents/.

Does UCF offer anything other than a doctorate degree in physical therapy?

UCF only offers a doctorate degree in physical therapy (DPT) after transitioning from a master's program in 2008. Applicants must earn a baccalaureate or higher degree, prior to the start of the term for which the student is admitted, from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or from a recognized foreign institution.

What should I get my bachelor's degree in?

The UCF DPT program does not require a specific undergraduate degree as a prerequisite for admission; however there are some undergraduate majors that may better prepare students for DPT coursework and the profession as a whole. Some of the common majors of past applicants have included health sciences- pre-clinical, exercise science, biology/microbiology, athletic training, communication sciences and disorders, health services administration, kinesiology/exercise physiology, nursing and physical education/ exceptional education.

Is the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program only offered on the main campus?

At this time, the DPT program is only offered on the main UCF campus in Orlando, FL. As part of the Department of Health Professions in the College of Health & Public Affairs, the DPT program courses are primarily housed on the second floor of the HPA I building.

Can I take courses online?

While the DPT program does offer some courses online, the majority of the curriculum is offered face-to-face in a lecture or lab format. The course work is taken in a prescribed sequence over nine semesters, as outlined in the Graduate Catalog, and all course work is required.

How long is the DPT program?

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program is a **full-time**, three (3) year graduate professional program composed of 112 credit hours offered over nine consecutive semesters.

When does the program start?

Admissions decisions will be made only once per academic year. Incoming students will begin the program in the summer C semester. Check the UCF Academic Calendar for the specific date each year.

Who can I talk to for more information?

There are several ways you can speak with someone regarding the UCF Program in Physical Therapy.

1. **For General Questions about the Program:** We recommend starting with our Webpage: <https://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/hp/physical-therapy-program/> for general questions about the program. Admission information can also be found under the 'Admissions' tab. Stay informed by following our links to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Instagram. General questions about the program can also be provided by the Academic Advising Coordinator via email at ptinfo@ucf.edu.

2. UCF Undergraduate Students:

If you have questions regarding undergraduate advisement and enrollment in prerequisite courses, please visit the COHPA Undergraduate Student Services (Academic Advising) Office in HPA II- Suite 115, email hpainfo@ucf.edu or call (407) 823-0010. Additional advising services for pre-health students are available through the Office of Pre-Health & Pre-Law Advising in Ferrell Commons, Building 7G, room 203, email phpladvising@ucf.edu or call (407) 823-3033. If you have general questions about the UCF DPT program, you can also contact the COHPA Office of Graduate Services at (407) 823-4025, COHPAgraduate@ucf.edu to schedule an appointment to speak with an advisor.

3. **Questions on How to Apply:** Admission advising is by appointment only. To make an appointment, or if you have general questions about admission to the UCF DPT program, please email ptinfo@ucf.edu. The UCF Doctor of Physical Therapy program participates in the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service, known as PTCAS. Applicants applying to the entry-level physical therapist education program will apply online using the PTCAS application. For questions regarding the PTCAS application system or materials submitted to PTCAS, please contact them directly at www.PTCAS.org or call (617) 612-2040.

ADMISSIONS

When is the application deadline?

The application deadline for the 2017-2018 PTCAS cycle is **November 1, 2017**. Applications are only accepted for summer admission and applicants are encouraged to submit their completed applications early. The PTCAS application will open to applicants on July 1, 2017. You must also submit an application to the UCF College of Graduate Studies by December 1, 2017. <http://www.admissions.graduate.ucf.edu/>

Does the UCF DPT program use the PTCAS system?

Yes, the Doctor of Physical Therapy program participates in the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service, known as PTCAS. To learn more about the PTCAS application process, visit www.ptcas.org.

What is the GPA requirement to apply?

The DPT program requires a **minimum** 3.00 GPA in the last 60 credit hours of your undergraduate degree and a **minimum** 3.00 GPA or higher for prerequisite courses. Grades less than "C" in the required prerequisite courses will not be accepted. The applicants admitted in the last cycle had an average of a **3.7 prerequisite GPA**, and an average of a **3.7 GPA in the last 60 credit hours** of their undergraduate degree. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee an interview.

If I repeat a prerequisite course, will the Admissions Committee take the average of the two or is the highest grade accepted when calculating my prerequisite GPA?

If you elect to repeat any of the required prerequisite courses, the highest grade for that course will be calculated for your prerequisite GPA.

Does the DPT program require the GRE and what is the minimum scores accepted?

Yes, like many professional and graduate programs the UCF DPT program requires applicants to submit scores from the GRE within the last five years from the date of application. Minimum Scores are as follows:

Verbal Reasoning Score: 146 Quantitative Reasoning Score: 144 Analytical Writing Score: 3

The UCF DPT program is highly competitive and the average scores earned on the GRE for students accepted into the program in past years have been a Verbal score of 155, a Quantitative score of 154 and a Writing Analysis score of 4.

GRE scores must be sent directly to PTCAS using the UCF DPT program code: 3871.

Does UCF require a biographical essay?

We no longer require a biographical essay for admission, however PTCAS does require an essay portion that is also required by our program. For more information please refer to www.ptcas.org.

What courses are recommended to prepare me for a Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy?

The following courses are recommended for students hoping to enter a physical therapy program (course numbers are specific to UCF). Some of these courses are required for your undergraduate degree. **The list of courses below may not be required for entry into a PT program, but simply a list of recommended courses that will prepare a student for success in a graduate physical therapy program.** It is strongly recommended to include some of these courses in your undergraduate degree program or elective courses, if possible.

HSC 4555	Pathophysiology I	3 hrs
HSC 4558	Pathophysiology II	3 hrs
HSC 4730	Applied Health Research Methodology	3 hrs
HSC 4501	Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases	3 hrs
ATR 3203C	Upper Extremity Function & Measurement	3 hrs
ATR 3204C	Lower Extremity Function & Measurement	3 hrs
ATR 3312C	Injury, Management, and Rehabilitation	3 hrs
ZOO 4704C	Clinical Neuroanatomy & Neuroscience	4 hrs
ZOO 3744	Neurobiology	3 hrs
PET 4312C	Kinesiology/Biomechanics	3 hrs
HSC 4572	Clinical Nutrition	3 hrs
HSC 3211	Preventive Health Care	3 hrs
HSC 3147	Introduction to Pharmacology	3 hrs
HSC 3432	Occupational Safety for the Health Care Professional	3 hrs
HSC 4008	Professional Development in Health Professions	3 hrs

PREREQUISITE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

What are the prerequisite courses required for the DPT program?

For an up-to-date list of the required prerequisite courses, please refer to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program's page in the current UCF Graduate Catalog, which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.graduatecatalog.ucf.edu/programs/Program.aspx?ID=1404&program=Physical%20Therapy%20DPT>

Do prerequisite courses expire?

Courses older than seven (7) years will not be accepted.

Can I take prerequisite courses after the application deadline?

The program recommends all prerequisite courses be completed at time of application and candidates with all prerequisites completed at time of application may be given preference over those still completing courses. **No more than two (2) prerequisite courses may be in progress the fall semester and one (1) course the spring semester prior to the year of matriculation.** To submit fall grades, PTCAS allows a one-time change to your application during the Academic Update time period (for specific dates, refer to www.ptcas.org). Any updates to fall grades must be received by PTCAS no later than January 15th of the application year to be considered as part of the program's admissions decision making process. All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to entering the program in the summer. A final transcript will be required.

Does the Admissions Committee accept test credit (AP, IB, CLEP) for the prerequisite courses?

A maximum of three (3) prerequisite courses taken as AP, IB, CLEP credit will be accepted. Test credit for the prerequisite courses will only be accepted if the courses are documented on your transcripts and have been accepted by your accredited College or University. Test credits do not count towards prerequisite GPA.

Does the program accept online courses for prerequisites?

Online courses are **NOT** accepted for the following prerequisites: anatomy courses, physiology courses, physics courses, or chemistry courses. Hybrid courses are only accepted for the prerequisite courses listed above if the lab component is delivered in a face-to-face format (submission of course description/syllabi may be required to verify course delivery mode). Please email ptinfo@ucf.edu for additional information.

I already completed my undergraduate degree. How do I apply to take prerequisite courses as a non-degree seeking student?

To register for and complete any remaining prerequisite courses required by the program, you will need to apply to UCF's College of Graduate Studies as a non-degree seeking student. Additional information regarding the application process should be directed to the College of Graduate Studies directly by calling (407) 823-2766 or visiting their web page at www.graduate.ucf.edu/. You may also complete prerequisite courses at another university or at a community or state college, if available.

PT OBSERVATION HOURS

How do I submit my observation hours?

Documentation verifying a minimum of thirty (30) hours of observation/work experiences under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist in the field of physical therapy is required. PTCAS allows for two options for verification—electronic or paper-based. The electronic verification is strongly preferred, but if you already have hours verified on another form, follow the paper-based instructions. Please refer to www.PTCAS.org for further instructions.

Where can I go for the required volunteer/observation hours?

The UCF Doctor of Physical Therapy program is unable to directly assist student in procuring sites for observation hours, however, candidates can search for physical therapy clinics in their area by visiting the “Find a PT” page on APTA.org. <http://www.apta.org/apta/findapt/index.aspx?navID=10737422525>

What is the program looking for when reviewing observation hours?

While the minimum requirement for volunteer hours under the supervision of a licensed PT is 30 hours, the DPT faculty encourages applicants to strive for additional experiences beyond the requirement. Volunteering in various settings and interacting with diverse populations is a great way to learn more about the profession, strengthen your application to the program and further instill your desire to become a physical therapist.

FINANCIAL AID & ASSISTANCE/RESIDENCY INFORMATION

Where can I find information about fellowship opportunities?

For information regarding graduate fellowships please refer to the UCF College of Graduate Studies Fellowship web page at: <http://www.admissions.graduate.ucf.edu/funding/fellowships/>.

How do I apply for financial assistance for graduate school?

For all questions relating to financial assistance, please refer to the UCF Office of Student Financial Assistance by calling (407) 823-2827 or by visiting their web page at <http://finaid.ucf.edu>. **All students must apply or reapply yearly for financial aid.** Complete the online FAFSA, found at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on myUCF.

Where can I find information about residency classification for tuition purposes?

For all questions relating to residency for tuition purposes, please refer to the UCF College of Graduate Studies by calling (407) 823-2766 or by visiting their web page at http://www.students.graduate.ucf.edu/Florida_Residency/.

**For the most complete, up-to-date degree and program requirements, see the official UCF Graduate Catalog at www.graduatecatalog.ucf.edu and look up "Physical Therapy". The information contained in this document should not be used as a replacement for the Graduate Catalog.