



University of
Central Arkansas™

DPT

Doctor of Physical Therapy
PROGRAM BROCHURE

2014 – 2015



Physical Therapy Center

Department of Physical Therapy
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University of Central Arkansas
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Conway, Arkansas 72035
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Education ♦ Research ♦ Clinical Practice

University of Central Arkansas Doctor of Physical Therapy Program



The process and guidelines detailed in this brochure supersede any previously published or printed admissions policy for the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

Chairperson and Professor:	Nancy Reese, PhD, PT
Professor:	William Bandy, PhD, PT, SCS, ATC
Associate Professors:	James Fletcher, PhD, PT, ATC Kevin Garrison, PhD, PT Margaret McGee, PhD, PT, PCS David Taylor, PhD, PT, CSCS Charlotte Yates, PhD, PT, PCS
Assistant Professors:	Steven Forbush, PhD, PT, OCS Tiffany Huitt, PhD Chad Lairmore, PhD, PT, NCS, GCS
Senior Clinical Instructor:	Twala Maresh, DPT, PT, NCS, ATP
Clinical Instructor II:	Misty Booth, DPT, PT, PCS Stacey Stephens, MS
Clinical Instructor I:	Darla Cathcart, PT, DPT, WCS, CLT
Program Advisor:	Charlotte Fant, MSE, CHES, (501) 450-3611 or cfant@uca.edu

DEPARTMENTAL MISSION

The mission of the Department of Physical Therapy is to develop outstanding physical therapist professionals and scholars who are practicing collaboratively in the global, clinical, and research communities and to model excellence in education, research, and service. <http://www.uca.edu/pt>.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) curriculum is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). CAPTE can be contacted at accreditation@apta.org or 1111 North Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

PHYSICAL THERAPY: A DYNAMIC HEALTH CARE PROFESSION

Physical therapists provide physical therapy services to patients/clients who have impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease, or other causes. These services include:



- Examination of individuals with impairment, functional limitations, and disability or other health related conditions in order to determine diagnosis, prognosis, and interventions;
- Alleviation of impairment and functional limitation by designing, implementing, and modifying therapeutic interventions;
- Prevention of injury, impairment, functional limitation, and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health, and quality of life in all age populations;
- And, participation in consultation, education, and research.

Therapeutic interventions provided by physical therapists include, but are not limited to, therapeutic exercise; functional training in self-care, home management, and community and work activities; manual therapy techniques; prescription, application, and fabrication of certain assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, supportive, and prosthetic devices and equipment; wound management; airway clearance techniques; electrotherapeutic modalities; and physical agents and mechanical modalities.

Salaries in Arkansas for new PTs are approximately \$65,000. The median annual earnings of all physical therapists in the United States was \$79,8600 in 2012, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2014-15 Edition, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm>.

PROFESSIONAL DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT) DEGREE

The curriculum leading to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at the University

of Central Arkansas requires 41 hours of prerequisite course work and a completed baccalaureate degree. The program is designed as a 4+3 curriculum (4 years prerequisite course work culminating in a baccalaureate degree and 3 years of professional coursework) with a clinical doctorate degree awarded after the final 3 years of study. Forty-three weeks of the 3 year DPT curriculum are devoted to clinical internships in physical therapy at clinical education sites.



PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DPT CURRICULUM

To be considered for admission, candidates must complete a baccalaureate degree and meet the specific prerequisite requirements of the UCA Department of Physical Therapy prior to the enrollment date. Students may pursue the bachelor's degree in any chosen field of study at UCA or at another accredited university or college, as long as the departmental prerequisite requirements are met. Prerequisite course work taken at another institution must be equivalent to or exceed the courses required at UCA (refer to <http://uca.edu/ubulletin2014/>). Students pursuing their baccalaureate at UCA may want to consider the BS in Health Sciences with Physical Therapy emphasis. This degree was designed to incorporate the UCA Department of Physical Therapy prerequisites within the degree plan and can be viewed at <http://uca.edu/go/prePT>. Please visit <http://uca.edu/gbulletin> to access the UCA Undergraduate Bulletin or <http://uca.edu/ubulletin> to access the UCA Graduate Bulletin. For undergraduate or graduate admission applications, students should visit <http://uca.edu/admissions/>. Please call 1-800-243-8245 for more information. Applications to UCA for prerequisite course work must be processed through the University's Admissions Office. Upon enrollment in the DPT program students must perform certain essential functions. A list of these essential functions and the departmental policy regarding essential functions is available at <http://uca.edu/go/PTEssential>. All prospective students should review the document "Essential Functions of the Student in the DPT Program" and the departmental policy prior to applying for admission to the DPT Program. Applications to the 2015 Professional DPT Program must be processed through the American Physical Therapy Association's Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) at <http://www.ptcas.org/>.

International Applicants: Please note that World Education Services (WES) is the only foreign transcript evaluation service for PTCAS applicants with non-US coursework.





I. Completion of a Baccalaureate Degree

II. Completion of Departmental Requirements

	CREDIT HOURS
General Psychology and a Psychology Elective	6
*Chemistry I and II (two semester sequence with lab)	8
*College Physics I and II	8
*Biology: 4 hours Biology for Biology Majors with lab, 8 hours Human Anatomy and Physiology, and 3 hours of upper division animal-based Biology (see UCA DPT check sheet for more detailed information)	15
Statistics	3
Medical Terminology	1
Total Hours Required	41

* All science courses or their substitutes must be completed with a grade of C or above. Applicants must possess a science GPA of at least 3.00 for all biology, chemistry, and physics course work.

NOTE: All applicants must complete 22 of the 31 hours of the prerequisite science course work (see * items) prior to the application deadline. Courses taken elsewhere must be equivalent or evaluated and approved in advance. All college course work must be submitted regardless of when completed or the nature of the course work.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The professional DPT program has strict admission requirements and enrollment limitations. Acceptance is by specific application and competitive admission only. A new DPT class begins each Fall semester. Applications for either Freshman Admission or Admission to the professional DPT program are due on October 1st. Prior to the August enrollment date, all applicants must:

- Have an earned baccalaureate degree and
- Have completed all departmental prerequisite requirements.



I. Freshman Admission

Application Deadline: Application for *Freshman Admission* should be completed with the Program Advisor for the BS Degree with major in Health Sciences, PT Emphasis by October 1 of the freshman year. Students who begin study at UCA as a freshman will be admitted to the DPT program, if they scored at least 30 on the ACT or 1320 on the SAT (verbal & math) from high school. Specific performance standards must be maintained. Actual enrollment into the professional program will occur after completion of the baccalaureate degree. To maintain Freshman Admission status, the applicant must:

- Take all coursework at UCA,
- Complete the GRE by DPT application deadline,
- Attend three Pre-PT Club meetings each year (12 total in 4 years),
- Maintain a 3.70 cumulative GPA and a 3.50 science GPA for all undergraduate work (monitored on an annual basis at the end of each academic year),
- Complete 45 hours of observation at 3 different physical therapy settings by DPT application deadline,
- Complete 22 hours of 31 required science prerequisite hours by the DPT application deadline, and
- Complete the baccalaureate degree and all required prerequisites by August of the year of enrollment in the DPT program.

No interview is required of applicants entering the program under Freshman Admission. Contact the Physical Therapy Program Advisor (Charlotte Fant at 501-450-3611) for more details regarding Freshman Admission.

II. Admission

Application Deadline: October 1 each year.

The deadline for DPT application is October 1 of the year of planned enrollment. The UCA DPT application for Admission is posted on the American Physical Therapy Association's PTCAS at <http://www.ptcas.org>.

To be eligible for Admission, by the application deadline, the applicant must:

- Possess a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.00 based on a 4.00 scale,
- Possess a science GPA of at least 3.00 for all biology, chemistry, and physics course work,
- Have received a score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Have all GRE scores sent to PTCAS GRE Code 3630. No minimum score is required, however average revised GRE combined total score (verbal and quantitative) was 309 (refer to next page). GRE scores are weighted twice as heavily as GPA for ranking of applicant.
- Have completed a minimum of 22 hours of the 31 required hours of science prerequisites by the DPT application deadline, and
- Have completed 45 hours of PT observation at 3 different clinical settings (10-20 hours per facility) by the application deadline. Contact PTCAS Customer Service for instructions of how to document observation hours.

Grade Point Averages for recent coursework (30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours): The GPA for recent course work may be considered by the DPT Admission Committee as a substitute for the cumulative GPA for admission purposes only. The substitution may be made if the GPA for the last 30 semester hours (45 quarter hour equivalent) is at least 10% higher than the cumulative GPA and includes 15 hours of appropriate science coursework. A minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA requirement and a minimal 3.00 science GPA requirement must be met before utilizing this option. The total hours for the recent college GPA are obtained by beginning with the last semester or quarter of course work and moving backwards chronologically on the transcript(s) until 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hour equivalents are obtained. All courses are included. No more than 8 hours of science course work may be repeated course work. No more than one-fourth of the non-science course work included in the recent course work GPA may be repeated course work. All other requirements still apply.

All applicants must submit the PTCAS Application.

All applications of candidates who meet qualifications for DPT Admission are reviewed by the DPT Admission Committee composed of physical therapy faculty, other university faculty, the Graduate Dean, and the Registrar. Applicants are ranked using a composite score derived from the science grade point average (SGPA), scores on the GRE, and the cumulative grade point average (CGPA). Of the criteria, the SGPA and GRE scores are weighted most heavily. Additional points may be earned by completing extra science coursework above the first year beyond the required prerequisites. No repeated science courses counts as extra science points.

The top applicants are invited to a mandatory interview scheduled for the first Friday in December. The DPT Admission Committee Chair will inform invited applicants of their interview time. The interview is used to assess such factors as the ability to present oneself professionally, to use verbal and non-verbal communication appropriately, to express knowledge about the profession of physical therapy, to function within the group for the interview, and to express ideas quickly and succinctly. Applicants accepted for admission are notified in December. A ranked alternate list is also prepared. Individuals may be chosen from this list to replace applicants who decline their appointment at any time. Ranking as an alternate is indicative of the Committee's high opinion of a candidate's potential, but does not assure placement in the class or in any future class.

Students who do not meet the stated criteria for admission may appeal to the DPT Admission Committee. Requests for exceptions to the prerequisite course work and policies must be submitted to the DPT Admission Committee by the application deadline. Failure to be admitted does not prevent reapplying for a later year.

REGARDING STUDENTS RECENTLY ADMITTED

Average Science GPA: 3.62

Average Revised GRE Score: Total = 302
(Average Verbal=152 and Average Quantitative=151)

Average Cumulative GPA: 3.71

Matriculation Rate: 82.3%

Acceptance Rate: 38%



UCA DPT CURRICULUM SEQUENCE

1st Fall Semester (17 credits)

- PTHY 5505 Gross Anatomy (5)
- PTHY 5403 Human Physiology (4)
- PTHY 6404 Clinical Foundations in Physical Therapy Practice (4)
- PTHY 6307 Professional Development I (3)
- PTHY 6104 Physical Therapy Research I (1)

1st Spring Semester (18 credits)

- PTHY 6501 Neuroscience (5)
- PTHY 6403 Pathology (4)
- PTHY 6401 Kinesiology I (4)
- PTHY 6303 Patient Management & Documentation (3)
- PTHY 6204 Physical Therapy Research II (2)

1st Summer Semester (14 credits)

- PTHY 6402 Kinesiology II (4)
- PTHY 6250 Pharmacology in Physical Therapy (2)
- PTHY 6405 Therapeutic Exercise (4)
- PTHY 6314 Neurophysiological Principles of Motor Control (3)
- PTHY 7104 Physical Therapy Research III (1)

2nd Fall Semester (17 credits)

- PTHY 7403 Physical Agents (4)
- PTHY 7515 Neurological Rehabilitation in Pediatrics (5)
- PTHY 7404 Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy I (4)
- PTHY 7204 Physical Therapy Research IV (2)
- PTHY 7228 Clinical Education Practicum I (2) 5 weeks

2nd Spring Semester (18-21 credits)

- PTHY 7516 Adult Neurological Rehabilitation (5)
- PTHY 7411 Physical Rehabilitation (4)
- PTHY 7520 Cardiopulmonary Principle & Practice (5)
- PTHY 7405 Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy II (4)
- PTHY xxxx Elective (optional) (0-3)

2nd Summer Semester (10-13 credits)

- PTHY 7406 Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy III (4)
- PTHY 7210 Integumentary System: Principles & Practice (2)
- PTHY 7307 Professional Development II (3)
- PTHY 7106 Educational Roles in Physical Therapy (1)
- PTHY xxxx Elective (optional) (0-3)

3rd Fall Semester (13-16 credits)

- PTHY 6424 Clinical Administration & Management (4)
- PTHY 7409 Clinical Reasoning & Differential Diagnosis (4)
- PTHY 7209 Complex Patient Management (2)
- PTHY 7328 Clinical Education Practicum II (3) 8 weeks
- PTHY xxxx Elective (optional) (0-3)

3rd Spring Semester (10 credits)

- PTHY 7528 Clinical Education Practicum III (5) 10 weeks
- PTHY 7529 Clinical Education Practicum IV (5) 10 weeks

3rd Summer Semester (6 credits)

- PTHY 7530 Clinical Education Practicum V (5) 10 weeks
- PTHY 7103 Outcomes Assessment in Physical Therapy (1)

TOTAL REQUIRED = 123 CREDITS TOTAL REQUIRED CLINICAL = 43 WEEKS



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*The course descriptions for
physical therapy coursework
are available in the
UCA Graduate Bulletin at
<http://uca.edu/gbulletin>.*

COST OF PROGRAM

Total costs for the three years of the UCA DPT program are below national average for public universities. When calculated with Fall 2014 tuition rates, the three year program is estimated to cost approximately \$40,016.05 for an Arkansas resident (not including room/board or books). As of the Fall 2014 semester, GRADUATE tuition and hourly fees for Arkansas residents AND residents of states contiguous to Arkansas (Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas) total \$243.04 per graduate semester hour. Out of state residents (of states non-contiguous to Arkansas) for Fall 2014 pay \$486.08 per graduate semester hour. University fees paid per semester total \$118.50, fees paid per hour total \$57.81. In addition, the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences Fee is \$14.00 per credit hour and the Lab Fee is \$5.00 per credit hour. In example, students in the first semester of the DPT Program take 17 credit hours resulting in combined tuition and fees of \$5,535.95 for 2014 for an in-state student. Students seeking financial aid should make known in their application for aid the actual per semester hours in the DPT Program as noted in the curriculum sequence on page 7. Tuition and fees are subject to change at any time. Information on tuition and fees is available from the UCA Student Accounts office at <http://www.uca.edu/studentaccounts>.

Upon enrollment in the Professional DPT Program students are required to have personal health insurance covering at minimum accidental injury. Upon enrollment students must also provide a copy of immunization records and complete an annual Tuberculosis (TB) skin test or chest x-ray. During the first year of the program, students will be instructed regarding completion of a national criminal background check and become certified in Healthcare Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Depending on clinical education placements, students may possibly need to become certified in First Aid or complete a Child Maltreatment Registry Check, drug screen, physical exam, or update of immunizations. Students will be informed in advance and responsible for the costs of such items. Students should also anticipate potential expenses related to travel for clinical education experiences.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Performance of UCA DPT graduates over the past three years (2011, 2012, 2013) is as follows:

- Graduation Rate: 97.6%
- 1st Time Pass Rate on National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE): 90.7%
- Ultimate Pass Rate on NPTE: 100%
- Employment Rate: 100% (of students passing the NPTE)

For 2014, the first time pass rate on NPTE is 96%.



ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

PhD Program: Qualified students may be accepted to the DPT/PhD program allowing them to simultaneously pursue the DPT (CAPTE accredited) and PhD degrees (Higher Learning Commission Accredited). Application to this program occurs following admission to the DPT program.

Pediatric Residency Program: UCA offers an accredited residency program in Pediatric Physical Therapy, providing physical therapists an opportunity to achieve advanced skill and knowledge in this clinical practice area. Admission is competitive and occurs following completion of the DPT degree.

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