

UCF Doctor of Physical Therapy Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Where can I find more information about becoming a PT?

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 have obtained 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. Students without a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or a recognized foreign institution are not admitted to graduate degree programs, graduate certificate programs, or graduate non-degree status.

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 of study that may better prepare students for DPT coursework and the profession as a whole. Some of the common majors of past applicants have included athletic training, biology/microbiology, cardiopulmonary sciences, communication sciences and disorders, health sciences- pre-clinical, health services administration, kinesiology/exercise physiology, nursing and physical education/ exceptional education.

Is the Physical Therapy Program only offered at the UCF campus in Orlando or are some of the classes also offered at UCF Regional campuses?

At this time the DPT program is only offered on the main UCF campus. 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 coursework is offered in a lecture or lab format in the classroom. 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 Doctorate in Physical Therapy is a full-time, three (3) year graduate 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 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:** The UCF DPT practices an open door policy and welcomes you to visit the office anytime Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. We are located in Health and Public Affairs Building 1 room 256.

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@mail.ucf.edu or call (407) 823-0010.
- If you are in the process of preparing your application to apply to the UCF DPT program, we also recommend that you contact the COHPA Office of Graduate Services at (407) 823-4025, COHPAgraduate@ucf.edu to schedule an appointment to speak with an advisor.

3. **Applicants Outside of UCF:** If you are not a UCF student but are interested in applying or in the process of applying to the UCF DPT program, please contact Samantha Moya, Coordinator of Academic Services & Support for the DPT program at Samantha.Moya@ucf.edu with questions relating to program admissions.

4. **Questions on How to Apply:** Please contact the College of Graduate Studies at (407) 823-2766 or refer to their web page at www.graduate.ucf.edu with questions about the graduate application, residency and supporting document submission.

ADMISSIONS

When is the application deadline?

The application deadline each year is December 15th for Domestic Applicants and November 1st for International applicants. Applicants are only accepted for Summer admission and applicants are encouraged to submit their completed applications early.

Does the UCF DPT program use the PTCAS system?

No, the UCF Program in Physical Therapy does not currently participate in the PTCAS system for processing its applications. Please submit your online application through the UCF College of Graduate Studies.

What is the GPA requirement to apply?

The DPT program requires a competitive GPA and no grade less than "C" in the last 60 hours of the undergraduate major. Each of the prerequisite undergraduate courses must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" and with an overall grade point average of at least 3.0.

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 would be a competitive GRE score?

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. 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 in the 1140 to 1190 range. With the changing format of the exam, competitive scores have not yet been established for the new version of the exam.

One of the application requirements is a biographical essay; what topic is the Admissions Committee looking for?

The biographical essay is intended to allow the admissions committee to "get to know" each applicant a little more in depth. Applicants are encouraged to include such topics as their underlying interest in attending the UCF DPT program, any exposure to the field of physical therapy and their professional goals beyond the program.

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 Program in Physical Therapy's page in the 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 I have to take 8 credits of Biology *and* 8 credits of Anatomy/ Physiology?

No. The program requires you to complete 8 hours in *EITHER* Biology or Anatomy/Physiology. While we will accept both as meeting our prerequisite requirements, it is the belief of the DPT faculty that 8 credits in Anatomy/Physiology may better prepare you for the coursework in the program.

If I have taken Abnormal, Child or Adult Psychology, can it be substituted for Developmental Psychology?

No. The requirement is for Developmental Psychology of the entire human lifespan, therefore Abnormal, Child, and/or Adult Psychology will not be considered appropriate substitutions for this prerequisite.

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

The following courses are recommended for pre-physical therapy students. 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.

PCB 3703C	Human Physiology	4 hrs
ZOO 3733C	Human Anatomy	4 hrs
HSC 4555	Pathophysiology I	3 hrs
HSC 4558	Pathophysiology II	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
HSC 3211	Preventive Health Care	3 hrs
PET 4606	Applied Fitness in Sport	3 hrs
HSC 4501	Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases	3 hrs
HSC 3147	Introduction to Pharmacology	3 hrs
HSC 3110	Medical Self Assessment	3 hrs
HSA 4702	Health Sciences Research Methods	3 hrs
HSC 4008	Professional Development in Health Professions	3 hrs
HSC 4652	Health Law and Ethics	3 hrs
HSC 4572	Clinical Nutrition	3 hrs
HSC 3559	Disabilities in American Society	3 hrs
HSC 4730	Applied Health Research Methodology	3 hrs
HSC 3537	Medical Terminology	3 hrs
HSC 3593	HIV Disease: A Human Concern	3 hrs
HSC 3432	Occupational Safety for the Health Care Professional	3 hrs
HAS 3111	U.S. Health Care Systems	3 hrs
ZOO 3744	Neurobiology	3 hrs
ZOO 4704C	Clinical Neuroanatomy & Neuroscience	4 hrs
ZOO 4753	Vertebrate Histology	4 hrs

Can I take prerequisite courses after the application deadline?

It is recommended that prerequisite courses be completed prior to applying to the program, but **MUST** be completed prior to entering the program in summer. A final transcript will be required before entering the program.

Does the Admissions Committee accept AP credits for the prerequisite courses?

The Admissions Committee accepts AP credits for the prerequisite courses only if the courses are documented on your transcripts and have been accepted by your accredited College or University.

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/.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

How do I submit my volunteer hours?

Volunteer hours may be submitted in the following ways:

- 1) A PDF form can be printed from this link or downloaded from the UCF DPT web page: <http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/health.pro/documents/DPTVolunteerHoursForm.pdf>
- 2) Volunteer hours may also be submitted on office letterhead, and must include the signature and license number of a licensed Physical Therapist.
- 3) Volunteer hours submitted from a log must be on letterhead and include the signatures and license numbers for each licensed Physical Therapist. Total hours must be calculated and verified by the PT.

All supporting documentation can be uploaded to your online application at MyUCF, or you may send documents directly to the College of Graduate Studies.

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

The UCF DPT program maintains strong relationships with many practicing physical therapists in the Central Florida area and as a result can recommend several for observation purposes. For a list of potential volunteer/observation sites, please contact Samantha Moya at Samantha.Moya@ucf.edu.

What are the kinds of experiences the program looks for when reviewing my volunteer 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

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.

**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.