

# PHYSICAL THERAPY, DOCTOR OF

Saint Louis University's program in physical therapy offers a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degree.

There are three paths of entry into the SLU program.

- **Early-assurance, freshman-entry:** The early-assurance pathway is a six-year curriculum, including two summers. Students admitted receive a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science - Physical Therapy (B.S.E.S.-P.T.) concentration after successfully completing the first four years of coursework and the D.P.T. degree after completing the additional two post-baccalaureate years.
- **Early-assurance, undergraduate transfer:** The undergraduate transfer pathway allows students to transfer into the program as undergraduate students from within or outside of Saint Louis University.
- **Post-baccalaureate:** The post-baccalaureate pathway allows students who have already earned an undergraduate bachelor's degree to enter as a professional-phase student for three years of graduate coursework, including two summers.

Physical therapists work with people across the lifespan to optimize movement and improve health. Physical therapists are responsible for examining and evaluating patients/clients, developing and implementing intervention programs, providing patient education, and supervising other health care practitioners. In addition to patient care, physical therapists may also serve as administrators, teachers, researchers and consultants.

Program Financial Fact Sheet (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/-pdf/pt-financial-factsheet.pdf>)

## Program Highlights

Advantages of earning a D.P.T. at SLU include:

- Direct admission to the program as a freshman
  - Undergraduate transfer and post-baccalaureate transfer are both possible
- Opportunities to pursue additional curricular goals such as minors, including interprofessional education, certificates and study abroad programs
- Physical therapy pro bono clinic providing integrated curricular and volunteer opportunities for students while serving people from the local community
- Clinical education placements across diverse settings and geographic locations
- Highly qualified and accessible faculty
- State-of-the-art laboratories and clinical equipment

## Curriculum Overview

SLU's PT early-assurance curriculum is divided into pre-professional and professional phases. Progression to the professional phase of the program provides a seamless entry from foundational coursework to practical labs and clinical experiences.

Once accepted into the program, a student progresses through the entire program without needing to reapply or take a graduate entrance exam,

provided the student meets the program's academic and professional behavior standards.

During the professional phase, students enroll in coursework specific to the physical therapy profession and complete 38 weeks of full-time clinical experiences. Students begin their clinical experiences in the spring of year four with DPT 5290 Formation of Identity as a Physical Therapist (1 cr).

Students gain advanced knowledge and skills in specialty areas through elective courses in the physical therapy curriculum and clinical exposure. In addition to the PT curriculum, undergraduate students must complete a minor of their choosing before transitioning to the professional phase. Students will additionally earn a second minor in interprofessional education (IPE) upon completion of their bachelor's degree.

Upon graduation, students must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination to obtain a license to practice physical therapy.

## Clinical and Research Opportunities

SLU's physical therapy program is affiliated with more than 250 clinical sites locally, nationally and internationally.

The faculty and clinical staff provide clinical services at a variety of locations, including the pro bono clinics, Saint Louis University Physical Therapy Clinic at Student Health, SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital, consultative services for senior Jesuits and the SLUCare Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Clinic.

## Careers

Graduates from SLU's PT program enjoy employment in a variety of settings, including hospitals, outpatient clinics, long-term rehabilitation facilities, collegiate and professional sports, schools, patient homes and fitness centers.

Physical therapists typically work in full-time positions and receive benefits. The 2023 median annual wage of physical therapists was \$99,710 per year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Specific salary depends on location and experience level.

Graduates of our Doctor of Physical Therapy program report a 100% employment rate within the profession within one year of graduation.

## Freshman Applicants

Every application to the program in Physical Therapy for admission is reviewed on an individual basis.

For the freshman-entry admission, the best qualified high school seniors are selected from the application pool with a required minimum high school GPA of 3.2 on a 4.00 scale, with an emphasis on math and science.

*The following high school courses are required for admission:*

- One year of biology and one year of chemistry
- College prep courses equivalent to algebra, geometry, advanced algebra and/or trigonometry.

*Strong applicants will have:*

- Four years of math, including a course equivalent to pre-calculus

- Four years of science, including physics and anatomy/physiology
- Activities demonstrating leadership and community service
- An interest in the profession of physical therapy as demonstrated through observation, school activities, or personal experience

Meeting admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

The deadline for completed physical therapy applications and financial aid consideration for all freshmen applicants is Dec. 1.

## Transfer Applicants

### General Information

As space allows, students may enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy program as internal change major (enrolled in another program at SLU) or external (enrolled at another college or university) transfer students.

Students must apply by October 1 to be considered for spring admission or March 1 for fall admission.

### Admission Requirements

- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Minimum 3.0 GPA in required science coursework
- Completion of a minimum of 1 required science course/sequence as listed below:
  - BIOL 1240 General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution (3 cr) and BIOL 1245 Principles of Biology I Laboratory (1 cr)
  - BIOL 1260 General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter (3 cr) and BIOL 1265 Principles of Biology II Laboratory (1 cr)
  - CHEM 1080 Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture (3 cr) and CHEM 1085 Principles of Chemistry 1 Lab (1 cr)
  - CHEM 1480 Principles of Chemistry 2 Lecture (3 cr) and CHEM 1485 Principles of Chemistry 2 Lab (1 cr)
  - PHYS 1220 General Physics I (3 cr) and PHYS 1235 General Physics I Lab (1 cr)
  - PHYS 1240 General Physics II (3 cr) and PHYS 1255 General Physics II Lab (1 cr)
  - ANAT 1000 Basic Human Anatomy (3 cr)
  - PPY 2540 Human Physiology (4 cr)
  - EXSC 3230 Exercise Physiology (3 cr)
- In addition to the application, applicants must submit a personal statement describing interest in physical therapy as a profession. Internal transfer students will submit the personal statement to the academic advisor for Physical Therapy. External transfer applicants will submit the personal statement to [transfer@slu.edu](mailto:transfer@slu.edu).
- Internal transfer students who are academically eligible meet with the physical therapy academic advisor to review applicant qualifications and the application process. Qualified applicants who submit paperwork to change their major prior to the deadline will be reviewed by the program in Physical Therapy admissions committee.
- External transfer students can review course equivalency information here (<https://www.slu.edu/admission/transfer/credits/>).

Meeting admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

## Post-Baccalaureate Applicants

### General Information

As space allows, students may enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy program as a post-baccalaureate student.

Students must apply by November 1 to be considered for summer admission. Classes start mid-May.

### Application Requirements

- Official transcript(s)
- Personal statement describing interest in physical therapy as a profession
- Service and leadership experiences
- Recommendation letter

### Admission Requirements

- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Minimum 2.7 GPA in required science coursework
- All previous coursework must have been completed within the last 10 years
- D or F grades for prerequisites are not accepted
- At the time of application, no more than 2 prerequisite courses may be outstanding. The full list of prerequisites (and credits) are below:
  - General Biology with a lab or Animal Biology with a lab (4)\*
  - Second Biology with a lab (4)\* Not Botany
  - Chemistry I with lab (4)\*
  - Chemistry II with lab (4)\*
  - Physics I with lab (4)\*
  - Physics II with lab (4)\*
  - Human Anatomy (3)\*
  - Human Physiology (4)\*
  - Exercise Physiology (3)\*
  - General Psychology (3)
  - Second Psychology (3)
  - Statistics (3)

NOTE: Anatomy and Physiology I\* & II\* can be taken in place of Human Physiology and Basic Human Anatomy.

Meeting admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. \*Included in science GPA calculation.

## International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students, along with the following:

- You must demonstrate **English Language proficiency** ([https://www.slu.edu/admission/international/english-proficiency.php?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=&utm\\_campaign=%5b\\*Campaign\\*%5d&utm\\_content=%5b\\*Adgroup\\*%5d&utm\\_term=%5b\\*searchterm\\*%5d&gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiArfauBhApEiwAeoB7qLuey1S5yq18nbVTNtkfSATLSvSxNFdUwwicJ8GNtRoC7VkJQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.slu.edu/admission/international/english-proficiency.php?utm_source=google&utm_medium=&utm_campaign=%5b*Campaign*%5d&utm_content=%5b*Adgroup*%5d&utm_term=%5b*searchterm*%5d&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiArfauBhApEiwAeoB7qLuey1S5yq18nbVTNtkfSATLSvSxNFdUwwicJ8GNtRoC7VkJQAvD_BwE)).
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding your time at Saint Louis University.
  - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of your study at the University.

- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

## Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Per Semester	Per Credit
Doctor of Physical Therapy (12 or more credits)	\$24,080	
Doctor of Physical Therapy (less than 12 credits)		\$1,680

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer/>)

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need. In addition to SLU scholarships, the Doisy College of Health Sciences offers scholarships (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/about/scholarships-for-current-students.php>) to sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students.
- **Financial Aid:** Provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration of merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1.

For more information, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

## Accreditation

The Program in Physical Therapy at Saint Louis University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE).

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE)  
3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100  
Alexandria, VA 22305-3085

703-706-3245

[accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org)

[capteonline.org](https://www.capteonline.org/home.aspx) (<https://www.capteonline.org/home.aspx>)

If you need to contact SLU's program directly, please call 314-977-8505 or email [sluptat@health.slu.edu](mailto:sluptat@health.slu.edu).

For more information about the SLU physical therapy program's outcomes, matriculation rate, graduate rate, employment rate, NPTE pass rates and technical standards, please see the additional accreditation information (PDF). (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/-pdf/pt-accreditation.pdf>)

View Additional Accreditation Information (PDF) (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/-pdf/pt-accreditation.pdf>)

Complaint Policy and Instructions (PDF) (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/-pdf/complaint-policy-pt.pdf>)

Technical Standards (PDF) (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/-pdf/pt-technical-standards.pdf>)

## Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to serve others by advocating for the health of society.
2. Graduates will be able to communicate in a way that optimizes patient-centered care.
3. Graduates will be able to apply principles of evidence-based practice in patient care.
4. Graduates will be able to evaluate typical versus atypical physical movement.

## Requirements

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science Requirements (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/exercise-science-bs/#requirementstext>)

## Physical Therapy Requirements (for students admitted as freshman or admitted as transfer undergraduate students after completion of the Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, physical therapy concentration requirements)

Code	Title	Credits
DPT 5123	Clinical Gait	2
DPT 5134	Multi System Management	3
DPT 5135	Cardiopulmonary Conditions	3
DPT 5137	Aspects of Nutrition	2
DPT 5142	Evidence Based Practice	2
DPT 5149	Motor Control and Motor Learning	2
DPT 5162	Musculoskeletal Conditions II	4
DPT 5215	Cura Personalis as a Physical Therapist	2
DPT 5218	Effective Communication and Teaching	3
DPT 5251	Neurological Conditions I	4
DPT 5263	Musculoskeletal Conditions III	4
DPT 5271	Patient Management I	3
DPT 5291	Clinical Experience IA	2
DPT 6072	Patient Management II	1
DPT 6077	Department Administration	2
DPT 6091	Clinical Experience IB	2
DPT 6092	Clinical Experience IIA	2

DPT 6116	Leadership and Advocacy as a Physical Therapist	2
DPT 6124	Biomechanical Interventions	3
DPT 6138	Concepts of Wellness	1
DPT 6152	Pediatric Conditions	2
DPT 6164	Musculoskeletal Conditions IV	3
DPT 6173	Patient Management III	2
DPT 6178	Applied Administration and Management	2
DPT 6192	Clinical Experience IIB	2
DPT 6293	Clinical Experience III	3
DPT 6294	Clinical Experience IV	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>66</b>

## Physical Therapy Requirements (for students admitted with a bachelors degree)

Code	Title	Credits
ANAT 4000	Human Gross Anatomy	5
ANAT 4300	AHP Neurosciences	4
EXSC 5121	Clinical Biomechanics	3
DPT 5123	Clinical Gait	2
DPT 5125	Therapeutic Modalities	0,3
DPT 5127	Basic Examination	3
DPT 5130	System-Based Pathology	4
DPT 5134	Multi System Management	3
DPT 5135	Cardiopulmonary Conditions	3
DPT 5137	Aspects of Nutrition	2
DPT 5142	Evidence Based Practice	2
DPT 5147	Human Growth and Development	3
DPT 5149	Motor Control and Motor Learning	2
DPT 5162	Musculoskeletal Conditions II	4
DPT 5215	Cura Personalis as a Physical Therapist	2
DPT 5218	Effective Communication and Teaching	3
DPT 5222	Kinesiology	3
DPT 5226	Therapeutic Exercise	2
EXSC 5241	Clinical Research and Design	2
DPT 5228	Basic Procedures	2
DPT 5240	Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions	4
DPT 5290	Formation of Identity as a Physical Therapist	1
DPT 5251	Neurological Conditions I	4
DPT 5263	Musculoskeletal Conditions III	4
DPT 5271	Patient Management I	3
DPT 5291	Clinical Experience IA	2
DPT 6072	Patient Management II	1
DPT 6077	Department Administration	2
DPT 6091	Clinical Experience IB	2
DPT 6092	Clinical Experience IIA	2
DPT 6192	Clinical Experience IIB	2
DPT 6116	Leadership and Advocacy as a Physical Therapist	2
DPT 6124	Biomechanical Interventions	3

DPT 6138	Concepts of Wellness	1
DPT 6152	Pediatric Conditions	2
DPT 6164	Musculoskeletal Conditions IV	3
DPT 6173	Patient Management III	2
DPT 6178	Applied Administration and Management	2
DPT 6293	Clinical Experience III	3
DPT 6294	Clinical Experience IV	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>102-105</b>

## Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
<b>Pre-Professional Phase</b>		
BIOL 1240 & BIOL 1245	General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution and Principles of Biology I Laboratory	4
CHEM 1080 & CHEM 1085	Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture and Principles of Chemistry 1 Lab	4
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy (satisfies CORE 1700)	3
DPT 1111	Self and Community in PT (satisfies CORE 1500)	1
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research (satisfies CORE 1900)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
BIOL 1260 & BIOL 1265	General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter and Principles of Biology II Laboratory	4
CHEM 1480 & CHEM 1485	Principles of Chemistry 2 Lecture and Principles of Chemistry 2 Lab	4
DPT 1212	Fueling the Fire, Discovering Your Passion (satisfies CORE 1000)	2
MATH 1400	Pre-Calculus	3
CORE 1200	Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication (satisfies CORE 1200)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
IPE 2100	Interprofessional Collaboration and Healthcare in Global Context	3
PPY 2540	Human Physiology	4
PHYS 1310	College Physics I	3

PHYS 1320	College Physics I Laboratory	1
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
ANAT 1000	Basic Human Anatomy	3
DPT 2213	Professionalism and Physical Therapy Thought (satisfies CORE 2500)	1
IPE 4200	Applied Decision-Making in Interprofessional Practice	3
PHYS 1330	College Physics II	3
PHYS 1340	College Physics II Laboratory	1
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Year Three</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Participation in Study Abroad Optional		
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	2-3
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
PHIL 2050 or HCE 2010	Ethics or Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics	3
PSY 3460	Abnormal Psychology	3
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>17-18</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
EXSC 3230	Exercise Physiology	3
IPE 4900	Interprofessional Community Practicum (satisfies CORE 4000)	3
STAT 1100	Introduction to Statistics	3
DPT 3214	Reflections on the Core and the Future	1
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3
XXXX	Elective (for minor)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year Four</b>		
<b>Summer</b>		
<b>Professional Phase</b>		
DPT 5011	Foundations in Physical Therap	1
ANAT 4000	Human Gross Anatomy	5
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Fall</b>		
EXSC 5121	Clinical Biomechanics	3
DPT 5125	Therapeutic Modalities	3
DPT 5127	Basic Examination	3
DPT 5130	System-Based Pathology	4
DPT 5147	Human Growth and Development	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science - PT awarded upon completion of this semester.		

ANAT 4300	AHP Neurosciences	4
DPT 5222	Kinesiology	3
DPT 5226	Therapeutic Exercise	2
DPT 5228	Basic Procedures	2
EXSC 5241	Clinical Research and Design	2
DPT 5240	Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions	4
DPT 5290	Formation of Identity as a Physical Therapist	1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Year Five</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
DPT 5123	Clinical Gait	2
DPT 5134	Multi System Management	3
DPT 5135	Cardiopulmonary Conditions	3
DPT 5137	Aspects of Nutrition	2
DPT 5142	Evidence Based Practice	2
DPT 5149	Motor Control and Motor Learning	2
DPT 5162	Musculoskeletal Conditions II	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
DPT 5215	Cura Personalis as a Physical Therapist	2
DPT 5218	Effective Communication and Teaching	3
DPT 5251	Neurological Conditions I	4
DPT 5263	Musculoskeletal Conditions III	4
DPT 5271	Patient Management I	3
DPT 5291	Clinical Experience IA	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Year Six</b>		
<b>Summer</b>		
DPT 6072	Patient Management II	1
DPT 6077	Department Administration	2
DPT 6091	Clinical Experience IB	2
DPT 6092	Clinical Experience IIA	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Fall</b>		
DPT 6116	Leadership and Advocacy as a Physical Therapist	2
DPT 6124	Biomechanical Interventions	3
DPT 6138	Concepts of Wellness	1
DPT 6152	Pediatric Conditions	2
DPT 6173	Patient Management III	4
DPT 6178	Applied Administration and Management	2
DPT 618X	Physical Therapy Elective (optional)	0-1
DPT 6192	Clinical Experience IIB	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16-17</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Doctor of Physical Therapy awarded upon completion of Semester 12		
DPT 6293	Clinical Experience III	3
DPT 6294	Clinical Experience IV	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>203-205</b>

## Program Notes

The six-year curriculum is divided into the pre-professional (years one through three) and the professional phase (years four through six). Year four represents the final year of the baccalaureate degree for freshman-entry or pre-professional-phase transfer students and first year of the professional phase for the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Progression to the professional phase of the program provides a seamless entry from foundational coursework to practical labs and clinical experiences. The post-baccalaureate curriculum is the coursework outlined in years four through six.

## Contact Us

Apply for Admission (<https://www.slu.edu/admission/>)

### **Contact Doisy College of Health Sciences**

Recruitment specialist

314-977-2570

[dchs@health.slu.edu](mailto:dchs@health.slu.edu)