

Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy

Physical Therapy Program

School of Health Sciences

Oakland University

Inside this brochure:

Description, admission and application **1**

Degree requirements **2,3**

Special points of interest:

A certificate may be earned with the DScPT degree:

- Orthopedics
- Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy
- Pediatric Rehabilitation
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Teaching and Learning for Rehabilitation Professionals
- Clinical Exercise Science
- Complementary Medicine and Wellness
- Exercise Science
- Corporate Worksite Wellness

DEGREE

Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy (DScPT)

ACADEMIC UNIT

School of Health Sciences

ACCREDITATION

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

DESCRIPTION

The post-professional DScPT is designed for physical therapists who received an entry-level bachelor's or master's degree in physical therapy and are interested in obtaining an advanced clinical doctorate which includes an individual research project under the guidance of a doctoral committee.

ADMISSION TERMS AND DEADLINES

Students may be admitted for the fall, winter or spring semester. Applications will be accepted until August 1 for the following fall semester, until December 1 for the following winter semester and until April 1 for the following spring semester.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the DScPT must:

- Be licensed or eligible for licensure as a physical therapist in the State of Michigan.
- Have completed a BS/MPT or MSPT degree from a regionally-accredited institution or proof of a U.S. equivalent degree for foreign educated students.
- Have completed the GRE.
- Meet Oakland University requirements for English proficiency.

Applicants with an undergraduate GPA less than 3.00 with the appropriate academic background and strong letters of recommendation may be considered for conditional admission. Students who qualify for this course status must complete a minimum of 8 credits of graduate coursework achieving a grade point of 3.0 or above in each course before conditional status is removed.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application materials and steps to be completed are:

- Application for Admission to Graduate Study and non-refundable application fee.
- Professional vitae or resume and one page narrative goal statement outlining academic and professional goals.
- Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate level academic work and proof of degree.
- Two Recommendation for Graduate Admission forms or two letters of reference.
- Official scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and GRE from applicants who are graduates of programs taught in a language other than English.
- International Students must meet the application requirements described by the Graduate Admissions.
- Proof of licensure or eligibility for licensure in the State of Michigan. Students who do not have a license upon admission will be conditionally admitted until they provide proof of licensure. Proof of licensure is required to register for courses that require clinical hours.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

This degree will require completion of 75 credits beyond a B.S. degree with up to 36 credits that can be earned from a qualified master's degree counting toward the DScPT degree. Students must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or better to graduate. Credit toward the degree will not be given for courses with grades under 2.5.

The transfer credit policy outlined in the graduate catalog will be followed. Per this policy, students may be allowed to transfer up to 9 semester hour credits. Students will be required to take the professional core courses and select a physical therapy concentration (this can include a certificate, an advanced research practicum or an approved set of related coursework for a total of 15-51 credits). All students will develop a plan of study that outlines coursework and plan for degree completion. The student's advisor must approve this plan of study. All students will complete an individual research project under the direction of a committee chaired by a member of the physical therapy faculty.

CORE COURSES (24 credits)

PT 502	Understanding Evidence-based Practice	2
PT 800	Professional Seminar	4
PT 810	Educational Principles for Rehabilitation Professionals	4
PT 900	Advanced Scientific Inquiry I	4
PT 901	Analysis of Clinical Findings	2
PT 950	Doctoral Research Practicum	8

PHYSICAL THERAPY CONCENTRATION (15-51 credits)

All students must develop a concentration that may include a certificate, a research concentration and/or a set of related coursework. Students must apply for and be accepted into certificate programs. See requirements for certificate programs.

CERTIFICATES

- Orthopedics
- Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy
- Pediatric Rehabilitation
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Teaching and Learning for Rehabilitation Professionals
- Graduate Certificate in Clinical Exercise Science (18 credits)
- Graduate Certificate in Complementary Medicine and Wellness
- Graduate Certificate in Exercise Science*
- Graduate Certificate in Corporate Worksite Wellness*

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

Research Concentration: This would include a combination of research courses and projects worth a total of 15 credits in an area of their clinical interest.**

Related Coursework: May include non-physical therapy related coursework that supports or complements the student's plan of study.**

*Must complete the appropriate pre-requisites

**Plan of study must be approved by the student's advisor.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

The continuous enrollment policy for doctoral students requires continuous registration of graduate students for at least one credit hour each semester in the academic year to maintain an active graduate student status. This includes semesters in which the comprehensive, preliminary or qualifying examination is taken, defense, and each subsequent terms (fall and winter) until the degree requirements are met and the dissertation is submitted to Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning.

Some agency and graduate assistantship eligibility may have course-load requirements that exceed the minimum registration requirements of the Continuous Enrollment Policy (e.g., Veterans Administration, Immigration and Naturalization for international students, and federal financial aid programs). Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to register for the appropriate number of credits that are required for funding eligibility and/or compliance as outlined by specific agency regulations under which they are governed.

TIME LIMITS

If more than six years have passed since the student has been admitted to the DScPT program, and all requirements (including an approved research report) have not been completed, the student must petition the program coordinator and Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning for an extension. Students who are deemed inactive may be dropped from the program, although they may petition for reinstatement.

DScPT RESEARCH REPORT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

One copy of the approved DScPT research report must be delivered to Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning by the date listed in the *Schedule of Classes* for the term in which the student expects to graduate. The research report must be graded prior to submission. Submission requirements are provided on the Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning Web page.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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