

Accelerated Bachelor of Science/ Doctor of Physical Therapy 3+3 Program

The baby boomers who took physical fitness to new heights are as active as ever --- but they're also getting older. Medical advances are saving an ever-increasing number of critically injured patients who need intensive rehabilitation after their initial recovery. More children are starting to play demanding sports at an earlier age, and continuing into adulthood. There's no doubt about it --physical therapy is a field poised for rapid growth. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the number of jobs in physical therapy to increase by 30 percent by 2018.

In a cooperative effort, the Pathway to Health Professions (Health Sciences) Program and the Programs in Rehabilitation Sciences of the College of Nursing and Health Professions offer an accelerated dual degree program that can put you in practice a year ahead of your future colleagues -- and with better training. Participants can earn both a B.S. degree in Health Sciences and a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree in only six years after graduation from high school.

Even with the accelerated nature of the undergraduate years of this dual degree program, BS/DPT students have an opportunity for the co-operative education that Drexel is known for and that undergraduate students at other universities can only dream about.

Graduates of this innovative program are able to function in a variety of health care settings and are well-prepared to seek licensure by state board examination. Drexel's DPT program -- the new standard in physical therapy education -- is the successor to the former MCP Hahnemann University's Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) Program, which was accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) beginning in 1981. The DPT program received full accreditation status from CAPTE in November 2004.

Coursework

BS/DPT students spend three years in the Pathway to Health Professions Program fulfilling their general education, science, and physical therapy prerequisite requirements. During their junior year, students apply to the three-year DPT program. A Bachelor of Science degree is awarded after the successful completion of the first year of DPT curriculum.

DPT curriculum areas include:

- Foundational sciences
- Physical therapy clinical sciences
- Clinical areas of concentration (musculoskeletal, adult neuromuscular, pediatric, or generalist)
- Professional practice
- Evidence-based practice and research
- Clinical affiliation experiences, integrated throughout the curriculum and selected from over 500 clinical sites across the nation

The DPT curriculum follows a problem-solving self-directed learning approach that emphasizes development of skills in critical thinking, differential diagnosis, evidence-based practice, and outcome assessment. Opportunities exist to work collaboratively with faculty and other Ph.D. students on research and teaching projects. Students graduate ready to enter the field with advanced knowledge and skills as a result of concentration courses, challenging elective courses, and completion of the 16-week clinical internship.

Drexel Co-op

Drexel University has long been known for its co-operative education programs, through which students mix periods of full-time, career-related employment with their studies. Co-op employment is a part of the Pathway to Health Professions curriculum. The co-operative experiences of the Pathway to Health Professions curriculum are directed toward activities that will expose students to the work environments of various health professionals. These work settings will provide students with the opportunity to observe health professionals at work and to assess their own potentials for undertaking such patient-focused careers.

Career Opportunities

Physical therapists are respected members of the health care team. They work with other health care providers such as physicians occupational therapists, rehabilitation nurses, dentists, psychologists, social workers, podiatrists, speech pathologists, and audiologists.

Though many physical therapists work in hospitals, more than 70 percent can now be found in private physical therapy offices, rehabilitation centers, community health centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, corporate and industrial health centers, sports facilities, research institutions, schools, pediatric centers,

and colleges and universities. Some physical therapists work as employees, while others own or co-own private practices. And as a result of their regular and ongoing patient contact, physical therapists also play an important role in the evaluation and improvement of health care delivery.

According to the most recent survey of the American Physical Therapy Association, the typical income for physical therapists (which varies based on location, years of experience, and employment setting) ranges between \$77,000 and \$86,000.

A Program of Excellence

The DPT program attracts proven high achievers. Here are some interesting facts about the May 2004 graduating class:

- 10 percent of class members (maximum allowed) were inducted into Alpha Eta, the Health Professions National Honor Society
- 10 percent of the class were named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*
- Two students won National Awards of Excellence from the American Physical Therapy Association
- Two students presented at the national PT conference and one at a state PT conference.

Admission Requirements

Students are selected for this accelerated, dual degree program during their senior year of high school. To be considered, applicants must be in the top 15 percent of their high school class (cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher) and have a combined SAT of 1200 (combined Critical Reading and Mathematics scores). Applicants are required to submit a letter of recommendation from a high school teacher and an essay expressing their motivation for a career in Physical Therapy. Applications should demonstrate maturity, stability, scholarship, flexibility, compassion, curiosity, and a willingness to serve others.

During the undergraduate phase of the accelerated, dual degree program, students are expected to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.33 and a minimum GPA in science courses of 3.25. Students must complete the Physical Therapy prerequisite courses with no grade less than a C in any prerequisite course and without repeating any of the prerequisite courses. In their junior year, candidates are required to complete the GRE with a minimum score of 1000 (combined verbal and quantitative) and complete the analytical writing section, with a minimum score of 4.0. The student's co-operative experience will fulfill the DPT Program's requirement for volunteer experience in various physical therapy settings. A letter of recommendation from a physical therapist and an interview with the DPT faculty are also required.

Applicants are expected to have satisfactorily passed the following high school courses or their equivalents: four years of mathematics, four years of English, and three years of science (at least one semester each of biology, chemistry, and physics). Applicants are expected to take the SAT. SAT II tests are not required, but are highly recommended (e.g., math, English, composition, and chemistry).

For More Information

To learn more about the Physical Therapy dual degree program, please contact:

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To apply online, go to <http://www.drexel.edu/apply>.

Complete both the Undergraduate Application and the Supplemental Application for Undergraduate Accelerated Degree Programs.