

DHSc in Rehabilitation Sciences



Program Mission

To prepare physical therapists and occupational therapists to take leadership roles as educators and master clinicians in Rehabilitation Sciences and to promote transfer of knowledge, evidence-based practice, professional responsibility, and lifelong learning across a variety of academic and clinical settings.

Program Overview

The Doctor of Health Science (DHSc) program is designed to be an advanced doctoral degree program for professionals seeking leadership roles in education and/or clinical practice. The program includes foundation courses in the health professions, teaching, research, and the opportunity for focused study in a specialized area of clinical practice such as pediatrics, orthopedics, and hand rehabilitation. We have specifically designed the program to accommodate the working professional. The objectives of the DHSc program include four areas: leadership, education, scholarship, and clinical health care practice. Graduates of the DHSc degree in Rehabilitation Sciences will be prepared to:

1. Practice as a master clinician in an area of advanced practice through clinical decision making that is consistent with concepts of client-centered care and current best evidence.
2. Synthesize theory, research, and health care policy relevant to individuals with movement dysfunction to promote transfer of knowledge into clinical practice.
3. Serve effectively as consultants to patients, clients, community organizations, and professional colleagues.
4. Serve effectively as educators in rehabilitation sciences in academic, clinical, and community settings.
5. Develop and evaluate structure, tests and measures, process, and outcomes of service delivery and/or intervention through scholarship in an area of advanced practice or education.
6. Communicate information effectively through peer-reviewed professional presentations and publications.

Program Features

- Flexible, individualized program aligned with student's professional goals and responsibilities
- Concentrations in pediatrics, orthopedics, and hand rehabilitation
- Dynamic online learning supplemented with onsite sessions to provide mentorship and foster student engagement
- Comprehensive preparation for clinical leadership and academia
- Foundation in rehabilitation science research

Curriculum

The DHSc Program consists of a minimum of 48 quarter credits completed part-time over 3 to 5 years. The 48 credits include required didactic courses, an elective course, a practicum experience, and a clinical dissertation project. The curriculum includes 4 *foundation courses* (Leadership & Professional Issues, Health Promotion & Wellness, Informatics in Rehab Sciences, and Evidence Applied to Practice), 4 *teaching courses* (Health Professional Education, Academia, and Teaching Practica I and II), 4 *research courses* (Introduction to Biostatistics, Measurement Theory, Research Methods, and Statistical Applications), 3 *clinical specialization courses* (in pediatrics, orthopedics, or hand and upper quarter rehabilitation), 1 *practicum* experience (advanced practice clinical, administrative /leadership, or teaching practicum), 1 elective (includes opportunity for a research practicum), and a *clinical dissertation*.

FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT:

Mia Weiss, Admissions Coordinator

Phone: 267.359.5535 • **Email:** ptadmissions@drexel.edu

Web: <http://www.drexel.edu/PhysicalTherapy>

APPLY ONLINE AT:

<http://www.drexel.com/online-degrees/nursing-degrees/dhsc/apply.aspx>

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Health Professions

PROGRAM FACULTY

Lisa Ann Chiarello, PT, PhD, PCS, FAPTA, Professor
Dr. Chiarello is the Director of the PhD and DHSc programs in the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences. She is a co-principal investigator on the PT COUNTS research study funded to understand the association between physical therapy and student outcomes in school-based services. In addition, she is a co-investigator on the current On Track study to create developmental trajectories on balance, strength, range of motion, endurance, health conditions, and participation in self-care and recreational activities for children with cerebral palsy. Dr. Chiarello is currently Chair of the APTA Section in Pediatrics Early Intervention Special Interest Group. She conducts research, publishes, and presents nationally and internationally in the areas of community-based practice, family-centered care, and determinants of outcomes and participation of children with physical disabilities.

Jane Fedorczyk, PT, PhD, CHT, Clinical Professor, Director of Post-Professional Clinical Programs
Dr. Fedorczyk is a certified hand therapist and internationally recognized by her publications and presentations on topics such as: tennis elbow, nerve compressions, pain modulation and physical agents. Her research interest is in the area of upper extremity tendinopathies and nerve injuries. She has received grants from the American Association of Hand Surgery and the American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT) for these studies. She is co-editor of the 6th editions of *Rehabilitation of the Hand and Upper Extremity*. Dr. Fedorczyk currently serves on the board of directors for ASHT, and the Hand Rehabilitation Foundation.

Margery A. Lockard, PT, PhD
In the PT department, Dr. Lockard teaches amputation and prosthetic devices and participates in the problem-based learning clinical correlation courses. She maintains current clinical practice in Drexel's Eleventh Street Family Health Clinic, Department of Physical Therapy. Her research interests include the development of clinical decision making skills in physical therapy students using simulated clinical experiences and standardized patients, osteoarthritis and its effects on function, and prosthetic and orthotic devices. She is also interested in physical fitness and physical activity in children with disabilities through volunteer work in a recreational soccer program.

Clare E. Milner, PhD, FACSM, Associate Professor
Dr. Milner is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine. Her research interests are

the biomechanics of lower extremity injury, injury prevention, and rehabilitation. In particular, she is investigating the biomechanics of overuse injuries in runners, alongside interventions to reduce the risk of reinjury. She also studies walking biomechanics in older adults with a focus on gait after knee replacement. A further interest is in reducing the risk of knee injury in female recreational athletes. Dr. Milner's focus is on keeping people active by applying the tools of biomechanics to reduce injury risk and improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation protocols.

Margaret (Maggie) O'Neil, PT, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor
Dr. O'Neil conducts research on physical activity and fitness measures and interventions in children and youth with disabilities (cerebral palsy) and chronic conditions (obesity). She conducts clinic and community based research projects to promote active, healthy lifestyles in children and their families. Her research includes environmental influences on physical activity and participation for children and families. Dr. O'Neil has a secondary appointment in the School of Public Health, Department of Community Health and Prevention, where she is an active member of the Maternal and Child Health Workgroup.

Margo N. Orlin, PT, PhD, Associate Professor
Dr. Orlin's research work is in the biomechanics of running in children with cerebral palsy and their participation in activities related to running in their every day lives. She is a past recipient of Ethel and Jack Hausman Clinical Research Scholars Award, a 3-year grant from the United Cerebral Palsy International Research Foundation for her work in this area. Dr. Orlin has a Scientific Staff appointment at the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital for Children where she and her students conduct this work. Her other scholarly interests include lower extremity alignment and biomechanics during walking and running for children with CP; activity and participation of children, youth and young adults with CP and the continuum of care for individuals with lifelong disabilities.

Robert J. Palisano, PT, ScD, FAPTA, Distinguished University Professor
Dr. Palisano's research includes classification and prognosis for gross motor function in children and youth with cerebral palsy, determinants of activity and participation in children with physical disabilities, methods of service delivery to improve activity and participation of children with disabilities, and transition to adulthood for youth with physical

disabilities. Dr. Palisano is Scientist, CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, Ontario, Canada and a member of the Scientific Staff at the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital for Children. He co-edits the journal, *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, and is associate editor of the textbook *Physical Therapy for Children*.

Patricia P. Rubertone, MPT, MSW, Assistant Clinical Professor
Professor Rubertone is a manuscript reviewer for the *Journal of PT Education* and is a Trainer for APTA's CI Credentialing Program. She also directs the clinical education component of the professional DPT program. Her clinical interest and experience is in adult neurological rehabilitation. Her teaching and research interests include professional development, teaching-learning processes, and assessment of student clinical performance. Professor Rubertone is currently completing her dissertation for her Ed.D degree; using a mixed methods approach, she is examining differences between novice and experienced clinical instructors in judging student clinical performance.

Sheri P. Silfies, PT, PhD, Associate Professor
Dr. Silfies is the coordinator for the Department's research labs. Her research focuses on measurement of neuromuscular control. Her work is concentrated in two primary areas: 1) examining mechanisms underlying poor trunk motor control in patients with non-specific low back pain (NSLBP) and 2) assessment of core control in athletes. Dr. Silfies' long-term research goal is to differentiate the role and impact of unresolved impairment in trunk neuromuscular control on the development of recurrent and chronic NSLBP. The current emphasis of studies in athletes is substantiating the proposed link between poor core neuromuscular control and extremity injuries.

Sue Smith, PT, PhD, Associate Professor, Associate Dean for Research & Health Professions Education, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Chair, Department of Health Systems & Sciences Research, Faculty, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences Department, and Director of the Osteoporosis Education & Exercise Program
Dr. Smith is experienced with human performance measurement, multisite studies, and community service programs for older adults. Her research interests include methodological studies particularly related to balance and falls, exercise interventions, and health promotion in patients with pain and dysfunction associated with low back pain, osteoporosis and frailty.

Doctor of Health Science • Sample Curriculum for **Part-Time** Student (program can be extended over 5+ year plan)

| Year | Fall Quarter | Winter Quarter | Spring Quarter | Summer Quarter |
|------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership & Professional Issues Introduction to Biostatistics Onsite program orientation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of Evidence to Practice Health Promotion, Fitness & Wellness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informatics in Health Professions Health Professional Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching Practicum I Clinical Question Development |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurement Theory Teaching Practicum II | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Methods Clinical Concentration Course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biostatistical Applications (onsite component) Clinical Concentration Course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academia Clinical Concentration Course Comprehensive Exam |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elective Clinical Dissertation I Proposal defense (onsite) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Dissertation II | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practicum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Dissertation III |