PHYSICAL THERAPY

- **DEGREE OFFERED**
  Doctor of Physical Therapy

- **CHAIR**
  Patricia Smith, P.T., Ph.D., N.C.S.

- **VICE CHAIR**
  Patricia Blau, P.T., Ph.D., N.C.S

**FACULTY**

- **PROFESSORS**
  **Patricia Smith**
  Ph.D., Texas Woman’s University, 2006

- **ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**
  **Patricia Blau**
  Ph.D., University of Texas at Dallas, 2002

  **Karen McCain**
  D.P.T., Regis University, 2006

  **Edward Mulligan**
  D.P.T., Regis University, 2008

  **Ross Querry**
  Ph.D., University of North Texas Health Science Center, 1999

  **Susan Simpkins**
  Ed.D., Columbia University, 1999

- **ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**
  **Julie DeVahl**
  M.S., University of Minnesota, 1984

  **Leslie Nelson**
  M.P.T., UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2003

  **Jason Zafereo**
  M.P.T., UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2001

- **ADJUNCT FACULTY**
  **Beth Deschenes,**
  **Clinical Assistant Professor**
  M.S., University of Kansas Medical Center, 1996

  **Kelli Doern,** **Faculty Associate**
  D.P.T., University of Iowa, 2005

**OBJECTIVES**

The faculty of the Department of Physical Therapy at UT Southwestern School of Health Professions is committed to providing students with the highest quality of academic and clinical education, sufficient to attain licensure and yield graduate physical therapists who are independent clinical practitioners with a generalist background. Graduates from this Program will be prepared to assume leadership roles in rehabilitation services, prevention and health maintenance programs, and professional and community organizations.

The fundamental objective is to graduate students who will provide optimal physical therapy care for communities, groups, and individuals. To achieve the primary professional objective of facilitating the individual’s optimal function within the community, the physical therapist must master substantial breadth and depth of knowledge in the basic and applied sciences, incorporate critical thinking skills,
exercise humility, demonstrate integrity and professional behaviors, and bridge theory with practice.

The graduate must be able to examine, evaluate, diagnose, prognose, and intervene accurately in the management of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities of the cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal, and integumentary systems. School of Health Professions graduates should be capable of preservation and restoration of movement and physical function through evidence-based clinical practice, interdisciplinary research, and professional education. Of equal importance, our graduates focus on promoting health and wellness as a means for improving the quality of life of their patients and clients.

**ACCREDITATION**

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

**Requirements for Admission**

Applicants for the Physical Therapy program must:

1) Complete a baccalaureate degree in any field prior to admission with a recommended GPA of at least 3.0;
2) Submit at least three recommendations;
3) Complete and submit scores for the Graduate Record Examination;
4) Complete the application process through PTCA;
5) Earn credit in the following prerequisite courses with a grade of C or better prior to entrance into the Program.

**RECOMMENDED COURSES**

Medical terminology
Exercise physiology (does not fulfill the human physiology requirement)
Kinesiology
Neurophysiology
Child psychology

The Physical Therapy Program accepts only full-time students. Factors considered for selection among applicants include cumulative GPA, last 60 hours GPA, and prerequisite courses GPA. Also considered are individual qualities ascertained through application, recommendations, and an in-person interview. Selection for admission to the Physical Therapy Program is highly competitive and is based on the criteria outlined in the Evaluation of Applicants section in the Student Information chapter.

**Essential Functions**

In addition to essential functions for all students (see Entrance Requirements in the Student Information chapter), each student in the Physical Therapy Program must be able to:

1) Participate in supervised clinical activities for eight-hour days;
2) Demonstrate sufficient vision to perform such tests as interpreting a medical record, inspecting and debriding wounds, and determining gait deviations;
3) Demonstrate sufficient arm strength, coordination, and sensation to perform such activities as (but not limited to) manual muscle testing, palpation, soft-tissue mobilization, joint mobilization, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and
4) Demonstrate sufficient problem-solving skills.
to learn to make a differential diagnosis, establish appropriate treatment plans, determine effectiveness of those plans, and make appropriate modifications

Curriculum

The curriculum is a 31-month program that begins in May and consists of a summer term, fall and spring semester, a second summer term and fall and spring semesters, and a final summer term and fall semester devoted to clinical education.

The curriculum offers professional education for students majoring in physical therapy. Students admitted to the Program are candidates for a doctoral degree in physical therapy conferred by UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The academic experiences consist of theory in the basic, clinical, and professional sciences and professional skills. To be eligible to enter the clinical-education phase of the Program, a student must have satisfactorily completed all previous courses.

The clinical experiences offer an opportunity to integrate professional knowledge and skills in a clinical setting. These experiences are offered by more than 240 affiliated institutions located throughout the United States but predominately in Texas. Each affiliated institution has a center coordinator for clinical education. During the last two clinical experiences, the students rotate through eight weeks of full-time clinical experiences that offer broad exposure in both general and specialty areas of physical therapy followed by a 12-week clinical internship.

Graduates of this Program are eligible to take the national licensure examination given by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.  

Program of Instruction

Courses may be exchanged between semesters or terms without any published notice.

First Year

SUMMER

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**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

The curriculum is sequenced; therefore, all courses included in each semester or term are considered prerequisites to any course in the following semester. A student must complete each course with a minimum grade of B and must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0. The student is advised to consult the policy statement of the department upon admission to the Program.
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A candidate for the degree of doctor of physical therapy in UT Southwestern School of Health Professions must meet all of the following requirements:

1) The student must demonstrate a high order of scholarly achievement in physical therapy, including appropriate research and professional competencies. The Program’s Student Progress Committee determines whether adequate mastery has been acquired.

2) The student must complete satisfactorily a minimum of 96 semester hours at UT Southwestern School of Health Professions.

3) The student must discharge all financial obligations to the Medical Center. In the event of nonpayment, one or more actions may be taken by the Dean: a) readmission may be denied; b) the student’s grades and official transcript may be withheld; and c) the degree to which the student would otherwise be entitled to may be withheld.

4) The student must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average, have no academic deficiencies, and have no incompletes.

5) The student must complete the academic requirements listed in his or her degree plan, including completion of any academic deficiencies in prerequisite courses, by the times stated in the student’s official letter of acceptance. The student is responsible for submitting official documentation of successful completion of the prerequisites to the Office of the Registrar.

6) The student must complete all required courses in the degree plan with a grade of B or higher (P for Pass/Fail courses), receive practical evaluations reflecting an acceptable level of performance and professional conduct, and successfully complete all clinical affiliations.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

See other departmental listings in this catalog for descriptions of courses that do not begin with the prefix DPT.

DPT 5132 EVIDENCE-BASED CLINICAL RESEARCH III
1 SEMESTER HOUR
This final course offers students the opportunity to further develop their written and oral communication skills and improve their use of technology through a formal presentation of research findings at a scientific symposium. A scientific paper summarizing the research project and findings is submitted.

DPT 5133 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
1 SEMESTER HOUR
This course provides an overview of early childhood development. Changes in physical, motor, cognitive, language, and social-emotional development are examined from infancy through early adolescence.

DPT 5134 SERVICE LEARNING
1 SEMESTER HOUR
This course integrates previous didactic and psychomotor skills with a community-based service opportunity. Students work closely with community organizations and special patient populations that require rehabilitation and daily care. Students are provided specific learning objectives focused on the needs of the community organization and professional practice expectations. Students also participate in a self-assessment on how community service impacts the profession of physical therapy.

DPT 5137 EVIDENCE-BASED CLINICAL RESEARCH II
1 SEMESTER HOUR
This course is a continuation of DPT 5236. It allows the student to determine appropriate information sources and databases and apply literature search skills to develop a research topic. In collaboration with a faculty mentor, the student develops a project proposal, a faculty-assisted research project, or a faculty-mentored, in-depth review of the literature on a defined
clinical question. Students make a critical analysis of current literature appropriate for the projects.

**DPT 5138 INTEGUMENTARY PATIENT/CLIENT MANAGEMENT**  
1 SEMESTER HOUR  
Instruction includes discussion of the basis and rationale for evaluating and treating patients with pathology or impairments of the integumentary system. The class stresses the concepts of universal precautions and infection control as students learn to identify primary prevention/risk factors and impairments and apply appropriate interventions for disorders of the integumentary system and soft-tissue dysfunction. Laboratory sessions allow students to gain experience in the techniques used in clinical practice.

**DPT 5139 CLINICAL CORRELATION**  
1 SEMESTER HOUR  
This seminar accompanies HCS 5308 Human Anatomy and HCS 5309 Human Anatomy Dissection Laboratory and integrates the basic sciences into clinical applications in physical therapy. This course emphasizes basic clinical skills such as muscle and bony landmark palpation, dermatome identification, DTR testing, and motor screening. Muscle origin, insertion, and action is presented concurrently with the appropriate psychomotor skill of palpation.

**DPT 5140 ELEMENTS OF PHARMACOLOGY FOR THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST**  
1 SEMESTER HOUR  
This course provides instruction in general pharmacologic principles and the effects of commonly prescribed medications and over-the-counter drugs. Additional information on potential drug interactions and physical therapy interventions, indications, contraindications, and side effects is presented. This course introduces electronic resources and current texts that facilitate clinical screening in clinical practice.

**DPT 5150 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT I**  
1 SEMESTER HOUR  
This is the first of three courses dedicated to practice management. Students investigate professionalism as it relates to accountability, altruism, compassion/caring, integrity, communication, and education in practice. Students are introduced to legal and ethical issues related to physical therapy. Principles of teaching and learning are explored and practiced. Foundations of communication – verbal, nonverbal, and written – are introduced. This lecture and seminar course offers an overview of the physical therapist’s role in the health care delivery system, using the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice.

**DPT 5151 PHYSICAL THERAPY PROCEDURES**  
1 SEMESTER HOUR  
The course covers introductory clinical skills that focus on body mechanics, positioning and draping, basic wheelchair management, transfers, bed mobility, and gait training. These topics are addressed regarding safety in a variety of settings. Additional topics are special patient populations (i.e., ICU equipment/patient management) and proper assessment of vital signs, including blood pressure, respiratory rate, pulse, and temperature. Students have the opportunity to use the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice-based approach to physical therapy practice and documentation.

**DPT 5218 ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN REHABILITATION**  
2 SEMESTER HOURS  
This course exposes students to assistive technology for individuals of all ages with dysfunction in the musculoskeletal and integumentary systems. Topics presented include prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchair prescription, seating systems, and environmental control systems. Case studies enhance learning. Patient models during laboratory sessions and community clinical experiences allow integration of the material.

**DPT 5236 EVIDENCE-BASED CLINICAL RESEARCH I**  
2 SEMESTER HOURS  
This lecture course offers an overview of the research process, with a focus on evidence-based clinical research. Students study the principles of measurement, reliability, validity, errors, specificity, sensitivity, hypothesis testing, research design, and common statistical analyses. Students
conduct online literature searches and learn about appropriate information sources.

**DPT 5237 PATHOKINESIOLOGY**  
**2 SEMESTER HOURS**  
This course examines the concepts of pathokinesiology. Emphasis is placed on recognizing and describing abnormal posture, movement, and gait patterns in the laboratory. Also included are fractures and orthopaedic radiology.

**DPT 5240 NEUROMUSCULAR PATIENT/CLIENT MANAGEMENT I**  
**2 SEMESTER HOURS**  
Theory and evidence of motor control, motor learning, and neuroplasticity provide a framework for a series of lectures on management of the neurological patient, including examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and plan of care. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and the use of evidence to support clinical decision making when formulating interventions. Case studies are used to reinforce integration of the material. Laboratory sessions and clinical experiences afford an opportunity to practice examination and intervention skills.

**DPT 5241 PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION, FITNESS AND WELLNESS**  
**2 SEMESTER HOURS**  
This course addresses the concepts of health promotion and wellness across the age span and the role of the physical therapist in health promotion. Theoretical basis of health behaviors and methodology for changing behavior are discussed. Community-based laboratory experiences afford students the opportunity to design, implement, and promote wellness and injury-prevention programs.

**DPT 5257 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT II**  
**2 SEMESTER HOURS**  
This is the second of four professional practice courses addressing physical therapy practice. This course builds on documentation skills, emphasizing the elements from the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice. Skills studied include planning, organizing, and implementing a plan of care that incorporates primary, secondary, and tertiary care provided by physical therapists and other practitioners as appropriate. Students review various systems of reimbursement for services. Community members share information relating to marketing, reimbursement, quality assurance and standard of care, productivity, coordination of care with other providers, and health care trends/issues in a variety of settings. Current legislative and public-health issues relating to physical therapy practice are examined, and advocacy is promoted.

**DPT 5302 THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION I**  
**3 SEMESTER HOURS**  
Course work presents anatomical and physiological principles to allow students to develop integrated exercise therapeutic interventions. Students have the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the physiological responses to various types of training and to develop skills in prescription, implementation, and modeling of exercise programs. Exercise components of strength, aerobic/anaerobic conditioning, flexibility, balance, and stage of healing/rehabilitation are examined. Evidence of appropriate, safe, and effective exercise design, and proper exercise biomechanics and prescription parameters, are addressed with all interventions. Exercise considerations for special populations and across the age span are covered. Concepts are presented in lecture and practiced in the laboratory.

**DPT 5303 INTRODUCTION TO NEUROSCIENCE**  
**3 SEMESTER HOURS**  
This course introduces the students to basic concepts in anatomy, cellular physiology, and neural-systems physiology with emphasis given to the practical application of these basic anatomical and physiological principles to human neuroscience and neuropathology.

**DPT 5304 GERIATRIC PATIENT/CLIENT MANAGEMENT**  
**3 SEMESTER HOURS**  
This course is an overview of adult development, including physical as well as psychological issues. Topics include theories of aging, attitudes toward
aging, older-adult health care needs, long-term care, and family/caregiver issues. Lectures also address age-related changes and common pathologies to help students identify appropriate physical therapy management of this patient population. Community-based activities enhance the integration of this material.

DPT 5305 MEDICAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
3 SEMESTER HOURS
Students are exposed to the medical screening process and have the opportunity to learn how to integrate clinical expertise of when to treat, when to refer patients to appropriate practitioners, and when to consult for additional expertise. A systems approach is used to study the signs and symptoms associated with selected medical conditions. Students are introduced to a variety of medical conditions that are not easily categorized in musculoskeletal, neurological, cardiopulmonary, and integumentary disorders and to the management of such conditions.

DPT 5306 PEDIATRIC PATIENT/CLIENT MANAGEMENT
3 SEMESTER HOURS
This course addresses both the medical and rehabilitation management of the pediatric patient. Foundation lectures on normal development and psychological issues provide a model to use when studying pediatric pathologies, assessments, and interventions. Students gain experience with this patient population through laboratory and clinical opportunities.

DPT 5316 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
3 SEMESTER HOURS
Instruction addresses professional practice issues in physical therapy. Students prepare professional resumes and practice interview skills. Preparation strategies for the licensure examination are presented. Self-assessment using core values and generic abilities promotes lifelong personal and professional development. Integration of prior clinical experience and course work is facilitated through case studies that enhance problem solving. This course helps prepare the student for the role of the physical therapist in autonomous practice. Students study methods to develop and manage a PT practice in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements and organizational structure, while balancing fiscal management, personnel management, marketing and public relations, information systems, and quality assurance. Students also learn to accept responsibility for supervision and direction of personnel and tasks related to PT practice within legal and ethical guidelines.

DPT 5317 ADVANCED THERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES
3 SEMESTER HOURS
Students investigate and further develop intervention techniques for neurological and orthopaedic patients. Students evaluate current literature for clinical evidence supporting specialty intervention techniques that are available and utilized in clinical practices. Students have the opportunity to develop skill in manual techniques based on patient case models and scenarios.

DPT 5320 TESTS AND MEASURES
3 SEMESTER HOURS
This course introduces the concepts of measurement for people with dysfunctions. Valid and reliable outcome measures for individuals with impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities associated with dysfunction in the neurological, musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary, and integumentary systems are presented. Students have the opportunity to become proficient in the administration of these outcome measurements through lecture, lab, and clinical experience.

DPT 5330 MUSCULOSKELETAL PATIENT/CLIENT MANAGEMENT II
3 SEMESTER HOURS
Instruction addresses the medical rehabilitation management of patients with appendicular musculoskeletal dysfunctions. Emphasis is placed on the use of evidence-based practice to support current practice in clinical decision making when formulating interventions that are diagnosis specific. Laboratory sessions allow students to practice and apply concepts presented in lectures.
DPT 5335 THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION II
3 SEMESTER HOURS
This course applies previous basic exercise knowledge and techniques to an integrated patient intervention program, using exercise programming and progression for upper/lower extremities and the spine. Students are introduced to the use of selected physical agents, including thermotherapy, actinotherapy, electrotherapy, and deep thermotherapy. Factors such as stage of tissue healing, surgical procedures, patient medical history, impairments, and functional limitations are considered for exercise programming. Basic principles of operation of therapeutic instruments and recognition of indications/contraindications/precautions in the clinical application of these agents are discussed. This course offers a foundation needed in clinical decision making regarding patient care and recovery. Evidence of efficacy is addressed with all interventions. Concepts are presented in lecture and practiced in the laboratory.

DPT 5341 NEUROMUSCULAR PATIENT/CLIENT MANAGEMENT II
3 SEMESTER HOURS
Instruction is a continuum of DPT 5240 and addresses both the medical and rehabilitation management of adult patients with neurological dysfunctions. Lectures on adult neurological pathologies cover both diagnosis and medical management. Physical therapy examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and plans of care for specific diseases are covered in lecture and laboratory experiences. Case studies provide the opportunity to integrate current evidence with practice. Clinical opportunities enhance the development of clinical competence.

DPT 5344 CARDIOVASCULAR AND PULMONARY PATIENT/CLIENT MANAGEMENT
3 SEMESTER HOURS
This course is designed to develop examination and evaluation techniques and therapeutic interventions specific to the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems. Emphasis is on impairments related to primary or secondary dysfunction of the heart and lungs. Topics include a medical overview of the related pathologies, cardiovascular, and pulmonary rehabilitation strategies in patients with co-morbidities, and related cardiovascular and pulmonary dysfunction. Interventions include prevention and health promotion, medical and pharmacological care, and appropriate exercise prescription and progression techniques. This course includes a laboratory portion for developing evaluation and intervention skills.

DPT 5351 CLINICAL KINESIOLOGY
3 SEMESTER HOURS
Biomechanical principles of human movement are presented. Physics, physiology, and anatomy are integrated to investigate normal and abnormal movement of the spine and extremities. Osteokinematics and arthrokinematics are included. Gait, posture, and movement are analyzed in laboratory settings to enhance the lectures.
DPT 5431 MUSCULOSKELETAL PATIENT/CLIENT MANAGEMENT I
4 SEMESTER HOURS
This course addresses the medical and rehabilitation management of patients with axial musculoskeletal and pelvic dysfunctions. Emphasis is placed on the use of scientific inquiry and evidence-based practice to support current practice in clinical decision making when formulating interventions and diagnosis by classification of a patient’s signs and symptoms. Laboratory sessions allow for practice and application of lecture content and are designed to aid students in developing critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as well as orthopaedic manual-therapy skills, including manipulation. Didactic material is continually integrated and reinforced through study of actual patient cases as an exercise in differential diagnosis, prognosis, and proper management. Physician lectures are included for a medical perspective on surgical and postoperative management of patients with spinal dysfunctions.

DPT 5401 CLINICAL EXPERIENCE I
4 SEMESTER HOURS
This first clinical experience provides students with the opportunity to integrate and practice their didactic knowledge with clinical decision making. The emphasis of this experience is on patient examination, evaluation, treatment planning, goal setting, and delivery of interventions. The PT Mastery and Assessment of Clinical Skills is used to plan learning opportunities and assess student performance. Self assessment at the end of this experience provides opportunity for students to set goals for the next clinical experience.

DPT 5402 CLINICAL EXPERIENCE II
4 SEMESTER HOURS
Entry-level performance on all aspects of patient/client management in a selected practice setting is the expected outcome following an eight-week, full-time clinical experience. In addition, competence in practice-management skills is expected. The PTMACS is used to assess student performance based on safe and effective practice. Cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills are assessed in a clinical setting.

DPT 5403 CLINICAL EXPERIENCE III
4 SEMESTER HOURS
Entry-level performance in all aspects of patient/client management in a selected practice setting is the expected outcome following an eight-week, full-time clinical experience. The PTMACS is used to assess student performance based on safe and effective practice. Cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills are assessed in a clinical setting.

DPT 5604 CLINICAL INTERNSHIP
6 SEMESTER HOURS
Advanced-level performance in all aspects of patient/client management in a selected practice setting is the expected outcome following a 12-week, full-time clinical experience. The PTMACS is used to assess student performance based on safe and effective practice. Cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills are assessed in a clinical setting.