

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT)

Visit program website. (<https://ptrehab.ucsf.edu/ucsf/sfsu-graduate-program-physical-therapy-dpt/>)

Degree Offered: Doctor of Physical Therapy

Program Leadership:

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Vice Chair of Academic Programs, UCSF
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Admissions Inquiries:

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Program Description

The entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree is a three-year joint program between University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and San Francisco State University (SFSU). Physical therapy is a dynamic profession with an established theoretical and scientific base and widespread clinical applications in the restoration, maintenance, and promotion of optimal physical function. The UCSF-SFSU program runs for 36 continuous months beginning in June and includes 34 weeks of full-time clinical experiences. The program is designed to prepare scholarly clinicians, educators, collaborative clinical researchers, administrative managers and community leaders.

The curriculum of the DPT program is built on a strong theoretical foundation in basic, medical and applied sciences. Critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills are developed within an integrated program that prepares students to work collaboratively with patients across the lifespan to improve health and wellness, address disability challenges, and optimize function.

Faculty

About 38 full- and part-time faculty members are affiliated with the program at UCSF and SFSU, plus many more volunteer clinical faculty from the UCSF Medical Center, and other Bay Area clinics.

Career Outcomes

Graduates from the entry-level DPT program go on to work as physical therapy professionals who are committed to patient care, education, and the application of research to clinical practice.

Admission Requirements

Applications

Completion of two applications:

- Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) (<https://ptcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>)
- UCSF Supplemental Application (<https://gradapplication.ucsf.edu/>)

Clinical Experience

All applicants must be able to demonstrate understanding of the physical therapy profession by completing a minimum of 50 clinical observation hours (paid or volunteer) under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist. These hours can be completed in one or more physical therapy settings (e.g., outpatient, inpatient, rehab).

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are required from three individuals who personally know the applicant and their abilities. At least one letter must be from a licensed physical therapist. Instructors of basic science coursework, health professionals, or employers are suggested for the other two.

Required Prerequisite Coursework

- General Inorganic Chemistry with lab (1 year)
- General Physics with lab (1 year)
- Human or Comparative Anatomy with lab (1 semester)
- Human Physiology with lab (1 semester)
- Introductory/General Biology with lab (1 year)
- Abnormal Psychology (1 semester)
- Introduction to Statistics (1 semester)

Additional Criteria

As a part of our holistic admissions review process, we consider an applicant's experiences, both in the academic environment and beyond it. We review each applicant's responses to our essay prompts, as well as extra-curricular involvement during an applicant's collegiate career. That can include, for example, intercollegiate athletics participation, work experience, research experience, or leadership roles in organizations. A successful application does not require those life experiences, but they are additional factors that can strengthen an application beyond the academics and observation hours.

Transcripts and Degree

All applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution. Official transcripts from every U.S. and Canadian college and university attended must be sent directly to PTCAS.

Learning Outcomes

Student Goals

- Students will provide patient-centered care and participate in outreach and service to the community, striving to improve access, equity, and quality of treatment and education, with emphasis on communities of need
- Students will develop their professionalism, clinical skills, and unique abilities
- Students will develop an appreciation for and engage in research
- Students will benefit from the diversity valued by the program and will experience an inclusive learning environment
- Students will be advocates for the Physical Therapy Profession and leaders in their communities

Additional Information

The DPT program is offered by the UCSF Graduate Division, administered by the UCSF School of Medicine, and delivered by faculty members in the UCSF School of Medicine and at San Francisco State University. The program office is located at the UCSF Mission Bay campus. Visit the

program website (<https://ptrehab.ucsf.edu/ucsf/sfsu-graduate-program-physical-therapy-dpt/>) for more information.

Program Faculty

- Find a program faculty list (<https://ptrehab.ucsf.edu/content/dpt-program-course-directors/>) on the program website.

Degree Requirements

The requirements for successful completion of the program are based on academic and professional expectations. Each student will be evaluated in terms of academic achievement, clinical abilities, and professional behaviors (self-assessment, faculty assessment and clinical instructor assessment). Requirements for graduation include:

- Successful completion of all academic coursework with 3.0 GPA at both Universities and combined
- Passing grades on all practical and competency exams
- Passing grades on all qualifying assessment exams
- Passing grades on all clinical education experiences
- Successful completion of an evidence-based practice manuscript and presentation to the public.
- Demonstration of professional behaviors

Core Courses

All courses are taken at UCSF unless otherwise noted.

Note: Previous SFSU Course Bulletins can be found in their course bulletin archive (<http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/>).

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
Summer		
PHYS THER 200A	Neuromusculoskeletal Anatomy I	4
PHYS THER 201	Physical Therapy Assessment: Principles and Practice	3
PT 706 (SFSU)	Structure, Function, and Motion in Physical Therapy ¹	3
Units		10
Fall		
PHYS THER 204A	Pathophysiology for Physical Therapists I	3
PHYS THER 200B	Neuromusculoskeletal Anatomy II	0.5
PHYS THER 202	Therapeutic Modalities	1.5
PHYS THER 215A	Compassion, Accountability, Responsibility, & Excellence I	0.5
PHYS THER 218A	Therapeutic Exercise: Beginning Exercise Prescription	1.5
PHYS THER 410	Integrated Clinical Experience	1
PT 741 (SFSU)	Musculoskeletal Pathokinesiology I ¹	6
Units		14
Winter		
PHYS THER 204B	Pathophysiology for Physical Therapists II	3
PHYS THER 110	Ortho & Rehab Diag/Treatment	2
PHYS THER 200C	Neuromusculoskeletal Anatomy III	0.5
Units		5.5
Spring		
PHYS THER 112A	Motor Control Across the Lifespan: Motor Behavior	1.5
PHYS THER 215B	Compassion, Accountability, Responsibility, & Excellence II	0.5
PHYS THER 400A	Grand Rounds (Longitudinal course, also taken in fall and winter for 0 units.)	1
PT 700 (SFSU)	Multisystem Pathokinesiology ¹	6
PT 742 (SFSU)	Musculoskeletal Pathokinesiology II ¹	6

PHYS THER 219A	Pain Science for the Physical Therapist I	1
Units		16
Year 2		
Summer		
ANATOMY 207	Neuroscience	3
PT 801 (SFSU)	First Full-Time Clinical Education Experience I ¹	9
PHYS THER 251A	Research Design I: Introduction to Scientific Inquiry	3
PHYS THER 219B	Pain Science for the Physical Therapist II	1
PHYS THER 218B	Therapeutic Exercise: Intermediate Exercise Prescription	1.5
Units		17.5
Fall		
PHYS THER 111	Neurology & Rehab Diagnosis and Treatment	2.5-3
PHYS THER 211	Pharmacology for Physical Therapists	2
PHYS THER 216A	Compassion, Accountability, Responsibility, & Excellence III	0.5
PHYS THER 251B	Research Design II: Appraisal of Scientific Literature	1
PT 710 (SFSU)	Neurological Pathokinesiology I ¹	6
PT 735 (SFSU)	Psychosocial Issues in Rehabilitation Sciences, Part I ¹	3
PT 743 (SFSU)	Musculoskeletal Pathokinesiology III ¹	4.5
Units		19.5-20
Winter		
PT 802 (SFSU)	Intermediate Full-Time Clinical Education Experience II ¹	9
PHYS THER 400B	Grand Rounds (Longitudinal course, also taken in fall and spring for 0 units.)	1
Units		10
Spring		
PHYS THER 112B	Motor Control Across the Lifespan: Pediatrics	1.5
PHYS THER 205	Functional Anatomy Review	2
PHYS THER 210	Radiology for Physical Therapists	2
PHYS THER 216B	Compassion, Accountability, Responsibility, & Excellence IV	0.5
PHYS THER 419A	Research Seminar I	0.5
PT 736 (SFSU)	Ecological and Organizational Issues in Rehabilitation ¹	4.5
PT 737 (SFSU)	Psychosocial Issues in Rehabilitation Science, Part II ¹	1.5
Units		12.5
Year 3		
Summer		
PHYS THER 213	Neurological Pathokinesiology II	2
PT 908 (SFSU)	Professional Colloquium ¹	1.5
PHYS THER 419B	Research Seminar II	0.5
PT 704 (SFSU)	Education, Health Promotion, Wellness, and Prevention in Physical Therapy ¹	3
PHYS THER 214	Administration and Organization in Physical Therapy	3
Units		10
Fall		
PHYS THER 209B	Evidence-Based Practice II: Developing a Systematic Review	1
PHYS THER 218C	Therapeutic Exercise: Advanced Prescription & Manual Therapy	1.5
PHYS THER 419C	Research Seminar III	0.5
PT 711 (SFSU)	Neurological Pathokinesiology III ¹	4.5
Units		7.5
Winter		
PHYS THER 207	Medical Screening for Physical Therapists	4
PHYS THER 218D	Therapeutic Exercise: Exercise for Special Populations	1.5
PT 910 (SFSU)	Evidence Based Practice ¹	6
PHYS THER 112C	Motor Control Across the Lifespan: Geriatrics	1.5
Units		13

Spring

PHYS THER 400C	Grand Rounds (Longitudinal course, also taken in fall and winter for 0 units.)	1
PHYS THER 418	Terminal Clinical Experience	16
Units		17
Total Units		152.5-153

¹ <http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/courses/pt/>