

# Physical Therapy

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The Department of Physical Therapy, a fully accredited program since 1967, offers an entry level Doctor of Physical Therapy. In 2011, we established a unique interdisciplinary PhD in Rehabilitation Science program in partnership with UAB Occupational Therapy.

We are housed in a state-of-the-art facility within a nationally ranked research-focused university. The department's research laboratories focus on clinically relevant studies of human motion and exercise physiology. Students and faculty participate in a variety of education and research endeavors throughout the UAB campus in collaboration with campus venues such as the UAB Research Collaborative, Center for Engagement in Disability Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (CEDHARS), National Center on Health, Physical Activity, and Disability (NCHPAD), Center for Exercise Medicine, and the Integrative Center for Aging Research.

Degree Offered:	D.P.T.
Director:	Patty Perez, PT, DScPT
Email:	<a href="mailto:perezp@uab.edu">perezp@uab.edu</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.uab.edu/shp/pt">www.uab.edu/shp/pt</a>

## Program Information

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program is a course of study for students who hold baccalaureate degrees in fields of study other than Physical Therapy. Completion of the program after nine semesters leads to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree and serves as initial preparation for practice as a physical therapist.

## Doctor of Physical Therapy

Physical therapists provide services to patient/clients who have body structure and function impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease, and other causes. Physical therapists also address risk and provide prevention services and promote health, wellness, and fitness. Physical therapists interact and practice in collaboration with a variety of professionals. Physical therapists also function in consultative, education, administrative, and supervisory roles in many different types of practice, research, and education settings.

## Accreditation

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. [CAPTE Website](#).

## Credentials Conferred

The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree is awarded by the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

## Licensure

Graduates are eligible for the physical therapist licensure examination. Note that state law regulates the practice of Physical Therapy; contact

a specific state's Board of Licensure for Physical Therapy to obtain information on that state's eligibility requirements. <https://www.fsbpt.org/Free-Resources/Licensing-Authorities-Contact-Information>

## Length of Study

9 semesters

## Program Entry Term

Spring semester

## Application Procedure

This program participates in the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). Please visit the [PTCAS Website](#) for more information regarding specific PTCAS application requirements, procedures, and fees. The PTCAS application needs to be completed by the PTCAS deadline. Applicants should send all application materials directly to PTCAS. PTCAS will verify the application information and send completed applications to the program.

## Requirements for Admission

The applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university within the United States in a field other than physical therapy. Acceptance will be based on the student's academic ability and aptitude for a career as a physical therapist. The candidate is expected to satisfy the following requirements:

- Complete the PTCAS application by the PTCAS deadline. Note that the PTCAS application includes a video interview through Kira Talent.
- 75% of prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester of the year of application.
- Complete at least 20 hours of documented observation of physical therapy. Various settings are recommended. Documentation should be submitted to PTCAS.
- Submit three letters of recommendation to PTCAS.
  - Letter 1: Written by a professor that can attest to the applicant's academic ability in the college classroom.
  - Letter 2: Written by a licensed Physical Therapist with whom the applicant has worked/shadowed/observed.
  - Letter 3: Written by an individual with whom the applicant had interaction in a professional setting. The individual must be able to assess the applicant's qualities as defined in the PTCAS recommendation form (e.g. Critical Thinking, Empathy, Ethics, Interpersonal Skills, Leadership, Oral Communication, Professional Behaviors, Response to Criticism, Responsibility, Stress Management, Team Skills, Time Management, Written Communication). The program recommends that this letter be completed by a licensed physical therapist, however, this is not a requirement.
- Have a minimum 3.0 (A=4.0) overall, prerequisites, and last 60 semester hours grade point averages. For prerequisite courses, no grade lower than a C will be accepted.
- Take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The school code is 7801.

**Students who are accepted into the UAB Doctor of Physical Therapy program must:**

- Complete the UAB Graduate School application to include the Graduate School fee.

- Complete the UAB medical history questionnaire and physical.
- Provide proof of required immunizations and receive satisfactory screening by the UAB Medical Center Student Health Service.
- Send all official transcripts to the UAB Graduate School.
- Complete a criminal background check and drug screen before program matriculation and as specified by the Department of Physical Therapy.

State law regulates the practice of Physical Therapy. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to review the nonacademic eligibility requirements for licensure to practice physical therapy prior to application to the program. These may be obtained from each individual state's Board of Licensure for Physical Therapy. <https://www.fsbpt.org/Free-Resources/Licensing-Authorities-Contact-Information>

## Program Prerequisites—UAB Equivalents

Course requirements are listed in semester credit hours.

Requirements	Hours
<b>Arts and Humanities</b>	
EH 101 English Composition I	3
EH 102 English Composition II	3
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences</b>	
Psychology	6
<b>Natural Sciences and Mathematics</b>	
BY 115 Human Anatomy & 115L and Human Anatomy Laboratory <sup>1</sup> or BMD 310 Clinical Anatomy and Histology	4
BY 116 Introductory Human Physiology & 116L and Introductory Human Physiology Laboratory <sup>2</sup>	4
BY 123 Introductory Biology I & 123L and Introductory Biology I Laboratory <sup>1</sup>	4
BY 124 Introductory Biology II & 124L and Introductory Biology II Laboratory <sup>1</sup>	4
CH 115 General Chemistry I & CH 116 and General Chemistry I Laboratory <sup>3</sup>	4
CH 117 General Chemistry II & CH 118 and General Chemistry II Laboratory <sup>3</sup>	4
HCM 350 Medical Terminology for Health Professionals	1-3
PH 201 College Physics I & 201L and College Physics Laboratory I <sup>4</sup> or PH 221 General Physics I & 221L and General Physics Laboratory I	4
PH 202 College Physics II & 202L and College Physics Laboratory II <sup>4</sup> or PH 222 General Physics II & 222L and General Physics Laboratory II	4
MA 106 Pre-Calculus Trigonometry	3
Statistics (must be taken in Math, Psychology or Sociology)	
MA 180 Introduction to Statistics or PY 216 Elementary Statistical Methods or SOC 410 Social Statistics or PUH 250 Biostatistics or EPR 214 Introduction to Educational Statistics	3-4

It is strongly recommended that applicants take the following courses: practical reasoning or logic course, biomechanics or kinesiology and upper level biology (physiology).

<sup>1</sup> Prerequisite credits older than 10 years from the application deadline must be validated by examination or other appropriate mechanism.

- <sup>2</sup> Human or mammalian physiology; prerequisite credits older than 10 years from the application deadline must be validated by examination or other appropriate mechanism.
- <sup>3</sup> Chemistry for science majors with labs required; prerequisite credits older than 10 years from the application deadline must be validated by examination or other appropriate mechanism.
- <sup>4</sup> The physics course sequence must be designed for science majors and include laboratory sessions. A minimum of 8 semester hours is required. The following topics must be studied: mechanics, heat, electricity and magnetism, wave motion and sound, and light. Prerequisite credits older than 10 years from the application deadline must be validated by examination or other appropriate mechanism.

## Essential Requirements

Fundamental tasks, behaviors, and abilities necessary to successfully complete the academic and clinical requirements of the program and to satisfy licensure requirements, if any, have been outlined and are available on the program's website: <https://www.uab.edu/shp/pt/programs/dpt/admissions>. Students requesting disability accommodations must do so by filing a disability accommodation request with the UAB Office of Disability Support Services.

## Doctor of Physical Therapy Curriculum

Requirements	Hours
PT 700 Human Gross Anatomy	3
PT 701 Human Gross Anatomy II	2
PT 702 Functional Anatomy	4
PT 704 Analysis of Human Movement	3
PT 706 Neuroscience I	3
PT 707 Neuroscience II	3
PT 710 Physical Therapy Intervention I	3
PT 711 PT Examination I	2
PT 712 Physical Therapy Examination II	3
PT 714 Physical Therapy Intervention II	3
PT 715 Physical Therapy Intervention III	3
PT 716 Clinical Evaluation in Physical Therapy	3
PT 720 Pathology and Pharmacology for Movement Disorders I	3
PT 721 Pathology and Pharmacology for Movement Disorders II	3
PT 730 Essentials of Human Physiology	3
PT 731 Human Performance Physiology	3
PT 740 PT Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction I	5
PT 741 PT Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction II	5
PT 743 PT Management of Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction	4
PT 750 Physical Therapy Management of Adults with Neuromuscular Dysfunction I	3
PT 751 Physical Therapy Management of Adults with Neuromuscular Dysfunction II	2
PT 752 Physical Therapy Management of Pediatric Conditions	3
PT 760 PT Professional Practice I	2
PT 761 PT Professional Practice II	3
PT 762 PT Professional Practice III	3
PT 763 PT Professional Practice IV	2
PT 764 Professional Practice V - Capstone Experience	2
PT 770 Clinical Education	31
PT 778 Special Topics in Physical Therapy	1

PT 790	Scientific Inquiry I	3
PT 791	Scientific Inquiry II	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>119</b>

## Contact Information

Department of Physical Therapy  
 School of Health Professions, SHPB 375  
 1716 9th Avenue South  
 Mailing address: SHPB 375, 1720 2nd Avenue South  
 Birmingham, Alabama 35294-1212  
 Telephone: 205-934-4363  
 E-mail: [DPTAdmissions@uab.edu](mailto:DPTAdmissions@uab.edu)

## Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Master of Public Health (MPH) Coordinated Degree (DPT/MPH)

Students enrolled in the UAB Doctor of Physical Therapy Program are eligible to apply for the coordinated DPT/MPH degree. Interested students should notify the DPT Program Director and seek approval before applying. The MPH has rolling admissions, so students may apply and begin the MPH portion of the coordinated degree program prior to, during, or after the DPT program.

12 credit hours of the DPT program coursework will be credited to the MPH degree. These courses include: PT 761 (3 CH), PT 762 (3 CH), PT 790 (3 CH), PT 791 (3 CH).

### For further information about the DPT/MPH coordinated degree, contact:

Meghan Walker  
 Program Manager, Population Health and Coordinated Degree Programs

UAB School of Public Health  
 Mailing Address: 130 Ryals Public Health Building, 1720 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
 Birmingham, AL 35294-0022  
 Phone: 205-934-2684  
 Email: [mewalker@uab.edu](mailto:mewalker@uab.edu)  
 Website: <https://www.uab.edu/soph/home/graduate/programs/mph-ms>

## Primary Care Physical Therapy for Underserved Populations Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in Primary Care Physical Therapy for Underserved Populations provides a broader scope of skills and knowledge necessary to meet the need of underserved communities and marginalized populations.

## Admissions

You can apply at any time of year. However, you must apply at least 30 days in advance of the start of a semester. This program admits students for the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

## Credential Conferred

The Graduate Certificate in Primary Care Physical Therapy for Underserved Populations is awarded by the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

## Curriculum

Courses will cover areas such as physical therapists as part of the primary care team, Primary care PT management of health conditions, a PT's role in disaster and emergency management, community engagement, and program planning. All classes in the Graduate Certificate in Primary Care Physical Therapy for Underserved Populations will be taught online.

Requirements		Hours
PTC 790	Challenges in American Healthcare: Physical Therapy as a Part of the Solution	2
PTC 791	Physical Therapist Role in Primary Care	2
PTC 792	Health-Focused Physical Therapy Care I	2
PTC 793	Advanced Physical Therapy Management of Priority Health Conditions I	2
PTC 794	Health Focused Physical Therapy II	2
PTC 795	Advanced Physical Therapy Management of Priority Health Conditions II	2
PTC 796	Physical Therapists' Role in Disaster Emergency Preparation and Management	1
PTC 797	Community Engagement and Program Planning for Physical Therapists	2
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

## Contact Information

Donald Lein, PT, PhD  
 UAB School of Health Professions  
 1716 9th Avenue South  
 Birmingham, AL 35294-1212  
 Telephone: 205-934-0241  
 E-mail: [dlein@uab.edu](mailto:dlein@uab.edu)  
 Web: [Primary Care Physical Therapy for Underserved Populations](#)

## PT-Physical Therapy Courses

### PT 700. Human Gross Anatomy. 3 Hours.

A study of the anatomical structure of the human body includes limbs, back, abdominal wall and cavity. Specific emphasis includes regional study of the relationships between musculoskeletal, nervous, and vascular systems, joint structure, cardiovascular and pulmonary systems, and surveys of selected viscera. Includes surface anatomy.

### PT 701. Human Gross Anatomy II. 2 Hours.

A study of the anatomical structure of the human body includes limbs, back, abdominal wall and cavity. Specific emphasis includes regional study of the relationships between musculoskeletal, nervous, and vascular systems, joint structure, cardiovascular and pulmonary systems, and surveys of selected viscera.

**Prerequisites:** PT 700 [Min Grade: C]

### PT 702. Functional Anatomy. 4 Hours.

Integrated study of anatomy, kinesiology, muscle biology, and biomechanics to develop an understanding of and ability to analyze normal and pathologic human movement. Includes palpation and surface anatomy.

**PT 704. Analysis of Human Movement. 3 Hours.**

Study of human movement through an examination of the movement patterns during common motor skills (e.g.: walking). The kinematics and kinetics related to movement will be studied across the lifespan.

**PT 706. Neuroscience I. 3 Hours.**

A study of structures and functions of the human nervous system with emphasis on sensory/motor function.

**PT 707. Neuroscience II. 3 Hours.**

Study of the theories of motor control and motor learning will serve as a foundation for the understanding how the CNS is organized in relation to human movement.

**PT 710. Physical Therapy Intervention I. 3 Hours.**

Introduction to the basic components of physical therapy practice applicable to those with acute and chronic conditions. Emphasis placed on basic procedural interventions and equipment.

**PT 711. PT Examination I. 2 Hours.**

Introduction to the physical therapy examination process. Emphasis on exploring the human movement system as the foundation of patient/client management.

**PT 712. Physical Therapy Examination II. 3 Hours.**

Continuation of Physical Therapy I with focus on knowledge and skills needed to test and measure strength, range of motion, and posture.

**PT 714. Physical Therapy Intervention II. 3 Hours.**

Procedures and techniques for the design and implementation of fundamental therapeutic exercise; recognizing impairments in body function and structure and activity limitations amenable to physical therapy; students will utilize therapeutic exercise interventions for prevention and rehabilitation of movement dysfunction and disability.

**PT 715. Physical Therapy Intervention III. 3 Hours.**

The study and use of knowledge and skills needed to select and use both electrodiagnostic and electrotherapeutic modality interventions for various impairments and functional limitations. Emphasis will be placed on integrating electrical evaluation, electrical and deep heat therapy with previously learned examination, evaluation, and intervention skills. An overview of integument system repair and the management of chronic wounds will be discussed with an emphasis on examination, clinical decision making, and intervention.

**PT 716. Clinical Evaluation in Physical Therapy. 3 Hours.**

Study of comprehensive clinical evaluation concepts through use of the International Classification of Function, Disability and Health (ICF) model framework with application in health conditions across the lifespan.

**PT 720. Pathology and Pharmacology for Movement Disorders I. 3 Hours.**

Overview of clinical medicine related to management of movement disorders. Basic principles of pathology and pharmacology. Explores physical therapy implications associated with medical and surgical management of disorders with emphasis on clinical manifestations, management, and physical therapy implications.

**PT 721. Pathology and Pharmacology for Movement Disorders II. 3 Hours.**

Exploration of medical and surgical disorders with emphasis on clinical manifestations, management, and physical therapy implications.

**PT 730. Essentials of Human Physiology. 3 Hours.**

Fundamental principles and concepts of human physiology are covered regarding cell physiology, the cardiovascular, endocrine, gastrointestinal, pulmonary, renal, and skeletal muscle systems as well as thermo-regulation of the body. Both cellular and systemic issues are addressed with an emphasis on a mechanistic and integrative approach to understanding function.

**PT 731. Human Performance Physiology. 3 Hours.**

Course provides fundamental knowledge about the adaptability of human physiological systems in meeting a range of exercise demands. Areas covered include energy transfer during rest and exercise, physiologic and performance adaptations, exercise prescription for healthy adults, and body composition. Research evidence regarding how exercise and physical activity impact health, wellness, and disease is included.

**PT 740. PT Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction I. 5 Hours.**

Application of biological and physical sciences in understanding musculoskeletal disorders. Diagnosis of common musculoskeletal dysfunctions; clinical decision making concerning treatment and prevention of musculoskeletal disorders. Medical and surgical diagnostic and treatment procedures with implications for rehabilitation. Focus for one course is on the lower quarter and the thoracic spine; focus of the other course is on the upper quarter.

**PT 741. PT Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction II. 5 Hours.**

Application of biological and physical sciences in understanding musculoskeletal disorders. Diagnosis of common musculoskeletal dysfunctions; clinical decision making concerning treatment and prevention of musculoskeletal disorders. Medical and surgical diagnostic and treatment procedures with implications for rehabilitation. Focus for one course is on the lower quarter and the thoracic spine; focus of the other course is on the upper quarter.

**PT 743. PT Management of Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction. 4 Hours.**

Physical therapy examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention for patients with primary and secondary disorders involving the cardiovascular/pulmonary system.

**PT 750. Physical Therapy Management of Adults with Neuromuscular Dysfunction I. 3 Hours.**

Application, analysis, and synthesis of principles of neurophysiologic rehabilitation in physical therapy examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention.

**PT 751. Physical Therapy Management of Adults with Neuromuscular Dysfunction II. 2 Hours.**

Application, analysis, and synthesis of principles of neurophysiologic rehabilitation in physical therapy examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention.

**PT 752. Physical Therapy Management of Pediatric Conditions. 3 Hours.**

Managing pediatric conditions throughout the lifespan. Emphasis will be placed on examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, interventions, and outcomes.

**PT 760. PT Professional Practice I. 2 Hours.**

Introduction to the profession of physical therapy, including history, APTA, and scope of practice. Introduction to legal, ethical and other regulatory mechanisms that guide the practice of physical therapy. Presentation of cultural diversity issues related to physical therapy practice.

**PT 761. PT Professional Practice II. 3 Hours.**

Synthesis and application of regulatory mechanisms, legal mandates and ethical principles and theories to issues facing the physical therapy student and the physical therapist functioning in a multifaceted role; values clarification and decision making related to current professional issues. Strategies for dealing with diverse cultures and conflict. Utilization of documentation strategies to promote effective physical therapy practice and payment.

**PT 762. PT Professional Practice III. 3 Hours.**

Forces contributing to the health care environment and the effects of this environment on physical therapy practice, research and education. Concepts of health promotion (including wellness and patient education) and the role of the physical therapist in promoting healthy lifestyles in the health care and community settings. Theoretical basis for health behaviors and application of theories to physical therapy practice. Concepts of consultation, program planning, implementation, and evaluation applied to health promotion-oriented physical therapy programs.

**PT 763. PT Professional Practice IV. 2 Hours.**

Study of management and supervisory principles and current issues related to physical therapy practice: Practical concepts of marketing, organizational structure, fiscal management, facility planning, design and entrepreneurship.

**PT 764. Professional Practice V - Capstone Experience. 2 Hours.**

Integration of all previous coursework applied to reflection of the scope of physical therapy practice: direct patient care, professional growth/development, professional issues, education, consultation, evidence based practice (EBP), communication and cultural competency. Development and presentation of an individual portfolio that reflects core values, personal and professional growth and accomplishments, and appropriate plans for future professional development.

**PT 770. Clinical Education. 1-9 Hour.**

Supervised clinical education in patient care skills and practice issues related to physical therapy.

**PT 778. Special Topics in Physical Therapy. 1-9 Hour.**

Exploration of current issues in Physical Therapy.

**PT 790. Scientific Inquiry I. 3 Hours.**

Introduction to sources of evidence, measurement principles, experimental design, and basic statistical concepts to develop analytical skills required for evidence-informed physical therapist practice.

**PT 791. Scientific Inquiry II. 3 Hours.**

This course explores foundational and advanced concepts in research methodology relevant to physical therapist practice. Topics include principles of measurement, experimental design, qualitative research methods, survey-based outcomes research, and a review of essential statistical concepts. Students will develop the skills to critically appraise scientific literature and apply evidence to clinical decision-making. Emphasis is placed on interpreting clinically relevant research reports and integrating research findings into patient/client care to support evidence-informed practice.

**PT 798. Doctoral Level Non-Thesis Research. 1-9 Hour.**

Implementation of project activities with data collection, analysis, and preparation of manuscript of scholarly activity project. Student and mentor work together to identify specific project components to be completed during each specific term the course is taken.

**PTC-Health-Focused Pat/Client Mgmt Courses****PTC 790. Challenges in American Healthcare: Physical Therapy as a Part of the Solution. 2 Hours.**

Exploration of current trends in health and healthcare in the United States with emphasis placed on underserved populations and marginalized communities. As a member of a primary care team, students will assess, analyze, synthesize, and modify determinants of health that underlie health disparities with respect to individual and community health outcomes.

**PTC 791. Physical Therapist Role in Primary Care. 2 Hours.**

Explore current primary care practice models in which a physical therapist is a team member.

**PTC 792. Health-Focused Physical Therapy Care I. 2 Hours.**

Preparation to assist patients/clients in underserved populations and marginalized communities to adopt healthier lifestyles, achieving better physical therapy outcomes, and optimize their health using the Health-Focused Physical Therapy Model. This course is part one of a two-course series.

**PTC 793. Advanced Physical Therapy Management of Priority Health Conditions I. 2 Hours.**

Individual management of identified priority health conditions, within the context of primary care. This course is part one of a two course series where students will use the Patient/Client Management model to develop advanced screening/examination, evaluation, diagnostic and prognostic skills, and plan of care applied to complex and often chronic conditions in a primary care environment.

**PTC 794. Health Focused Physical Therapy II. 2 Hours.**

Prepares students to assist their patients/clients in underserved populations and marginalized communities to adopt healthier lifestyles, achieving better physical therapy outcomes, and optimizing their health using the Health-Focused Physical Therapy Model. This course is part two of a two-course series addressing health focused care in physical therapy.

**PTC 795. Advanced Physical Therapy Management of Priority Health Conditions II. 2 Hours.**

Individual management of priority health conditions, within the context of primary care. This course is part two of a two-course series where students will develop advanced intervention skills applied to complex and often chronic conditions in a primary care environment.

**PTC 796. Physical Therapists' Role in Disaster Emergency Preparation and Management. 1 Hour.**

Underserved populations and marginalized communities are particularly vulnerable in natural disaster events and emergency situations. This course provides the physical therapist with skills within their scope of practice to prepare and respond to emergencies and disasters.

**PTC 797. Community Engagement and Program Planning for Physical Therapists. 2 Hours.**

Strategies for and benefits of community engagement and advocacy by physical therapists. Emphasis placed on needs assessment techniques, program planning, implementation, and evaluation.