

PHYSICAL THERAPY



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Admit Term:

Fall

Number of Credits:

109-110

Length of Program:

33 months (including summers)

Plan of Study:

Full-time

Where to Apply:

PTCAS (www.ptcas.org)

Application Deadline:

January 16

Gannon's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program prides itself on its high degree of versatility. The Program accepts both Gannon and non-Gannon applicants with a variety of undergraduate degrees. The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Program Description

Gannon University, Erie campus offers an entry level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program after the completion of 33 months of study (including summers).

Building on the study of normal structure and function, the curriculum plan uses a theoretical base to build courses and learning experiences which prepare the student for the contemporary practice of physical therapy. Beginning with basic sciences, followed by clinical and physical therapy sciences, systems-based sequencing of the movement systems of musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, cardiovascular, pulmonary and integumentary are presented. Elements of the patient/client management model including examination, evaluation, physical therapy differential diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, and outcomes are integrated into each of the clinical science courses. Both clinical science and research content are framed within an evidence-based practice format, utilizing current scientific research in conjunction with clinical experience for a specific patient/client problem within the physical therapists' scope of practice. Concepts between and within each course are cumulative, competency based, and continued enrollment depends upon mastery and use of previous concepts.

Practical clinical experiences are integrated into the academic program to allow immediate application of didactic material. The Co-Directors of Clinical Education assign students to clinical sites, based on student needs and learning goals. In addition to sites in the Erie and western Pennsylvania areas, the program offers over 300 clinical experiences at sites throughout the country. This enables the student to have the opportunity to practice with a culturally diverse client population and learn various physical therapy approaches from experienced clinicians.

Mission

The mission of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Gannon University facilitates holistic patient/client-centered management related to movement, function and health. We prepare our graduates to be knowledgeable, service-oriented, reflective practitioners.



Our graduates render evidence based, professional judgments concerning patient/client needs by virtue of critical thinking, interprofessional collaboration, lifelong learning, and ethical principles. They possess the intellect, psychomotor proficiency, leadership capabilities, and core values to meet the current and future needs of the profession, the health care system, and society.

Application Process

Gannon University and the Physical Therapy Department receives and reviews applications for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program and all applicant credentials exclusively through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS), provided by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

This includes information from all previously attended university or college transcripts, letters of recommendation, PT observation hours, personal essay and supplemental materials. Full application instructions can be found on the Gannon University, Erie, PA campus - Doctor of Physical Therapy page by visiting www.ptcas.org.



Admission Requirements

The program is delivered as a full-time, day time course of study. Transfers into the DPT Program are considered only on an individual basis. A maximum of 6 Master's degree credits may be accepted for transfer as elective credits, if a grade of B or higher were achieved, and based on program director approval. Prior to matriculation in the program, students must complete and fulfill the following requirements:

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
- Cumulative prerequisite course quality point average (QPA) of 3.0 or better (4.0 scale)
- Overall undergraduate QPA of 3.0 or better (4.0 scale)
- Grades below a "C" are not acceptable
- Prerequisite courses (below) must be completed within five years preceding entrance into the graduate program
- All prerequisite courses must be completed by June 30 in year of enrollment
- TOEFL iBT – Minimum score of 80 for all applicants from non-English speaking countries

The application review process begins each fall semester with admission decisions finalized by March in the year of enrollment.

Prerequisite Course Requirements:

Biology*	2 semesters
Chemistry	2 semesters
Physics with Lab	2 semesters
Psychology**	1 semester
Statistics	1 semester
Exercise Physiology (Lab recommended)	1 semester
Human Anatomy with Lab***	1 semester
Human Physiology with Lab***	1 semester

*(Human Anatomy and Physiology courses do not meet this prerequisite)

** (200 level behavioral/social science course)

*** (Human Gross Anatomy recommended; course must be at 200 or 300 level at four-year degree granting institution);

*** Anatomy/Physiology (AP) 1 and 2 with Labs, from a Baccalaureate degree granting school are accepted in lieu of one semester of Human Anatomy with Lab and one semester of Human Physiology with Lab.

Recommended Course Requirements:

At least two additional semesters in the Social Sciences (i.e., Sociology, Social Psychology) and Kinesiology with lab.

Additional Admission Requirements

- Three letters of recommendation, including academic, health care professional, and character recommendations
- Demonstration of the ethical, personal and professional qualities to fulfill the role of the physical therapist as determined by review of the applicant's references
- Meet essential functions of the program: physical, emotional, intellectual, and communication standards
- Practice as a health care professional requires the ability to communicate both in written and oral form. The physical therapy program stresses communication and expects potential students to demonstrate graduate level competence in written as well as oral communication

Accreditation

Graduation from a physical therapist education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Gannon University – Erie, PA campus has been granted Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA, 22305-3085; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apata.org).



Office of Graduate Admissions

(814) 871-7474 | Toll Free (800) GANNON-U | Fax (814) 871-5827
gannon.edu/graduate | graduate@gannon.edu

Curriculum

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the Erie campus awards the DPT degree upon the successful completion of the following:

First Year – Fall (16 credits)	Credits
Applied Anatomy	2
Essentials of PT Practice	2
Foundations in Pathology and Medical Management for the PT 1	3
Health Care Systems & Policy 1	2
Community Health Initiative 1	1
Foundations of Human Movement (with Lab)	6

First Year - Spring (18 credits)	Credits
Evidence Based Practice 1	2
Examination, Evaluation & Intervention for Musculoskeletal Movement Dysfunction of the Extremities (with lab)	9
Examination, Evaluation & Intervention for Musculoskeletal Movement Dysfunction of the Spine (with lab)	4
Community Health Initiative 2	1
Foundations in Pathology and Medical Management for the PT 2	2

First Year – Summer (9 credits)	Credits
Health Care Systems & Policy 2	2
Foundations in Geriatrics	2
Clinical Experience 1 (10 weeks)	5

Second Year – Fall (17 credits)	Credits
Clinical Synthesis 1	1
Foundations in Pediatrics	4
Examination, Evaluation & Interventions for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Movement Dysfunction 1 (with lab)	2
Examination, Evaluation & Interventions for Neuromuscular Movement Dysfunction 1 (with lab)	4
Neuroscience (with lab)	5
Evidence Based Practice 2	1

Second Year – Spring (17 credits)	Credits
Examination, Evaluation & Intervention for Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Movement Dysfunction 2 (with lab)	3
Examination, Evaluation & Intervention for Neuromuscular Movement Dysfunction 2 (with lab)	9
Health Care Systems & Policy 3	2
Community Health Initiative 3	1
Evidence Based Practice 3	2

Second Year – Summer (8 credits)	Credits
Clinical Experience 2 (10 weeks)	5
Health Care System & Policy 4	1
Clinical Synthesis 2	1
Community Health Initiative 4	1

Third Year - Fall (12-13 credits)	Credits
Health Care Systems & Policy 5	2
Examination, Evaluation & Intervention for Multi-System Movement Dysfunction	4
Clinical Experience 3 (8 weeks)	4
Elective	2-3

Third Year - Spring (11-12 credits)	Credits
Clinical Experience 4 (12 weeks)	6
Community Health Initiative 5	1
Clinical Synthesis 3	2
Elective	2-3

Total Credits **109-110**

What Makes Us Different

Curriculum and Clinical Integration

Comprehensive clinical science courses include examination and treatment intervention content, immediately followed by application of knowledge in the clinic.

Faculty

Eleven faculty with an average of 12+ years of teaching experience and each maintaining clinical practice; seven faculty have specializations in cardiopulmonary, neurology, orthopedics, geriatrics, and pediatrics.

Community Engagement

Students are fully engaged and able to choose a capstone community project.

Diverse Clinical Experiences

Students are encouraged to seek geographic diversity in their clinicals across the country.

Electives

Students choose 5-6 credits of electives to further their learning or special interest.

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