Department of Physical Therapy

Accreditation

• All Azusa Pacific University programs are accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). (https://www.wascsenior.org)

• The Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Azusa Pacific University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) (http://www.capteonline.org), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1488; telephone: (703) 684-2782; email: accreditation@apta.org.

Learn more (http://www.apu.edu/bas/physicaltherapy) about the Department of Physical Therapy.

Doctoral Programs:

• Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) (http://catalog.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/behavioral-applied-sciences/physical-therapy/physical-therapy-phd)

• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Rehabilitation and Movement Science (http://catalog.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/behavioral-applied-sciences/physical-therapy/rehabilitation-and-movement-science)

Fellowship:

• Physical Therapy Postprofessional Clinical Fellowship in Movement and Performance (http://catalog.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/behavioral-applied-sciences/physical-therapy/post-professional-clinical-fellowship-movement-performance)

PT 502, Professional Relationships, 2 Units
(30 contact hours) This course introduces the role of the physical therapist as a professional health educator. Emphasis is on developing interpersonal and communication skills in relation to the interaction between therapist and patient, other health professionals, and within groups.

PT 506, Seminar I, 2 Units
(30 contact hours) This course introduces the student to the physical therapy profession. Historical and legal issues, as well as practice settings and health care trends are addressed. Emphasis is placed on professional development and responsibility of the physical therapist as a lifelong learner.

PT 558, Research Methods in Physical Therapy, 3 Units
This course introduces the student to the concepts of Physical Therapy research. A survey of major research methods is conducted and statistical methods are examined.

PT 572, Pharmacology, 3 Units
This is an introduction to pharmacology which includes pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Emphasis is on drugs commonly encountered during rehabilitation. Side effects that alter physical performance and drug effects influenced by exercise are studied.

PT 701, Human Anatomy, 8 Units
This is a 16-week intensive course in clinically oriented human anatomy from a regional approach. Microscopic and gross human anatomy are explored utilizing lectures, classroom demonstrations, human cadaver dissections, dissection videos, and hands-on functional demonstrations. Biomechanics are studied from functional and clinical approaches. Emphasis is on histology, head, neck, upper extremity, and thorax during the first half of the term; emphasis in the second half is on the spine, pelvis, lower extremity, spinal cord, and internal organs.

Corequisite: PT 702

PT 702, Clinical Skills I, 6 Units
First in a series of courses designed to examine basic evaluation and clinical skills of the physical therapist, this course focuses on objective techniques of assessment for the upper and lower extremity and spine through measurement of range of motion (ROM), muscle testing (MMT), general neurological screening, and palpation. Kinesiology of all joints is studied from functional and clinical approaches, concluding in the assessment of normal gait mechanics. An introduction to body mechanics and documentation is provided to prepare the student for safe clinical practice. Learning takes place through laboratory activities, homework, online videos, and practical examination using a problem-solving approach.

PT 703, Clinical Neuroscience, 6 Units
This course covers in depth the anatomy and physiology of the central and peripheral nervous systems and neuromuscular function, serving as a foundation for PT 704. It includes correlation of pathology with neurological symptoms and diagnostic tests.
PT 704, PTDDT III Neurorehabilitation, 8 Units
This course focuses on developing skills used for differential diagnosis, functional evaluation, treatment theory, and management of the neurologically impaired adult. This course examines the neurophysiologic rationale for treatment approaches commonly used in physical therapy treatment for the neurologically impaired patient. Emphasis is placed on integration and development of hands-on skills in a laboratory setting. Major areas investigated include spinal cord injury, stroke, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's disease, polyneuropathies, and common degenerative diseases.

PT 705, Physical Therapy Differential Diagnosis and Treatment I (Orthopedics IA and IB), 8 Units
This course emphasizes the general principles and methodology of rehabilitation of orthopedic patients. Examination of the spine and lower quarter is emphasized. Mobilization, therapeutic exercise programs, and complete evaluation, treatment, and documentation are addressed specifically per diagnosis.

PT 711, Wellness, 3 Units
This course focuses on the promotion of optimal health, and disease and injury prevention, in the general adult and pediatric populations. It addresses screening techniques and risk assessment, as well as tests and measures related to aerobic capacity, balance, flexibility, strength and endurance, and posture. Findings are applied to exercise prescription.

PT 724, PT Clinical Skills II, 3 Units
(60 contact hours) This is the second in a series of clinical skills courses and discusses the visual and electromagnetic spectrum instrumentation for the treatment of dysfunction. The focus is on physical agents in relation to treatment.

PT 726, PT Clinical Skills III, 1 Unit
(45 contact hours) In this clinical skills laboratory course, assistive devices, bed mobility, and transfer training are introduced. Measurement, selection, and adaptation of assistive devices are performed. Bed mobility and transfer training are performed and implemented based on patient diagnosis and need. Emphasis is on patient safety with handling as well as body mechanics and safety of the therapist. Information is reiterated with laboratory activities, case studies, and a practical and written examination using a problem-solving approach.

PT 742, Prosthetics and Orthotics, 2 Units
(60 contact hours) This course provides foundational knowledge of the types, uses, and fitting of prosthetic and orthotic devices. Rehabilitation intervention is addressed in regard to functional use, measurements, care, adjustments, precautions, and patient education for the appropriate device. Case studies, literature review, lecture, problem-solving models, videos, and laboratory practice are used.

PT 744, Professional Ethics, Advocacy, and Spiritual Care, 2 Units
(30 contact hours) The course examines the major ethical issues affecting the physical therapist and the health care profession. Through class and small-group discussions, the student examines his or her own moral values.

PT 748, PTDDT IC - Orthopedics III, 4 Units
(90 contact hours) This course emphasizes the general principles and methodology of rehabilitation of orthopedic patients. Examination of the shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, and Temporomandibular joint are emphasized. Mobilization, therapeutic exercise programs, complete evaluation, disease processes, and documentation will be addressed specifically per diagnosis.

PT 750, Comprehensive Exams, 1 Unit
This course gives the student an opportunity to demonstrate their qualifications to enter the clinical section of their physical therapy education.

PT 752, PTDDT II - Cardiopulmonary, 4 Units
(75 contact hours) This course reviews basic cardiopulmonary pathology and presents basic theories leading to decision-making skills in cardiopulmonary rehabilitation. Presentation of case studies reinforce management of the patient with cardiopulmonary dysfunction. Practical application of theoretical concepts are emphasized.

PT 754, PTDDT IV, 3 Units
(General Medicine - 75 contact hours) This course provides the student with experience in the management of the general medicine patient with acute, chronic, and terminal disease. The laboratory portion of the course assists in developing clinical skills and reasoning to determine appropriate and safe therapeutic procedures and protocols for this population.

PT 758, Special Populations, 3 Units
(45 contact hours) This course addresses physical therapy management of special populations such as geriatric, cultural and ethically diverse populations, home health, and other special interest groups for physical therapy care. The student is responsible for designing physical therapy management for each area considered.

PT 760, PTDDT VIII - Pediatrics, 4 Units
This course provides the background knowledge needed to assess functional status of, evaluate, and develop appropriate treatment programs for infants and children from premature birth to adolescence. Lab sessions allow for observation and assessment of typical development and the opportunity to experience a variety of intervention strategies.
**PT 762, Seminar II, 2 Units**  
(30 contact hours) The clinical performance instrument is reviewed in this course, and written and oral communication skills specific to the clinic are refined. Expectations of clinical professional behavior are also emphasized. The student presents an in-service on a specific evaluation or treatment approach to be used in the clinic, incorporating lecture and lab into instruction. The student's performance is self assessed, peer assessed, and evaluated by the instructor.

**PT 764, PTDDT VII - Complex Patients: Current Concepts in Chronic Pain, 2 Units**  
(45 contact hours) The process of evidence-based review of the literature is applied to the management of complex patient cases emphasizing chronic pain.

**PT 768, Administration, 3 Units**  
(75 contact hours) This course presents the basic components of administration, financial and staff management, marketing strategies, and public relations for clinical directors and/or owners. Administrative and contractual legal issues and reimbursement mechanisms are explored.

**PT 771, Clinical Experience I, 10 Units**  
This is the first of three 10-week clinical rotations providing the opportunity for integration of prior didactic work with full-time clinical exposure under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. (400 contact hours)

**PT 773, Clinical Experience II, 10 Units**  
This is the second of three 10-week clinical rotations providing the opportunity for integration of prior didactic work with full-time clinical exposure under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. (400 contact hours)

**PT 774, Capstone I, 3 Units**  
In the first of the capstone course series, students choose a clinical question of interest and conduct an extensive literature review.

**PT 775, Clinical Experience III, 10 Units**  
This is the third of three 10-week clinical rotations providing the opportunity for integration of prior didactic work with full-time clinical exposure under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. (400 contact hours)

**PT 776, Capstone II, 3 Units**  
In this, the second course in the capstone series, research of the clinical question continues through faculty-supervised collection and synthesis of data.

**PT 778, Diagnostic Imaging, 3 Units**  
(45 contact hours) This course familiarizes the Doctor of Physical Therapy student with the indications, instrumentation, and clinical interpretation of orthopedic imaging techniques including plane film X-ray, magnetic resonance, computerized tomography, and radioisotope imaging. Selection protocols for each are discussed to acquaint the student with advantages and disadvantages of each method and what type of information each technique best presents. This course focuses on the clinical interpretation and practical integration of imaging data into rehabilitation treatment regimen design and communication with other medical professionals.

**PT 779, Special Topics II, 2 Units**  
This is the second of two courses, which examine specialized topics/techniques of current interest for physical therapists. This course includes topics of men and women's health, performing artist dysfunction, sport specific taping, and on field support for athletes. Lecture and hands on lab sessions will provide opportunities for the student to evaluate, develop and administer a plan of care in each of the specialty areas under faculty supervision.

**PT 781, Integrated Clinical Education, 2 Units**  
This course allows students to integrate didactic learning with a part-time clinical experience under the supervision and mentorship of a licensed physical therapist.

**PT 783, Integrated Community Service, 2 Units**  
In this course, students integrate didactic and clinical learning with clinical service to the global or local community under the mentorship and supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

**PT 790, Physical Diagnosis Screening, 5 Units**  
This course prepares students to manage patients with multisystem dysfunction. Students utilize various methods of physical examination to identify pathologies that are and are not amenable to physical therapy intervention.

**PT 794, Fellowship I, 2 Units**  
This course is an integration of key movement approaches advocated by Shirley Sahrmann PT, Ph.D.; Vladimir Janda, MD, D.Sc.; and Pavel Kolar, PT, Ph.D., focusing on specific movement impairments in the spine and upper and lower quarters, including the interaction between the central nervous system and motor system in the production of movement, stability, and/or controlled mobility. This course also includes instruction in principles of biomechanics, ergonomics, and body proportions and their relationship to movement impairments that limit optimal performance of function.
PT 795, Fellowship II, 3 Units
This course builds on clinical reasoning skills with instruction/problem-solving discussion on intervention strategies for patients with complex rehabilitation issues including chronic pain. Application of the movement approach and strength and conditioning are applied to athletes with focus on running, rotation and overhead sports, contact sports, and performing artists.
Prerequisite: PT 794

PT 796, Fellowship III, 3 Units
This course builds on clinical reasoning skills with instruction/problem-solving discussion on intervention strategies for patients with complex rehabilitation issues, including rotation and overhead sports, contact sports, and performing artists. Application of the movement approach and strength and conditioning are applied to athletes.

PT 797, Fellowship IV, 2 Units
This course builds on clinical reasoning skills with instruction/problem-solving discussion on intervention strategies for patients with complex rehabilitation issues including concussions and vestibular issues.
Prerequisite: PT 796

PT 798, Special Topics I, 2 Units
This is the first of two courses which examine specialized topics/techniques of current interest for physical therapists. This course includes topics of movement science, basic taping techniques for the orthopedic and neurologic populations, ergonomics, wound care and lymphedema management. Lecture and hands on lab sessions will provide opportunities for the student to evaluate, develop and administer a plan of care in each of the specialty areas under faculty supervision.

PT 799, Independent Study, 1-6 Units
Students enroll in this course to pursue independent study investigating subjects and interests that lie beyond regular course offerings. The student explores topics in greater depth than in other courses and/or initiates an individual project. Readings are pursued in accordance with a study plan, which is developed in consultation with a sponsoring faculty member and approved by the department chair.

RMS 701, Foundations of Rehabilitation and Movement Science, 3 Units
This course provides the foundation for doctoral studies and careers in the field of rehabilitation and movement science, equipping students with fundamental knowledge, principles, and primary concepts underlying the field, historical perspectives and current models of health care, and new areas of study being explored. The course is divided into two parts: the first provides the framework necessary for understanding the field, and the second uses a mixture of lectures and independent learning to explore the subspecialties of each student.

RMS 704, Research for the Rehabilitation and Movement Scientist, 3 Units
This course introduces the concepts of research in rehabilitation and movement science: research design and statistical methods, critical evaluation of published research relevant to rehabilitation science, scientific writing, and preparation for conducting clinical research.

RMS 705, Instrumentation and Outcome Measures [Proposed], 3 Units

RMS 720, Dissertation I: Introduction and Systematic Review, 3 Units
This course, the first in a series addressing the dissertation, supports students' development of the dissertation proposal, focusing on the preparation and critique of chapter one (the introduction) and chapter two (the literature review).

RMS 721, Dissertation II: Methods and Research Proposal, 3 Units
This course, the second in a series addressing the dissertation, assists students with the continuing development of the first three dissertation chapters and with obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, culminating in the proposal defense.
Prerequisite: RMS 720

RMS 722, Dissertation III: Data Collection, Results, and Analysis, 3 Units
This course, the third in a series addressing the dissertation, supports students' continued writing of the first four chapters of the dissertation, including data collection, data entry, and analysis.
Prerequisite: RMS 720, RMS 721, and successful proposal defense.

RMS 723, Dissertation IV: Discussion and Research Defense, 3 Units
This course, the fourth in a series addressing the dissertation, supports students' completion of the dissertation process, including discussion of the main findings in comparison to published literature, final conclusions, and preparation for the dissertation defense.
Prerequisite: RMS 720, RMS 721 and RMS 722

Faculty
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