

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Why it's for you

The demand for physical therapists is growing at a faster than average pace, especially given advances in medical technology and a rapidly aging population in need of more services and programs. The three-year Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program will prepare you to be an autonomous health care professional who will provide a range of physical therapy services in a variety of settings. Upon successful completion of the program, you'll be eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination and, after passing the exam, be licensed in any state. Sage graduates consistently perform better on the national exam than state and national averages.

As a health professional in this field, you'll be prepared to provide care to patients of all ages to alleviate impairments and functional limitations, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease, or other causes. You will also be able to play an active role in consultation, education, critical inquiry, administration, and supervision of physical therapy services as well as provision of prevention and wellness services, including screening and health promotion. You'll collaborate with a variety of professionals, including nurses, physicians, educators, social workers, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and dentists.

This program, offered through the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, will enable you to work in a variety of practice settings including: hospitals; outpatient clinics; rehabilitation centers; skilled nursing, extended care or sub-acute facilities; home health; education or research centers; early intervention programs and preschool, primary and secondary schools; hospices; corporate health centers; industrial or other occupational environments; collegiate, amateur, and professional athletic facilities; fitness centers; and sports training facilities. The academic and clinical education in the DPT Program will prepare you to provide culturally sensitive care and evidence-based services to patients and clients in a rapidly changing health care environment.

DPT Program Mission Statement:

Consistent with the mission of the Sage Graduate School and the American Physical Therapy Association Vision 2020 statement, the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Sage prepares physical therapists who are exemplary, autonomous practitioners. The depth and breadth of our

professional curriculum is enriched by the intellectual community found at our comprehensive university that is dedicated to liberal, professional, and specialized programs of study. Graduates embrace their role in promoting the profession through evidence-based practice that is respectful and sensitive to individual differences, through commitment to lifelong learning that sustains clinical excellence, and through service to community and society.

Faculty

You'll learn from and work with faculty who are scholars, experts and practitioners in the field of physical therapy. An excellent student-to-faculty ratio of 1:9 offers an opportunity for individual development at Sage, where you'll study alongside professors who practice what they teach.

Admission

Students may be admitted at one of three points of entry to the DPT Program: direct entry into Sage Graduate School for students who have earned a bachelor's degree at another institution; through Sage College of Albany for men or women undergraduates; or through Russell Sage College for women undergraduates.

Direct Entry through Sage Graduate School

Qualified students who possess or are completing a baccalaureate degree and have fulfilled the prerequisite courses for the professional program in Physical Therapy may be accepted directly to the DPT Program through Sage Graduate School.

In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to Sage Graduate School, successful applicants to the DPT Program will demonstrate evidence of the following:

- Earned or anticipated baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university prior to the start of the DPT Program
- Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 in the prerequisite science courses
- Completion of all prerequisite courses for the professional DPT Program with a grade of "C" or better prior to the start of the DPT Program
- Completion of at least 40 hours of physical therapy clinical observation under the direction of a licensed physical therapist before beginning the professional program
- Submission of the Academic Standards Statement, DPT Prerequisite Form, and Clinical Observation Sheet with the Sage Graduate School Application.



Partnership Agreements with Four-Year Colleges

Sage has developed partnership agreements with several four-year colleges to *guarantee* admission to Sage's DPT Program for qualified students. These agreements provide for:

- Automatic acceptance into the DPT Program for students who have completed program prerequisites, after initial advisement and interview, with completed application and evidence of academic eligibility
- Waiver of Sage Graduate School application fee
- Early acceptance (for students who submit applications by June 1st, following their 3rd year of study)
- Advisement to coordinate undergraduate electives and coursework to address DPT Program prerequisites
- Opportunity to apply early for graduate assistantships.

Qualified students will:

- Earn a baccalaureate degree prior to entering the DPT Program
- Maintain a minimum overall 3.0 GPA in their undergraduate programs and 3.0 GPA in the DPT Program prerequisite science courses
- Complete an admission interview with PT faculty
- Document completion of clinical observation hours under the supervision of a physical therapist; and Submit a completed application to Sage Graduate School by June 1st following the third year of undergraduate study. (Only one letter of recommendation is required of students applying through the articulation agreement).

Entry through Russell Sage College (RSC)

Women who are entering directly from high school or transferring at the pre-professional level may apply to Russell Sage College for either a typical 4+3 or an accelerated 3+3 bachelor's degree leading to the DPT. Students entering either of these programs choose an undergraduate liberal arts major in one of the following disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, English, Health Sciences, History, Interdisciplinary Studies, Psychology, Sociology, or Spanish.

Direct Entry through Sage College of Albany (SCA)

Men or women who are entering directly from high school or transferring at the pre-professional level may apply to Sage College of Albany for either a typical 4+3 or an accelerated 3+3 bachelor's degree leading to the DPT. Students entering the 4+3 program may choose any major of their choice. Students entering the accelerated 3+3 program at SCA will major in applied biology.

Academic Program Requirements for Admission to the DPT Program from Russell Sage College or Sage College of Albany:

- Earned baccalaureate degree (4+3 students only)
- Completion of undergraduate major requirements and RSC or SCA college general education courses (3+3 students only)
- Completion of all prerequisite courses for the professional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program with a grade of "C" or better in each required course

- Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
- Minimum science GPA of 3.0 in the required science courses (BIO 201, 202, 220; CHM 103/104 or 111/112; and PHY 101/102 or 107/108)
- Completion of at least 40 hours of physical therapy clinical observation under the direction of a licensed physical therapist before beginning the professional program.

Typical 4+3 Program (Bachelor's and DPT)

Students who are admitted to the 4+3 program at RSC or SCA complete the bachelor's degree in four years. This program allows greater latitude for taking additional elective courses of interest to the student and maybe more conducive for success. Students who meet the academic requirements above are **guaranteed** admission to the DPT Program at Sage Graduate School upon completion of the bachelor's degree, which is awarded from Russell Sage College in the spring of the fourth year. The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree is awarded from Sage Graduate School at the end of the seventh year. The first formal review for eligibility to progress into the professional program occurs after the fall semester of the fourth year at RSC.

Accelerated 3+3 Program (Bachelor's and DPT)

Students who are admitted to the 3+3 bachelor's program at RSC or SCA and who have met the academic requirements are eligible to accelerate into the professional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in their fourth year. Students who have completed a minimum of 90 undergraduate credits and meet the academic requirements above are **guaranteed** admission to the DPT Program at Sage Graduate School. The baccalaureate degree is awarded from Russell Sage College or Sage College of Albany in December of the fourth year, and students participate in the spring commencement ceremony. The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree is awarded from Sage Graduate School at the end of the sixth year. The first formal review for eligibility to continue into the professional program occurs after the fall semester of the third year at RSC or SCA.

Procedures for Progression/Acceleration from RSC or SCA into the DPT Program

By January 15 (fourth year for 4+3 program; third year for 3+3 program) students progressing or accelerating into the DPT Program must:

- Arrange for a meeting with the DPT Program faculty
- Complete the progression/acceleration packet available from the PT Department (Academic and Program Standards Statement, Clinical Observation Documentation Form and Prerequisite Form)
- Submit a current resume
- Provide transcripts from all colleges attended
- Submit one professional letter of recommendation
- Submit a career goals essay



Curriculum

The purpose of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Sage is to provide a quality educational experience that prepares graduates for entry into the physical therapy profession in a manner that exemplifies standards of excellence. Patient/client centered care is at the core of the curriculum design, which is based on the disablement model and the patient/client management model. The DPT curriculum emphasizes a problem-solving approach with collaboration and critical thinking skills for clinical decision-making in patient/client management, communications, interpersonal interactions, and clinical research applications.

Program Length:

The DPT Program is typically three calendar years, beginning in the summer of each year and including seven academic semesters, two summer internships, and one fall internship. Students graduate in May following completion of the third year of the DPT Program.

There is also an option for students to complete the DPT Program in a five-year format. The extended DPT Program is intended to meet the needs of the student who, for a variety of reasons, is not able to complete the 120-credit DPT Program in its current compressed three-year plan. The department is able to offer a very limited number of enrollments for this extended program.

Prerequisite Courses for the DPT Program

Prerequisite courses must be completed prior to beginning the professional program:

	Credits
Anatomy and Physiology	8
Cell Biology/Microbiology or equivalent	4
Chemistry	8
General Physics	8
Introduction to Psychology	3
Human Development	3
Statistics	3

Required 3-Year Professional Course Sequence

	Credits
First Year	
46	
Summer I 15 credits	
PTY 502 Gross and Functional Human Anatomy w/ lab	4
PTY 504 Introduction to the Physical Therapy Profession	3
PTY 505 Surface Anatomy	1
PTY 506 Human Biomechanics w/ lab	5
PTY 521 Pathophysiology I	2
Fall I 15.5 credits	
PTY 501 Neuroscience w/ lab	4
PTY 509 PCM: Integumentary System w/ lab	4
PTY 519 Clinical Applications: Integumentary System	0.5
PTY 522 Pathophysiology II	2
PTY 523 Physiological Principles of Exercise and Assessment w/lab	2
PTY 615 Clinical Research Methods for Physical Therapists	3
Spring I 15.5 credits	
PTY 503 Physical Therapy Interventions w/ lab	4
PTY 507 PCM: Musculoskeletal System I w/ lab	6
PTY 520 Clinical Applications: Musculoskeletal System	0.5
PTY 611 Motor Control across the Life Span: Theory and Application	5

	Second Year	34
Summer II 5 credits		
PTY 608 Clinical Education I		5
Fall II 14.5 credits		
PTY 612 PCM: Musculoskeletal System II w/ lab		4
PTY 614 Psychosocial Aspects of Physical Therapy w/lab		2
PTY 616 PCM: Adult Neuromuscular System w/ lab		5
PTY 620 Clinical Applications: Adult Neuromuscular system		0.5
PTY 647 Analysis of the Professional Literature in Physical Therapy		3
Spring II 14.5 credits		
PTY 610 Health, Culture, and Society: Implications for Physical Therapy Practice		2
PTY 613 PCM: Musculoskeletal System III w/lab		4
PTY 617 PCM: Pediatric Neuromuscular System w/ lab		4
PTY 625 Clinical Applications: Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Systems		0.5
PTY 627 PCM: Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Systems w/ lab		4

	Third Year	40
Summer III 8 credits (May - Aug.)		
PTY 718 Clinical Education II		8
Fall III 16 credits (Sept. - Nov.)		
PTY 721 Health Promotion and Wellness		3
PTY 722 Educational Strategies for Physical Therapists		3
PTY 724 Pharmacotherapeutics for Physical Therapists		3
PTY 725 Differential Diagnosis for Physical Therapists		4

Choose one of the following:

PTY 768 Capstone Experience: Evidence-Based Practice and Case Report	3
PTY 769 Capstone Experience: Faculty Mentored Research Project	
Spring III 8 credits (Nov. - Feb.)	
Spring III 8 credits (November-February)	
PTY 719 Clinical Education III	8
Spring III 8 credits (March - April)	
PTY 720 Administration, Leadership and Business Management for Physical Therapists	3
PTY 723 Medical Imaging for Physical Therapists	2
PTY 730 Professional Practice Issues	3
Completion of: Capstone Experience: Evidence-Based Practice and Case Report Project or Capstone Experience: Faculty Mentored Research Project	

Required 5-Year Extended Professional Course Sequence

		Credits
First Year		15
Summer I	5 credits	
PTY 504	Introduction to the Physical Therapy Profession	3
PTY 521	Pathophysiology I	2
Fall I	8 credits	
PTY 501	Neuroscience w/lab	4
PTY 522	Pathophysiology II	2
PTY 523	Physiological Principles of Exercise and Assessment w/ lab	2
Spring I	2 credits	
PTY 610	Health, Culture, and Society: Implications for Physical Therapy Practice	2
Second Year		28
Summer II	10 credits	
PTY 502	Gross and Functional Human Anatomy w/ lab	4
PTY 505	Surface Anatomy	1
PTY 506	Human Biomechanics w/ lab	5
Fall II	7.5 credits	
PTY 509	PCM: Integumentary System w/ lab	4
PTY 519	Clinical Applications: Integumentary System	0.5
PTY 615	Clinical Research Methods for Physical Therapists	3
Spring II	10.5 credits	
PTY 503	Physical Therapy Interventions w/ lab	4
PTY 507	PCM: Musculoskeletal System I w/ lab	6
PTY 520	Clinical Applications: Musculoskeletal System	0.5
Third Year		23
Summer III	5 credits (May - Aug.)	
PTY 608	Clinical Education I	5
Fall III	9 credits (Sept. - Nov.)	
PTY 612	PCM: Musculoskeletal System II w/ lab	4
PTY 614	Psychosocial Aspects of Physical Therapy /lab	2
PTY 647	Analysis of the Professional Literature in Physical Therapy	3
Spring III	9 credits (Sept. - Nov.)	
PTY 611	Motor Control across the Life Span: Theory and Application	5
PTY 613	PCM: Musculoskeletal Systems III w/ lab	4
Summer IV	No class	
Fourth Year		25
Fall IV	8.5 credits	
PTY 616	PCM: Adult Neuromuscular System w/ lab	5
PTY 620	Clinical Applications: Adult Neuromuscular System	0.5
PTY 724	Pharmacotherapeutics for Physical Therapists	3
Spring IV	8.5 credits	
PTY 617	PCM: Pediatric Neuromuscular System w/ lab	4
PTY 625	Clinical Applications: Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Systems	0.5
PTY 627	PCM: Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Systems w/ lab	4
Summer V	8 credits	
PTY 718	Clinical Education II	8

		Credits
Fifth Year		29
Fall V	13 credits (Sept. - Nov.)	
PTY 721	Health Promotion and Wellness	3
PTY 722	Educational Strategies for Physical Therapists	3
PTY 725	Differential Diagnosis for Physical Therapists	4
	Choose one of the following:	3
PTY 768	Capstone Experience: Evidence-Based Practice and Case Report	
PTY 769	Capstone Experience: Faculty Mentored Research Project	
Spring V	8 credits (Nov. - Feb.)	
PTY 719	Clinical Education III	8
Spring V	8 credits (March - April)	
PTY 720	Administration, Leadership and Business Management for Physical Therapists	3
PTY 723	Medical Imaging for Physical Therapists	2
PTY 730	Professional Practice Issues	3

Completion of: Capstone Experience: Evidence-Based Practice and Case Report Project or Capstone Experience: Faculty Mentored Research Project

The Professional Connection

Sage Graduate School offers distinctive advanced degree programs that address a spectrum of human concerns and reflect a sensitivity and responsiveness to the local community and the broader society. At Sage Graduate School, the emphasis is on applying research and theory to practical, professional situations. Sage's diverse and talented faculty are practitioners themselves, and are committed to helping students acquire the professional skills and the connections to manage and change the workplaces of tomorrow.

Accreditation

Sage's DPT Program is registered by the New York State Education Department, Education Building, Albany, NY 12234, (518) 474-3852 and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, www.apta.org, (703) 706-3245. It is the only physical therapy program in New York's Capital Region.

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