UNIVERSITY POLICY

It is the policy of Widener University not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, national origin or ethnicity, religion, disability, status as a veteran of the Vietnam era or other covered veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in its educational programs, admissions policies, employment practices, financial aid, or other school-administered programs or activities. This policy is enforced under various federal and state laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Further, in compliance with state and federal laws, Widener University will provide the following information upon request: (a) copies of documents pertinent to the university’s accreditations, approvals, or licensing by external agencies or governmental bodies; (b) reports on crime statistics and information on safety policies and procedures; and (c) information regarding gender equity relative to intercollegiate athletic programs—Contact: Vice President for University Advancement, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013, 610-499-4123. Comments or requests for information regarding services and resources for disabled students should be directed to: Director of Disability Services, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013, 610-499-1266; or Dean of Students, Delaware Campus of Widener University, P.O. Box 7474, Wilmington, DE 19803, 302-477-2177.

This publication contains information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements that were correct at the time of publication. In keeping with the educational mission of the university, the information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements contained herein are continually being reviewed, changed, and updated. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and must be used solely as an informational guide. Students are responsible for keeping informed of official policies and meeting all relevant requirements.

The university reserves the right and authority at any time to alter any or all of the statements contained herein, to modify the requirements for admission and graduation, to change or discontinue programs of study, to amend any regulation or policy affecting the student body, to increase tuition and fees, to deny admission, to revoke an offer of admission, and to dismiss from the university any student at any time, if it is deemed by the university to be in the best interest of the university, the university community, or the student to do so. The provisions of this publication are subject to change without notice, and nothing in this publication may be considered as setting forth terms of a contract between a student or a prospective student and Widener University.

ACCRREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Widener University is a member of the Association for Continuing Higher Education and is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Widener University’s graduate programs are additionally accredited by the following: AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (School of Business Administration), American Association of Colleges of Nursing Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (School of Nursing), American Bar Association (School of Law), American Psychological Association (Doctor of Psychology and Clinical Psychology Internship), Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Management Education (Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management), Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (Doctor of Physical Council on Social Work Education (Center for Social Work Education), National Association for Education of Young Children (Child Development Center), Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing (School of Nursing), Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court (School of Law), Pennsylvania Department of Education (Center for Education), Pennsylvania Department of Welfare (Child Development Center), Pennsylvania Private School Board (Center for Education).

Widener University’s graduate programs hold membership in the following: Association of University Programs in Health Administration (School of Business Administration), Association of American Law Schools (School of Law), Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Program (Master of Arts in Liberal Studies), National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (Master of Public Administration), National League for Nursing and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (School of Nursing).

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School of Human Service Professions Information

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Center for Education
- Master of Education (MEd)
- Certification Programs
- Doctor of Education (EdD)

Center for Social Work Education
- Master of Social Work (MSW)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology
- Doctor of Psychology (PsyD)

Institute for Physical Therapy Education
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMS

The School of Human Service Professions aspires to prepare individuals to become innovative scholars-practitioners-citizens. The disciplines of the school use dynamic teaching, active scholarship, personal attention, and community involvement in order to foster leadership, ethical and professional decision-making, interdisciplinary dialogue, a competent responsiveness to the needs of a culturally diverse community, and a commitment to the value of lifelong learning.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Graduate studies brochures are published for the fall and spring semesters and summer sessions. These fully describe registration policies, course schedules, and tuition and fee obligations.

DROP/ADD POLICY

Students taking a course in the Center for Education may withdraw from the course at any time prior to the final examination and receive the grade of W. If a course offered through these programs does not include a final examination, the deadline for withdrawing from the course with a grade of W is the final class meeting of the course. Students taking a course in the clinical psychology program, the social work program, or the physical therapy program may withdraw from the course up to four weeks prior to the last day of classes for the semester and receive the grade of W.

Graduate students begin the withdrawal process by notifying their program director’s office of their intent to withdraw, either orally or in writing. The program director’s office submits a drop/add form, which includes the student’s last date of attendance at an academically related activity, to the Registrar’s Office.

Students may add a course without special permission no later than one week after the semester has begun. If a student wishes to add a course after one week, written permission must be obtained from both the instructor and the program director’s office.

AUDITING

Students will be permitted to audit courses in the graduate program with the approval of the instructor. No grade or credit is given for auditing a course and examinations need not be taken; however, the registration procedure and fee structure are the same as that for other students.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades are recorded as follows:

- A: 4.0 points
- A-: 3.7
- B+: 3.3
- B: 3.0
- B-: 2.7
- C+: 2.3
- C: 2.0
- F: 0.0
- I (Incomplete): 0.0
- W (Withdrawal without prejudice): 0.0
- P/NP (Pass/No Pass): 0.0
- AU (Audit—no credit): 0.0

*only for courses offered on a Pass/No Pass basis

NOTE: Individual instructors may elect, at their discretion, not to use plus/minus grades.

The grade of I is given when a student has not completed course requirements because of excusable reasons. A student who receives a grade of incomplete must arrange to make up all deficiencies with the instructor issuing the grade. If the work is not made up within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the incomplete is received, the grade will be automatically converted to F, unless the course in question is a thesis research course or a dissertation research course. Upon completion of the requirements, the instructor will institute a change of grade. (Note: A student does not register again for a course in which the grade of incomplete has been received.) A student cannot be awarded a degree when there is an outstanding incomplete grade on the transcript, even if the incomplete is in a course not required in the degree program.

If a course is repeated, both grades will be recorded on the transcript, but only the most recent grade will be used in calculating the grade point average (GPA). When a student is found to have violated Widener’s academic fraud policies, that student is prohibited from exercising the repeat-of-course option to remove the F grade (given as a result of fraud) from the GPA calculation.

If a student fails to meet the degree requirements in a timely manner or if repeated failure has occurred, the center or school may terminate the graduate program for the student. Conduct inconsistent with the ethical and professional standards of the discipline, whether it occurs before or after matriculation, is also grounds for dismissal from the program. Such conduct includes academic fraud. A student dismissed for academic fraud may no longer enroll in the graduate programs of the university and may not apply for admission into another division of the university. Please see the section entitled “Standards for Academic Integrity” in the Graduate Student Handbook.
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND AWARDING OF DEGREES

Students are responsible for knowing and meeting curriculum requirements as shown in this bulletin.

Those who expect to receive either the master’s or doctoral degree should make clear their intentions to their advisors. A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of either summer session will be awarded the degree in August of that year; a graduation petition must be submitted by the student to the appropriate program office by March 1. A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of the fall semester will be awarded the degree in December of that year; a graduation petition must be submitted by the student to the appropriate program office by July 1. A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of the spring semester will be awarded the degree in May of that year; a graduation petition must be submitted by the student to the appropriate program office by Nov. 1 of the previous year. The university holds only one formal commencement in the spring to which August, December, and May graduates are invited.

A student who petitions for graduation and who, for whatever reason, is not awarded the degree, must re-petition.

STUDENT STATUS

Students pursuing a course of study in the physical therapy program must register for at least 12 semester hours each semester until all course work in the program has been completed. Students in the physical therapy program may not register for more than 18 credits a semester. Half-time enrollment is defined as a minimum of 6 credits per semester.

TRANSCRIPTS

Students in good financial standing may have copies of their transcripts forwarded to employers, agents, or institutions of higher education by contacting the Office of the Registrar. The first transcript offered on behalf of any student is provided without cost.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Widener University is committed to the safety and security of all members of the Widener University community. The Widener University website contains information on campus security and personal safety, including crime prevention, university law enforcement authority, crime reporting policies, disciplinary procedures, and other campus security matters. It also contains statistics for the three previous calendar years on reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings or property owned and controlled by the university, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from campus.

The annual Campus Safety security reports for the Main and Exton Campuses are available online at www.widener.edu by selecting “Quick Clicks” then “Campus Safety.” The annual security reports for the Delaware and Harrisburg Campuses are available online at www.law.widener.edu by selecting “More Links,” then “Campus Safety.” If you would like a printed copy of these reports, contact the Campus Safety Office at 610-499-4203 to have a copy mailed to you. The information in these reports is required by law and is provided by the Campus Safety Office.

FINANCIAL AID


ACADEMIC CALENDAR

At the start of each semester, students should check their online Campus Cruiser account for academic calendar and deadline information.
DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

PHILOSOPHY

The program is established with the firm belief that individual and cultural differences bring variety to perspectives on health, illness, and disability. Outcomes of health interventions are influenced by the behavior of practitioners as well as patients, families, and significant others. The contemporary clinician uses this knowledge to demonstrate respect for individuals, set and reach realistic goals, and enhance the well-being and autonomy of the client. Therapists assist clients in realizing their potential and utilizing the recovery of function as a measure of well-being. Understanding cultural and individual differences is an important aspect of enabling clients to modify their lifestyles and renew personal objectives. These are important processes within physical therapy practice.

The program’s educational methods and philosophy are based on a belief in adult education, which is both progressive and humanistic. The curriculum is established around a belief in the learner as a self-directed adult ready to initiate and assume the responsibility for learning. The faculty guides learning experiences and provides opportunities for a variety of experiential, interactive, and self-directed learning as well as the traditional receptive learning modalities. Students provide an integral part of the learning process, establishing patterns for lifelong acquisition and integration of new knowledge. Continuing education is a professional responsibility shared by both students and faculty.

Graduates are expected to value the health care system and recognize their own role and contribution to total quality patient care. An understanding of the profound responsibility and privilege of the practitioner enables graduates to act as change agents, empowering others with information and skills. Relationships among and collaboration with health care colleagues are crucial to success in patient care and professional life. Patient management decisions are best accomplished within a referral network, not as an independent entity.

MISSION

The mission of the Institute for Physical Therapy Education of Widener University is to graduate clinically competent physical therapists that demonstrate exemplary character and assume the responsibilities of citizenship. Clinically competent graduates manifest the authentic knowledge and skills of the physical therapy profession engaging in evidence-based practice, life-long learning, and autonomous decision-making. The character traits of our graduates enable them to internalize values that support ethical behavior, compassion, and respect for cultural traditions. Graduates, as responsible citizens, collaborate to enhance health care delivery, to empower clients and families, and to contribute to the profession, community, and society.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The philosophy, goals, and objectives of the program are consistent with the articulated mission for graduate studies as reflected in the mission statement of the School of Human Service Professions. The goals and objectives of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program are also based on the mission of the institute and encompass the tenets of competency, character, and citizenship.

COMPETENCY

1. To provide opportunities to gain the knowledge and experiences necessary to be effective general practitioners.
   • Objective 1.1: Our graduates will apply scientific knowledge, heuristic values, critical analysis, and a systematic approach in order to provide excellent patient care.

2. To illustrate the importance of engagement in professional development.
   • Objective 2.1: Our graduates will make a career commitment to the profession, accepting responsibility for lifelong professional development.

CHARACTER

3. To promote insight into the health care needs of individuals and the cultural perspectives represented.
   • Objective 3.1: Our graduates will address the cultural, social, psychological, and biological factors that contribute to determinants of health, illness, and disability in populations served by physical therapy.

4. To develop skills in evaluating professional environments to recognize the moral dimension of the health care milieu.
   • Objective 4.1: Our graduates will demonstrate compassion and concern for others and value life differences for all consumers of health care.

CITIZENSHIP

5. To encourage active participation in the multiple arenas of the health care delivery system, including patient care, public health, wellness and prevention, advocacy, and professional organizations.
   • Objective 5.1: Our graduates will participate in the changing social, economic, legal, and political events that impact health care and facilitate system innovation.

6. To instill awareness and enhance the ability to effectively advocate for clients and their families.
   • Objective 6.1: Our graduates will participate in activities that ensure access to effective quality patient care services.
   • Objective 6.2: Our graduates will involve patients and families in the decision-making process, empower clients with information, promote healthy lifestyles, and encourage a sense of responsibility for one’s own health.

7. To foster an investment in the physical therapy profession, the community, and society.
   • Objective 7.1: Our graduates will interact with other professionals and community groups to achieve goals in health care.
CURRICULUM

The curriculum design incorporates an approach to learning, moving from the general to the specific and simple to complex, in problem solving with clients over the lifespan. Students are exposed to normal parameters of function to compare with abnormal function and recovery of function. Course work progressively expands the range of information and complexity of interrelationships of prior and new knowledge.

Students will be exposed to directed and carefully constructed clinical experiences, which are linked to existing course work throughout the three years of the program. These clinical experiences will not be in the form of another professional practice course, but will provide the link between “thinking like a physical therapist” and regular classroom activities. The faculty will provide well-developed, regular clinical exposures throughout the curriculum in addition to the four existing professional practice courses. IPTE faculty (core and adjunct) will serve as educators and master clinicians as they guide students in their efforts to gain critical thinking skills.

The DPT curriculum also contains important component focus tracks that address our graduates’ marketability in the changing health care climate while also increasing their ability to fulfill the role that we envision for physical therapy practitioners in the future. Students may select either the specialty focus track (which includes a clinical research project) or certificate programs in health care administration or special education. Graduates, with the additional knowledge from these elective tracks, will be able to provide health care with a more diverse knowledge base and greater understanding of the health care environment.

Integrated supervised clinical observations offer students an opportunity to devise an expanding base of solutions and plans based on realistic case models. The integration of clinical observation and extensive classroom experiential learning and discovery learning strengthens students’ analysis and understanding of information. Regularly scheduled clinical internships provide additional opportunities to gain insight, practice skills, and verify independently drawn conclusions.

THE PROFESSION

The Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education (2004) provides a template to guide the practice and education of physical therapists. This template involves the interrelated components of the current/future health care environment, higher education, and the body of knowledge related to physical therapy. In addition, The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice (2001), a consensus document, attempts to provide a standard definition for physical therapy practice for all practitioners.

The definition of physical therapy provided by The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice (2nd edition, 2001) states: “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” (page 21). The services provided by or under the supervision of a physical therapist include (1) diagnosis and management of movement dysfunction; (2) enhancement and restoration of physical function, wellness, and quality of life; and (3) prevention of onset and progression of impairments, functional limitations, and disability (page 21).

PHYSICAL THERAPY ENTRY OPTIONS

The following information is intended to guide students who are planning to enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Widener University. A number of options are available for entry to the program. Each student must select the option that is most appropriate for him or her.

OPTION ONE

Undergraduate students from Widener University, as well as students from articulated institutions, may qualify to enter Widener’s graduate program in physical therapy following their third year of study under the 3+3 track. To do this, Widener students must major in anthropology, behavioral science, biology, psychology, or sociology and take a specially determined sequence of courses. Specific details of the 3+3 curriculum ladders are reviewed in detail in Widener University’s Undergraduate Bulletin. A list of articulated colleges and their majors is available from the Institute for Physical Therapy Education upon request.

The 3+3 admissions program enables undergraduate students majoring in anthropology, behavioral science, biology, psychology, or sociology to complete prerequisite course work and apply for admission to Widener’s graduate physical therapy program during their junior year. Because of the intense demands of these curriculum ladders, the 3+3 admissions program is recommended only for students with a record of outstanding academic achievement at the high school level.

Those students accepted into the graduate program through this option begin their physical therapy curriculum in the fall of their fourth year of study at the university. Students following these curriculum ladders must meet all requirements of their selected major as described in the Undergraduate Bulletin in the sections pertaining to the science division and the social science division of the College of Arts and Sciences. Students following these curriculum ladders must also satisfy the general education requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences. Please see the relevant sections of the Undergraduate Bulletin for details. Students who successfully complete the prescribed program of study are guaranteed a seat in Widener University’s graduate physical therapy program.

To remain in the program, the student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 while pursuing one of the pre-physical therapy curriculum ladders. In addition, the student must complete all of the specific courses required for admission to the graduate physical therapy program with a minimum grade of B– in each course. The student must meet periodically with a physical therapy faculty member designated as the professional education advisor. Students who fail to meet these requirements must still apply for admission to the graduate physical therapy program; see the section on alternate admission to the graduate physical therapy program.

By the fall of the student’s junior year, he or she must complete all required volunteer work in physical therapy practice sites. The student must also submit by January 30 of the junior year a complete application to the graduate physical therapy program, including one letter of recommendation from a physical therapist and responses to the essay questions. The letter of recommendation and the responses to the essay questions must meet the existing standards for all applicants to the program.

The courses that the “3+3” students take during the first year of the physical therapy program count toward requirements for the baccalaureate degree and toward requirements for the graduate physical therapy degree. The baccalaureate degree in anthropology, biology, psychology, sociology, or behavioral science is
conferring upon completion of the first year of graduate study. Students pursuing these pre-physical therapy curriculum ladders should consult with the advisors in the physical therapy program in the School of Human Service Professions, in addition to their science or social science faculty advisor.

**OPTION TWO**

Applicants holding a bachelor’s degree in any discipline from this or another university may apply to the program under the entry-level DPT track. Students entering under this option usually include recent graduates and students seeking a career change. Students are encouraged to contact the program early to assess the need for completion of prerequisite course work. Courses taken in preparation for entry may be completed at Widener University or at another university. Students holding the bachelor’s degree from this or another university may apply to the program in the regular admissions cycle. Transcripts will be evaluated for possible advanced standing in the program. Advanced standing may place the student into part-time status during the first year; thereafter, the student must be enrolled full time.

**OPTION THREE**

Students who have completed a course of study in a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program, earning an associate’s degree from an accredited university or college, may enter University College to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Allied Health. Advanced standing will be offered for the professional courses from the PTA school (up to 30 credits). Additional courses that fulfill the prerequisites for the physical therapy curriculum will also be counted in the student’s advanced standing. Therefore, students may earn up to 60 credits in advanced standing prior to admission to University College. Students who have completed the equivalent of five semesters of undergraduate course work at University College are eligible to apply for admission to the physical therapy program if their plan for completion of prerequisites demonstrates an ability to complete all course work by the following September. Applicants are required to submit GRE scores as part of the application process and follow all application procedures.

Physical Therapist Assistant students accepted into the program will also be offered the opportunity to sit for challenge exams for specific course content. These areas of study are to be determined by the faculty. Written policies regarding specific challenge exams will be made available by the faculty to the student upon request. In addition, the PTA student may elect to have certain laboratory experiences waived. The labs available for waiver opportunities will be determined by the faculty and posted for students’ information.

Students who have studied in health-related programs other than PTA programs may use the University College option for completion of prerequisites and to earn a bachelor’s degree. Challenge exams may be open to these students based on faculty decision, but the waiver of laboratory experiences is closed.

**ADMISSION GUIDELINES**

Admission guidelines are established by the Professional Advisory Committee in conjunction with the faculty and in compliance with university standards for graduate programs. Admission to a graduate program of study will be restricted to students who demonstrate the capacity for graduate-level studies through performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and a satisfactory grade point average (GPA). A prerequisite GPA is recomputed for all applicants. The science portion of the recomputed GPA is expected to be at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). GRE scores of at least 1000 on the combined verbal and quantitative segments are expected for admission to the program. The following prerequisite courses are required for all domestic applicants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>3 semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy</td>
<td>3 semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>3 semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>8 semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>6 semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>9 semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3 semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pre-P.T. students from Widener and other institutions with articulation agreements should consult their undergraduate bulletin for prerequisites. In addition, students are expected to submit GRE scores and provide evidence of volunteer service in physical therapy. Three letters of recommendation are required. One of the letters must be from a physical therapist, and another must be from a professor. Students are expected to demonstrate computer literacy through either course work or documentation of experience. Successful completion of Professional Rescuer CPR and First Aid will be required prior to the first clinical affiliation. Prior to matriculation, those admitted to the program must attest to their ability, with or without reasonable accommodation, to perform all essential functions described in the institute’s Essential Functions Document.

**Notice to Applicants:** The application review process will begin November 1. The final deadline for students to submit an application is January 30 of the year they wish to start the program. Applications received after the specified deadline will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants will receive notification of the receipt of application materials and will be kept apprised of the status on any outstanding materials awaiting submission from other sources. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis. Applicants will be notified when the decisions are made.

A prior felony conviction may make a student ineligible for physical therapy licensure and, therefore, ineligible for admission to the program. Prospective students who have had felony convictions should consult the Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners in Harrisburg for licensure specifics.

**International Students**

International students should consult the International Student Services web page at [www.widener.edu](http://www.widener.edu) for international graduate student guidelines or contact the Office of International Student Services at Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; phone: 610-499-4499.
### CURRICULUM OVERVIEW—SPECIALTY FOCUS TRACK (INCLUDING RESEARCH PROJECT)

Taking more than 18 credits in any semester will need the approval of the associate dean and faculty.

#### YEAR ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 750</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 505*</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 701</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 730</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMSA 601*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
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<td>PT 708</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
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#### YEAR TWO

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#### YEAR THREE

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<th>Credits</th>
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**Total Credits: 120**

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**ELECTIVE TRACKS**

Students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program have a total of 12 credits that are used to pursue an area of interest. There are three elective options, which include two certificate programs and the specialty focus option. Each of the certificate programs enables the students to obtain 18 credits that can be transferred and applied to a master's degree if the students opt to do so as professional development beyond their physical therapy education. The specialty focus option preserves the traditional faculty-student mentoring process that is typical of the research experience in graduate education.

**SPECIALTY FOCUS OPTION**

The course sequence listed in the bulletin reflects the courses taken if a student selects the specialty focus option. This option involves small groups of students who work with a faculty member in their area of clinical specialty. The specialty focus option involves clinical observation and practical experiences, as well as participation in a clinical research project within the faculty member's research agenda. The outcome of this four-course sequence is a publishable article or national presentation of the group's work. Students decide, with their faculty mentor, when to take the four specialty focus courses. The sequence presented in here is an example of a common way of organizing the course sequence.

**CERTIFICATE OPTIONS**

As an alternative to the specialty focus option, students may choose to use their elective credits to pursue a certificate in an area related to physical therapy. Students who elect the Health Care Management (HCM), Special Education, or Health and Wellness Promotion Certificate options will not take the Specialty Focus I–IV as listed above. Instead, they will take courses from the School of Business, the Center for Education, or the School of Nursing. Students will receive a certificate in their area of study upon graduation. These courses may be taken in any semester. Typically students take one course in the spring of the first year, two courses in the summer between the first and second years, and one course in the fall of the second year.

**HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT (HCM) TRACK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUS 520 Accounting &amp; Legal Environment of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(spring or summer, year one)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCM 670 Intro. to Legal Issues in Health Care Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(spring, year one)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGT 622 Developing Management Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(summer, year one)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCM 605 Organization &amp; Administration of Health Care Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(fall, year two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCM 673 Financial Management in the Health Care Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(spring, year two)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Required core courses cannot generally be waived based on professional experiences; course work taken at another university, or participation in continuing education courses. Consult program coordinator for details.
SPECIAL EDUCATION/ SERVICES FOR CHILDREN TRACK

Required course*
ED 551  Introduction to Special Education ........... 3

Electives (must take three)
ED 506  School Law & Child Rights ................. 3
ED 517  Psychology of the School Age Child ....... 3
ED 518  Adolescent Psychology .................. 3
ED 519  Early Childhood Development ............. 3
ED 555  Current Issues in Education ............... 3
ED 588  Special Topics ............................. 3
ED 661,  Education of Students with Learning 
or ED 662,  Disabilities / Developmental Disabilities / 
or ED 663  Emotional or Behavior Disorders ........ 3
ED 667  Effective Collaboration & Team Building .... 3
TED 533  Assistive Technology ........................ 3

*Required core courses cannot generally be waived based on professional experiences, course work taken at another university, or participation in continuing education courses. Consult program coordinator for details.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROMOTION TRACK

Required courses*
NURS 638  Issues in Health Care for the Undeserved .... 3
NURS 668  Holistic Health Promotion .................. 3

Electives (must take two)
NURS 633  Injury Prevention in Children & Adolescents . . 3
NURS 636  Dynamics of Family Health Care .......... 3
NURS 670  Epidemiology .............................. 3

*Required core courses cannot generally be waived based on professional experiences, course work taken at another university, or participation in continuing education courses. Consult program coordinator for details.

SPECIAL STATUS STUDENT

Occasionally, practicing licensed physical therapists are interested in completing courses offered by the graduate program but do not wish to pursue graduate degrees. The physical therapy program encourages physical therapists to increase or review their areas of knowledge and training. Therefore, students who are not matriculated in the DPT program are permitted to enroll in graduate courses at the 700 or 800 level. It is not necessary for a special status student to provide letters of recommendation or pay the required application fee for admission into the graduate division. Priority for enrollment for all courses goes to those students who are officially admitted into the graduate division. Students may enroll only with written permission of the associate dean.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy, the candidate must:

- Pass all laboratory exercises and examinations.
- Successfully complete the comprehensive examination upon completion of course work.

Please note that a waiver of any requirement for the degree must be approved in writing by the associate dean.

TRANSFER CREDIT

Students who apply for admission to the DPT program may transfer a maximum of 12 semester hours of graduate course work completed in a related discipline for advanced standing in the program. Fifteen credits of equivalent work in another CAPTE accredited program may be transferable after review by the faculty and the associate dean. To be accepted for transfer credit, graduate courses must be recent (within two calendar years) and indicate a high degree of scholarship (grades of A or B). Transfer students may apply only in the usual cycle of admissions and must meet all other requirements for admission.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND STANDARDS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

In addition to those policies and standards noted previously, the following are required in Widener’s physical therapy program:

- A maximum of three core courses may be waived without replacement for graduate courses of equivalent quality and content taken elsewhere. Additional courses may be waived with replacement by permission of the associate dean.
- Any student who earns a semester GPA below a 3.0 will automatically be put on academic probation. If a student has a second semester on probation at any time in the program, the student will be required to meet with the Academic Standards Review Committee. The committee will discuss performance issues and may dismiss the student from the program. This decision is made after careful consideration of the student’s overall performance in the program. If a student has a third semester on probation in any subsequent semester, he or she will be required to again meet with the Academic Standards Review Committee, which will determine if the student can continue in the program.
- If a student fails a course, that course may be repeated only once with permission of the Academic Standards Review Committee. The student may also be prohibited from moving forward in the lock-step program until those courses in which the student received a failing grade are repeated successfully. After the student successfully repeats a failed course, both grades are recorded on the transcript but only the most recent grade is used in calculating the GPA. However, when a student is convicted under Widener’s academic fraud policies, that student is prohibited from exercising the repeat-of-course option to remove the F grade (given as a result of fraud) from the GPA calculation. To graduate, students must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 on a standard 4.0 system. No student will graduate from the physical therapy program with an incomplete grade.
- If a student fails to meet the degree requirements in a timely manner, the school may dismiss the student. Notification of such a decision is provided by the Office of the Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies. Once a student has been dismissed, he/she may no longer enroll in graduate programs of the university and may not apply for admission into another division of the university.
- If a student repeatedly fails courses, the school may dismiss the student. A student will be dismissed from the program
when his/her cumulative average is below 3.0 and when a grade of C or below is received in a second course in the same semester. After not being in the program for one semester, the student may petition the Physical Therapy Admissions Committee for readmission. The committee may require the student to repeat those courses.

- Conduct inconsistent with the ethical and professional standards of the discipline, whether it occurs before or after matriculation, is grounds for dismissal from the program.
- The code of responsible conduct for graduate students requires that each student maintain academic integrity and act according to this code in all academic matters. Students are asked to read and sign the program’s policy on academic integrity upon entering the program. They are also expected to abide by the code of ethics and uphold the standards of practice for physical therapists as published by the American Physical Therapy Association. Clinical integrity should model academic integrity. Students should refer to standards for clinical behavior published in the program’s clinical education manual. Scientific misconduct is defined in the document *Honor in Science* published by Sigma Xi Research Society. Such misconduct during a student’s research project may result in disciplinary action.
- After enrollment in the program, all students will receive the “Essential Functions Document” to review and sign. This document outlines the essential functions of a physical therapy student in the program at Widener University. Students will attest to their ability to perform these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations. More information about reasonable accommodations can be obtained by contacting the university’s Disabilities Services program or the ADA coordinator.
- Misconduct outside the program that results in a felony conviction may make a student ineligible for licensure as a physical therapist; hence, students who are convicted of a felony may be dismissed.

**CLINICAL EDUCATION STANDARDS**

- A student will be allowed to participate in professional practice courses when all prerequisite course work has been successfully completed. A student whose prior semester GPA is less than a 3.0 in the physical therapy curriculum, including elective tracks and specialty certifications, must meet with the Academic Standards Review Committee. The Academic Standards Review Committee will (1) determine if the student can participate in the professional phase of the curriculum and (2) review the student’s performance in the curriculum to determine if continuation in the program is possible. If a grade of I (Incomplete) has been issued for any prerequisite course(s), entry in clinical affiliations is at the discretion and mutual consensus of the associate dean and the academic coordinator of clinical education (ACCE). A plan for course completion and resolution of the Incomplete must be approved by the professor(s) of the course. The current grade in the course must also meet “Academic Policies and Standards in Physical Therapy,” described above.
- At the midterm and final evaluation, the student will also rate his/her individual performance using a separate copy of the evaluation tool. This self-evaluation is also discussed during the formal feedback session as a way to enhance the student’s ability to evaluate his or her own performance. Experience with self-evaluation is critical for students to assist them with their future development of professional goals.
- Once the final evaluation is completed and signed by the student and the CI, the CI or CCCE will mail the evaluation to the ACCE.
- Students will also be asked to evaluate the clinical education experience using a “Site Evaluation” form. These evaluations will provide helpful information regarding the site, the clinical instructor to the ACCE, and the clinical facility.
- Based upon the ratings and comments provided by the CI, and possibly the CCCE, the ACCE will assign a final grade for each affiliation completed by an individual student. The grades will be recorded as Pass or No Pass.
- If a No Pass grade is received, the ACCE will determine if a student is entitled to remediate by completing another affiliation, or, if, through the assistance of the respective clinical faculty, further time at that particular facility will meet the needs of the student. If the student is required to complete an additional affiliation, the ACCE will determine when and where the student will repeat the affiliation.
- If a student has a total of two No Pass grades in any of the professional practice courses, including repeated attempts, that student will be dismissed from the program. After dismissal, the student may petition the associate dean for possible reinstatement to the program. This may result in establishment of a mutually agreeable remediation plan and timetable.
- If a student is unable to successfully complete a scheduled professional practice course, progression in the curriculum will be allowed so long as the student is no more than one professional practice course behind the class. The reasons for such a situation may be, but are not limited to, an Incomplete or No Pass grade in a professional practice course or personal reasons.

**MATRICULATION**

A matriculated student is one who meets all entrance requirements and is pursuing an approved program that leads to a graduate degree.

**ATTENDANCE**

Students enrolled in graduate courses are considered to be mature students. For this reason, there is no general policy for attendance in graduate courses. However, with certain courses, it is appropriate for the instructor to make regular class attendance mandatory. Such policies will be announced during the first class meeting and included in the course syllabus.

**AUDITING**

A student will be permitted to audit courses in graduate programs with the approval of the instructor and the associate dean. No grade or credit is given for auditing a course and examinations need not be taken; however, the registration procedure and fee structure are the same as those for other students. Courses previously taken for credit may not be audited.

**GRADING IN PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Graduate students in the physical therapy program are expected to maintain satisfactory progress toward their graduate degree. The graduate record for a student begins with the first course in which he/she enrolls and includes all subsequent courses.

For specific information on grades, see “Grading System” in the “School of Human Professions Information” section.
Pass/No Pass—Almost all graduate courses in physical therapy will give standard letter grades. The special nature of some courses will require that they be graded on a Pass/No Pass basis.

Students who elect to withdraw from a required physical therapy course may not continue with the program unless permission is granted following review by the Academic Standards Review Committee.

GRADUATION
Students can officially graduate at the end of the fall, spring, and summer terms. Only one graduation ceremony is held each year. Commencement is in May following the spring semester. Students planning to graduate must file a petition. (For more information, see sections titled “Goals and Objectives” and “Degree Requirements.”)

ACCREDITATION
The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association accredits physical therapy education programs in the United States. The program received its initial accreditation in May 1996, when it offered the Master of Science in Physical Therapy. In May 2000, the program was granted accreditation to offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY POST-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

PHILOSOPHY
The Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (t-DPT) program is a post-professional program designed to help licensed, practicing physical therapists obtain the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. The t-DPT was originally designed for graduates of Widener’s Institute for Physical Therapy Education who have entered the profession through the entry-level master degree program. The program is now open to graduates of other programs of study, provided they successfully graduated from an accredited physical therapy program and are currently licensed to practice physical therapy. The t-DPT prepares therapists to be autonomous health care practitioners by augmenting their skills and knowledge in the areas of scientific inquiry, differential diagnosis, radiology, pharmacology, human resource and materials management, communication, education, and health and wellness screening and promotion.

Guided by integrity, life-long learning, and a commitment to comprehensive and accessible health programs for all people, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants will render evidence-based service throughout the continuum of care and improve quality of life for society. They will provide culturally sensitive care distinguished by trust, respect, and an appreciation for individual differences.

While fully availing themselves of new technologies, as well as basic and clinical research, physical therapists will continue to provide direct care. They will maintain active responsibility for the growth of the physical therapy profession and the health of the people it serves.

—APTA Vision Statement 2020, HOD 06-00-24-35

Graduates of the t-DPT program will be better able to serve the health care needs of a variety of consumers and contribute to the advancement of the profession. The program provides skills that will foster the efficient delivery of health care services to a diverse population of consumers. The curriculum enables program graduates to build on their existing clinical experiences, while earning a clinical doctoral level degree.

The purposes of the t-DPT program are to prepare licensed physical therapists who can do the following:
1. Function as primary, autonomous providers of physical therapy care.
2. Assume roles related to being a responsible member of the professional health care community.
3. Assume leadership roles in the health care community.
4. Identify clinical problems and incorporate current research findings into clinical practice.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the social, economic, and cultural issues affecting clinical practice and effectively advocate for changes in health care policy.
6. Correlate emerging theories with current clinical practice.
7. Participate in and provide education to various health care consumers, patients, peers, and students.

MISSION
The t-DPT program is built upon the same mission and philosophy as the institute’s entry-level program. The t-DPT program also has its own unique mission. To meet the changing needs of the health care delivery system, the t-DPT program seeks to graduate an autonomous practitioner with the expertise and skills to examine, evaluate, and diagnose physical impairments affecting the musculoskeletal, neurological, integumentary, cardiovascular, and pulmonary systems that occur as a result of injury, disease, or disability. Program graduates will have the capacity to examine physical impairments as they relate to functional limitations and disability. Graduates of the t-DPT program will be able to evaluate patients across the life span and make sound clinical decisions about prognosis. Program graduates will also be able to work with other health care professionals to develop a comprehensive interdisciplinary treatment plan.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES
Graduates of the t-DPT program will be able to integrate the following skills into their current professional practice:
1. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to use clinical reasoning to solve patient management problems.
2. Understand and apply principles of evidence-based assessment to the practice of physical therapy.
3. Provide services that are based on the best available evidence to all areas of clinical practice, including physical therapy examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, prevention activities, wellness initiatives, and appropriate health care utilization.
4. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate new or evolving theories and technologies that are relevant to physical therapy practice across a variety of settings and patient diagnoses.
5. Demonstrate the ability to meet the challenges of direct access and autonomous practice.
6. Use methods to optimize patient/client care outcomes.
7. Participate in reflective clinical practice through sound clinical decision making, critical self-assessment, and commitment to lifelong learning.
8. Demonstrate the behaviors of the scholar-clinician by enhancing the process of critical thinking and inquiry to foster improvements in the practice of physical therapy and contribute to the evolution of the physical therapy profession.
9. Demonstrate advanced leadership, management, and communication skills to effectively participate in all aspects of health care.
10. Demonstrate the professional and social skills that are necessary to adapt to changing health care environments, which will enable the efficacious provision of physical therapy care to clients across the life span.

**CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

The curriculum is comprised of a minimum of 18 credits, leading to the Doctor of Physical Therapy for graduates of the Institute for Physical Therapy Education. This course work can be completed in one year.

Individuals who received their physical therapy degree from an institution other than Widener University will need to submit transcripts and a summary of their professional development activities since graduation. This will be used, along with other materials required in the application, to determine whether additional course work beyond the 18-credit program is necessary. Courses are scheduled to run on weekends and via the internet.

The curriculum is organized into five major content areas: (1) Foundations of Physical Therapy Practice, (2) Examination, Evaluation, Diagnosis, and Prognosis, (3) Critical Inquiry, (4) Advanced Clinical Practice/Interventions, and (5) Administration, Communication, and Education. Students enrolled in the program must complete a minimum of 9 credits in residence at Widener University. Some of the course work may be waived based on life experiences. This is determined through the submission of a professional development portfolio.

**CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundations of Physical Therapy Practice</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 900 Foundations of Current PT Practice*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 902 Professional Portfolio Development*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examination, Evaluation, Diagnosis, and Prognosis</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 906 Imaging &amp; Pharmacotherapeutics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 910 Principles of Differential Diagnosis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Critical Inquiry</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 904 Evidence-Based Clinical Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 920 DPT Project*</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced Clinical Practice/Interventions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 916 Advanced Practice Elective/Independent Study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 918 Advanced Practice Elective/Independent Study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration, Communication, and Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 912 Health Promotion &amp; Academic Teaching*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 914 Principles of Health Care Leadership &amp; Management*</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Required core courses—cannot generally be waived based on professional experiences, course work taken at another university, or participation in continuing education courses. Consult program coordinator for details.

**SEMESTER FORMAT**

Most courses are structured to allow independent study, directed by web-based resources and electronic mail, along with an on-campus weekend session. A typical course allows 2–4 weeks of predidactic reading and instructional preparation, assigned and directed using web-based instructional methods. This is followed by an on-campus session with the instructor that will occur typically over a Friday and Saturday or a Saturday and Sunday. An additional 2–4 weeks is allowed to complete any additional readings and assignments and submit all course project requirements via e-mail. Given the format, participants will be able to work full time throughout their education and no extended work leave will be necessary.

All semesters will run eight weeks with a one month break between semesters. Courses will be scheduled to be maximally convenient for the adult learner, who will most likely be employed full time in clinical practice.

**NONMATRICULATED STUDENTS**

Students may take up to six semester hours of study for transfer toward the degree prior to official acceptance into the program.

**DEGREE COMPLETION OPTIONS**

Two options are available for completing the program. With Option 1, the student can complete the necessary course work in approximately one year. With Option 2, course work would be completed in two years taking one or two courses per semester. All candidates for the t-DPT will track through the curriculum in one or two year cycles. Students are expected to be able to complete the program in a maximum of two years. For those students who wish to take longer than two years to complete the required course work, a plan of study must be developed by the student and submitted for review by the t-DPT Program Committee.

**DEGREE COMPLETION OPTION 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1—September, October, November</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 900 Foundations of Current PT Practice*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 902 Professional Portfolio Development*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 904 Evidence-Based Clinical Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2—January, February</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 906 Imaging &amp; Pharmacotherapeutics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 912 Health Promotion &amp; Academic Teaching*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 3—April, May</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 910 Principles of Differential Diagnosis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 914 Principles of Health Care Leadership &amp; Mgmt.*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 916 Advanced Practice Elective/Independent Study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 4—July, August</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 918 Advanced Practice Elective/Independent Study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 920 DPT Project*</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEGREE COMPLETION OPTION 2

**Semester 1—September, October, November**

- PT 902 Professional Portfolio Development* .................. 1
- and either
  - PT 900 Foundations of Current PT Practice* .................. 2
  - or
  - PT 904 Evidence-Based Clinical Practice .................. 2

**Semester 2—January, February**

- PT 906 Imaging & Pharmacotherapeutics .................. 2
  - or
  - PT 912 Health Promotion & Academic Teaching* .......... 1

**Semester 3—April, May**

- PT 910 Principles of Differential Diagnosis .................. 2
  - or
  - PT 914 Principles of Health Care Leadership & Mgmt.* .. 2

**Semester 4—July, August**

- PT 916 Advanced Practice Elective/Independent Study ........ 2

**Semester 5—September, October, November**

- PT 900 Foundations of Current PT Practice* .................. 2
  - or
  - PT 904 Evidence-Based Clinical Practice .................. 2
  - or
  - PT 918 Advanced Practice Elective/Independent Study ........ 2

**Semester 6—January, February**

- PT 906 Imaging & Pharmacotherapeutics .................. 2
  - or
  - PT 912 Health Promotion & Academic Teaching* .......... 1
  - or
  - PT 918 Advanced Practice Elective/Independent Study ........ 2

**Semester 7—April, May**

- PT 910 Principles of Differential Diagnosis .................. 2
  - or
  - PT 914 Principles of Health Care Leadership & Mgmt.* .. 2
  - or
  - PT 918 Advanced Practice Elective/Independent Study ........ 2

**Semester 8—July, August**

- PT 920 DPT Project* ........................................ 2/3

*Required core courses—cannot generally be waived based on professional experiences, course work taken at another university, or participation in continuing education courses. Consult program coordinator for details.

**ADMISSION GUIDELINES**

Admission to the transitional program occurs on a continuous basis and is open only to licensed, practicing physical therapists. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Applications are available by contacting the program office at 610-499-1277. The deadline for applications is August 30. The application for admission requires submitting the following materials:

1. Proof of current licensure to practice physical therapy.
2. Curriculum vitae or résumé outlining all professional development activities.
3. A one-page personal statement of professional goals and objectives.
4. Completed application form with appropriate fees.
5. Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
6. Provide evidence of the ability to meet the technology requirement for participation in the program. Computer literacy is required. Additional computer software requirements and specifications will be provided upon acceptance into the program.

Applicants who have a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy or a certificate but do not have a master's degree are also encouraged to apply. In addition to submitting the materials listed above, applicants are required to complete the Physical Therapist Evaluation Tool. Please contact the program coordinator, Bob Wellmon, at 610-499-1295 to discuss the specific program requirements. For more information about PTET, please contact:

**PTET**

Credentialing Services, Inc.

PO Box 1502

Galesburg, IL 61402-1502

Phone: 309-343-1202

Fax: 309-344-1715

**Technology Requirements**

Minimum system requirements will be made available to applicants by contacting the program.

**International Students**

International students should follow additional requirements outlined on page 6 for the entry-level DPT program.

**ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**Application for Advanced Program Standing**

Students can petition to receive credit for up to six semester hours by showing evidence of the successful completion of course work, clinical specialization, or related experience. All requests for course waivers and transfer credits based on professional life experience will be reviewed by the t-DPT Program Committee. Application for credit waivers can be made during the first semester of matriculation, after completing DPT 902 Professional Portfolio Development. The committee will review the student's request and make a decision within two weeks of receiving the request for credit waiver.

**Transfer Credits**

Students who have taken courses that may fulfill a part of the curriculum requirement may apply for a course waiver. Waiver applications can be submitted only for those graduate and continuing education courses completed no more than seven years prior to admission to the program. Only those graduate courses in which the student received a minimum grade of B– are eligible for transfer.

Students will have the option to receive credit for the following: course work taken at another university toward an area identified in the professional development plan; professional continuing education courses taken within an identified area of clinical specialization that is listed in the professional development plan; preparation for a clinical specialist examination; professional life experience with documented evidence of the experience meeting the objectives identified in the professional development plan; fellowships in a specialized area of practice; and participation in a clinical residency. The applicant's request for transfer credits or advanced standing in the program will be evaluated by the t-DPT Program Committee. Awarding of credit for life experience and waiver of course work will be based on the student’s professional development plan, which is completed during the first semester in the program.
Course waivers will not be considered nor granted prior to entry and enrollment into the t-DPT program. Students who have taken courses that may fulfill a part of the didactic curriculum program requirement are required to submit the following documentation items:

1. A letter addressed to the t-DPT Program Committee formally requesting a waiver credit for a specific t-DPT course.
2. An official transcript for the course being considered for equivalency or waiver.
3. A detailed course syllabus, which should include a topical outline of the course including the names of required textbooks and other learning experiences. Course descriptions found in college catalogs are NOT acceptable substitutes for course syllabi.
4. Other items of documentation the student feels are important to support the waiver request. Please see the summary contained in the elective courses for additional options for course waivers.

When applying for course waiver based on participation in continuing education courses, the applicant must submit evidence of attendance at the continuing education courses and discuss the relevance of the course to the practice of physical therapy and the professional development plan. This can be accomplished by submitting copies of attendance or graduation certificates, state licensure documentation of CEUs or by submitting letters from course directors affirming attendance at these courses. Total number of hours spent in continuing education must be also documented.

The policies on matriculation, attendance, auditing, grading, and graduation that apply to the entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy program are also applicable in the Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for the degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy, candidates from the transitional program must:

- Comply with all general requirements of Widener University relating to the governance of graduate programs.
- Complete at least 18 credits of approved graduate coursework (including transfer credit and advanced standing credit).
- Successfully complete the DPT project.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) or better. Please note that a waiver of any requirement for the degree must be approved in writing by the associate dean.

**Courses**

Taking more than 18 credits in any semester will need the approval of the associate dean and faculty.

**PHYSICAL THERAPY COURSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 505</td>
<td>HISTOLOGY: FOUNDATION SCIENCES I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(DUAL LISTED WITH PT 703)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 701</td>
<td>ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 703</td>
<td>FOUNDATION SCIENCES I (DUAL LISTED WITH BIOL 505)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 705</td>
<td>ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION II (DUAL LISTED WITH HMSA 601)</td>
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<td>PT 706</td>
<td>FOUNDATION SCIENCES II</td>
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<td>A clinical approach to physiological systems most relevant to the practice of physical therapy provides a foundation for later sequences in the curriculum. Content relates to normal and abnormal muscle and nerve physiological function, growth and repair of bone and soft tissue, cardiopulmonary system functions, nutrition and digestion, endocrine regulation of metabolism, homeostasis, and kidney function. Discussion of clinical applications and case studies in seminar format are included. The course is comprised of three hours of lecture and one hour of seminar. 3 semester hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 708</td>
<td>FOUNDATION SCIENCES III</td>
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<td>The study of human anatomical structures as they relate to movement, physiological demands of activity, and exercise. Specimens, models, and videotapes aid a regional approach to the study of structures. Lectures and laboratory experiences with cadaver dissection. 5 semester hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 709</td>
<td>FOUNDATION SCIENCES IV</td>
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<td>Studies of the relationship between structure, function, and control of the human nervous system in normal and diseased states. Laboratory experiences enhance students’ understanding of normal and dysfunctional posture and movement. Lectures and laboratory experiences. 4 semester hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 710</td>
<td>ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION III</td>
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<td>Sociological and cultural perspectives on medicine and health care with special emphasis on the relationship of health care to society, the professions, and the process of professional socialization. The course is comprised of two hours of lecture, classroom discussion, and individual study. 2 semester hours</td>
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PT 712 FOUNDATION SCIENCES V
Survey of normal growth and development through the lifespan. Course covers psychosocial, motor, and cognitive development. Particular emphasis is placed on the relationship between development and theories of recovery function, and realistic goal setting for physical therapy treatment of clients of all ages. The course is comprised of two hours of lecture, one hour of classroom discussion, and individual study. 3 semester hours

PT 714 ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION IV
The course is designed to expose students to the current issues being discussed in the national health care arena relating to reimbursement, entitlement, rationing, consent, professional development, and ethical concepts and principles. Students select small group discussion topics to creatively contribute to potential solutions. 2 semester hours

PT 715 ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION V
Students are introduced to formal educational and learning theory. The students then apply theory to classroom and patient care settings with structured guidance. The students will have the opportunity to learn the process of evaluating learner needs, developing a plan to address those needs, and evaluating the process and learner outcomes. Woven throughout this course are opportunities for the student to develop self-assessment and learner-assessment skills. Students will complete a teaching assistantship and conduct a teaching practicum as well as apply these skills to patient educational problems. 3 semester hours

PT 722 FOUNDATION SCIENCES VI
The study of the nature of disease, the physiology of abnormal states, resultant effects on body tissue, and treatment effects. Course content covers incidence/prevalence, etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, medical management, and pharmacology, as well as prognosis and potential for recovery for selected conditions. 3 semester hours

PT 723 FOUNDATION SCIENCES VII
The study of the nature of disease, the physiology of abnormal states, resultant effects on body tissue, and treatment effects. Course content covers incidence/prevalence, etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, medical management, and pharmacology, as well as prognosis and potential for recovery for selected conditions. 3 semester hours

PT 724 EXAMINATION/EVALUATION/DIAGNOSIS/PROGNOSIS I
Initiation of understanding the full role of a physical therapist based on focused and directed clinical experiences. The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice is the main prototype of clinical practice applied to these clinical experiences. The course is designed to assist learners in framing their initial clinical practice schema. Class meets for 2 hours a week for 7 weeks. 1 semester hour

PT 725 EXAMINATION/EVALUATION/DIAGNOSIS/PROGNOSIS II
Analysis of human posture and movement in normal and abnormal states. Course includes palpation of anatomical structures and study of the principles of biomechanics, including arthro-kine-matics, osteokinematics, and kinetics. The course is comprised of two hours of lecture, three hours of laboratory, and individual study. 3 semester hours

PT 726 EXAMINATION/EVALUATION/DIAGNOSIS/PROGNOSIS III
The administration of test procedures to collect data pertaining to body system states, general health status and functional capacity of clients for screening or the determination of a physical therapy diagnosis, planning of treatment interventions, evaluating outcomes of care, and referral to other practitioners. The course is comprised of two hours of lecture, five hours of laboratory, clinical exposure, and independent study. 4 semester hours

PT 730 INTERVENTION I
Basic concepts and treatments administered by physical therapists in the clinical setting. Course includes gait, physical modalities, transfers and safety procedures, massage, and documentation. Lecture and laboratory components prepare students for direct patient care. The course is comprised of three hours of lecture, three hours of laboratory, and clinical observation. 3 semester hours

PT 731 INTERVENTION II
The study of the physiological basis for human movement and function. A systems approach is presented in the study of the effects of exercise and inactivity on the body. The second half of the course includes therapeutic exercise applied to a variety of patient populations and normals through the lifespan. The course is comprised of three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory. 3 semester hours

PT 732 INTERVENTION III
The study of the management of specific disabilities (spinal cord injury; stroke and vascular impairments). Evaluation of patient problems, functional deficits, and treatment planning principles using the team approach. The course is comprised of two hours of lecture, two hours of lab, and one hour of clinical observation. 3 semester hours

PT 734 INTERVENTION IV
The study of physiologic adaptations to stress, disease, and external stimuli. Cardiopulmonary physical therapy is emphasized in half of the semester. During the other half, electrotherapy and electrodagnosis are presented with case applications. Three hours of lecture and three hours of lab. 4 semester hours

PT 735 INTERVENTION V
A contemporary approach to the management of the physical therapy patient in the acute care phase of treatment. Interdisciplinary management of the cardiopulmonary, cardiovascular, orthopedic, trauma, acute infection, and acute conditions superimposed on long-term chronic conditions. Specific treatment plans are developed for case models using the critical path concept. Two hours of lecture, two hours of lab, and one hour of clinical observation. 3 semester hours

PT 736 INTERVENTION V
The course focuses on evaluation and treatment interventions for the client with an orthopedic dysfunction, disease, or injury. Rationale and method for treatment planning are emphasized as
they relate to the solution of client problems. Lecture and laboratory components prepare students for direct patient care. The course is comprised of two hours of lecture, three hours of laboratory and discussion, and some clinical observation. 4 semester hours

PT 750  CRITICAL INQUIRY I
The course explores quality of life research as a broad frame in the development of researchable questions. Students are encouraged to compose questions in the context of contemporary health care and physical therapy. The course focuses on measures of health status, functional ability, and social networks. 2 semester hours

PT 751  CRITICAL INQUIRY II
This course examines principles of clinical research in physical therapy. Topics include the generation of a research question, discussion of reliability and validity, development of a research design, and development of a plan for the analysis of data. A primary objective is for students to acquire the knowledge, understanding, and skill necessary to critically read and research the literature in physical therapy. The course is comprised of lecture, discussion, and project work. 2 semester hours

PT 752  CRITICAL INQUIRY III
Research using field and survey methods to explore clinical problems and environments. The value of stories, case studies, and social histories are used to enhance patient care. Sampling, design of questionnaires, and data analysis and interpretation are covered. Comparisons between clinical interview methods and research methods are used to illustrate ethical concepts and rights of human subjects. The course is comprised of lecture, discussion, and fieldwork. 2 semester hours

PT 760  PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE I
Full-time assignment to a clinical setting for six weeks of practice with a clinical preceptor. A variety of settings are selected for affiliations, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, private practice settings, rehabilitation hospitals, home care agencies, and industrial health programs. Seminar will be scheduled on campus prior to and following clinical affiliations. Prerequisite: Satisfactory progress in the course of study. 2 semester hours

PT 761  PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE II
Full-time assignment to a clinical setting for eight weeks of practice with a clinical preceptor. A variety of settings are selected for affiliations including hospitals, long-term care facilities, private practice settings, rehabilitation hospitals, home care agencies and industrial health programs. Seminar will be scheduled on campus prior to and following clinical affiliations. Prerequisite: Satisfactory progress in the course of study. 3 semester hours

PT 800  COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
This course is composed of the preparation and administration of a comprehensive examination. This examination is a culminating experience that reflects mastery of the didactic component of the entry-level physical therapy curriculum. The examination is 3.5 hours in duration and is comprised of three sets of 50 multiple choice questions. 1 semester hour

PT 815  ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION VI
The course orient students to the principles of management and supervision of staff in the clinical setting including planning processes, organization of work, control, development and evaluation. Consulting strategies are discussed and used in course projects. The course is comprised of two hours of lecture, two hours of seminar, and a course project. 3 semester hours

PT 818  ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION VII
Students are exposed to classical learning theory, behavioral health interventions, and client education programs in community and clinical settings. They evaluate the effect of education strategies for change on health behaviors and develop health promotion programs. They develop and implement educational strategies for patient learning in a clinical environment. Additionally, students implement evaluation strategies for the learning process and outcome. 3 semester hours

PT 837  EXAMINATION/EVALUATION/DIAGNOSIS/PROGNOSIS VI
The course focuses on the management of disabilities involving the central and peripheral nervous system through the life span. Evaluation of patient problems, movement disorders, and treatment-planning principles are emphasized. The course is comprised of two hours of lecture, three hours of laboratory, and one hour of clinical observation. 4 semester hours

PT 840  ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION VIII
The course offers the student an opportunity to discuss the impact of disability and disease states on individuals, families, and society. Explorations into the leisure, work, educational, and social life of disabled persons provide a framework for students to develop an understanding of the profession beyond the treatment of disabilities. Developmental disabilities, lifelong physical and mental disabilities, chronic disease, and families with disabled children. The course is comprised of one hour of lecture, two hours of discussion, and independent study. 3 semester hours

PT 862  ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE III
Full-time assignment to a clinical setting for eight weeks of practice with a clinical preceptor. A variety of settings are selected for affiliations including hospitals, long-term care facilities, private practice settings, rehabilitation hospitals, home care agencies, and industrial health programs. Seminar will be scheduled on campus prior to and following clinical affiliations. Prerequisite: Satisfactory progress in the course of study. 3 semester hours

PT 863  ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IV
Full-time assignment to a clinical setting for nine weeks of practice with a clinical preceptor. A variety of settings are selected for affiliations including hospitals, long-term care facilities, private practice settings, rehabilitation hospitals, home care agencies, and industrial health programs. Seminar will be scheduled on campus prior to and following clinical affiliations. Prerequisite: Satisfactory progress in the course of study. 4 semester hours

PT 880  ADVANCED PRACTICE I
Facilitates learner’s ability to perform the holistic role of physical therapist while engaging in focused, higher level practice skills and ill-structured (messy) cases. Learners are expected to perform competently with only minimal direction and guidance from faculty, particularly when novel content or situations arise in each given case. Specific areas addressed by the course include administration, consultation, and outcome assessment applied to patient cases requiring advanced practice knowledge and skills. 2 semester hours

PT 881  ADVANCED PRACTICE II
Facilitates learner’s ability to perform the holistic role of physical therapist while engaging in focused, higher level practice skills and ill-structured (messy) cases. Learners are expected to perform competently with only minimal direction and guidance
from faculty, particularly when novel content or situations arise in each given case. Specific areas addressed by the course include administration, consultation, and outcome assessment applied to patient cases requiring advanced practice knowledge and skills. 2 semester hours

PT 883  ADVANCED PRACTICE III
Explorations into the management of specific disabilities which impact life choices in our culture. Topics include developmental disabilities, life-long chronic diseases and age-related disorders, home health, work rehabilitation, and occupational injury management. Topics are selected based on student and faculty interest. 2 semester hours

PT 885–892  ADVANCED PRACTICE IV
Elective course of study (see current list below). Topics are selected based on student and faculty interest. 3 semester hours

PT 885  ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: AQUATICS
This elective course focuses on aquatic physical therapy as a lifespan rehabilitation medium for clients with cardiovascular, neurological, and/or orthopedic involvement. The scope of the course moves from basic hydrodynamics principles, hands-on treatment techniques to program development. Water participation is required for this course. The course is comprised of three hours of lecture, laboratory, and guided inquiry. 3 semester hours

PT 887  ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: ATHLETICS
This elective course explores physical therapy intervention that is specific to the athletic environment. Preseason screening, athletic injuries, conditioning, environmental and ergogenic agents, bracing/taping/wrapping, plyometrics and isokinetic testing are examined. 3 semester hours

PT 889  ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: INDEPENDENT STUDY
This elective course stresses independent study in physical therapy. Students work out a plan for independent study in a particular area in conjunction with a faculty member or adjunct clinical expert. 3 semester hours

PT 891  ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: PEDIATRICS
This elective course is designed to allow students, with special interest in the field of pediatric physical therapy, an opportunity to explore issues related to current practice. Students are exposed to the many settings that pediatric therapists function in through visits to an early intervention center, the school environment, a NICU, outpatient clinic, and long-term care setting (as available). This course is comprised of three hours of lecture, laboratory, and guided inquiry. 3 semester hours

PT 892  ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: REHABILITATION
The course focus is on providing opportunities for an advanced exploration of selected topical areas in rehabilitation practice. The course will critically appraise the theoretical foundations that are pertinent to current clinical practice in each of the topical areas surveyed. Incorporated throughout the course are multiple opportunities for structured and guided interactions with selected patient populations to promote integration of didactic experiences with clinical practice. Topics to be included in this course will vary each year and will be selected by the students participating in the course in consultation with primary course instructors. The course is comprised of a total of six hours of lecture, independent study, and guided clinical observation per week (eight-week term). 3 semester hours

PT 893  ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: MANUAL THERAPY
This orthopaedic manual therapy elective is designed to provide the student with an eclectic, entry-level knowledge of manual therapy strategies currently in use for the management of patients with musculoskeletal impairment. These strategies range from soft tissue mobilization techniques to direct and indirect joint mobilization techniques for the spine and extremities. Lab activities, which will comprise the majority of the course, focus on developing entry-level proficiency in a variety of techniques that may be immediately translated into direct clinical practice. Lecture focuses on providing the theoretical framework and scientific evidence to substantiate the use of each methodological covered. An emphasis is placed on the integration of manual techniques into a comprehensive examination and intervention plan. 3 semester hours

PT 900  FOUNDATIONS IN CURRENT PT PRACTICE
An advanced look at principles contained in the Guide to Physical Therapy Practice and its application to current clinical practice. The course will also discuss current issues affecting physical therapy practice—reimbursement, practice without referral, physical therapy education, insurance, ethical and legal practice considerations, and public health care policy. The course format will include pre-course readings, on-campus lecture, discussion and debate, case studies, and a post-course project. 2 semester hours

PT 902  PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT
An introduction to principles of professional portfolio development and planning for life-long learning. The student will create a written curricular and professional development plan. A variety of self-assessment tools will enable the student to identify professional development goals. In addition, the student will develop a learning contract and establish a plan of action with measurable objectives. The curricular and professional development plan will form the basis for electives that will be taken later in the curricular sequence. The professional development plan and portfolio will be used by the t-DPT Program Committee to determine transfer credits and advanced standing in the program. Prerequisite: Admission to the t-DPT program. 1 semester hour

PT 904  EVIDENCE-BASED CLINICAL PRACTICE
An advanced look at principles of scientific inquiry related to fostering evidence-based clinical practice and critical review of the scientific literature. The course introduces the learner to evidence-based decision making tools and demonstrates how principles of evidence-based practice can be applied to improve clinical decisions in physical therapy. The course examines concepts related to using tests and measures diagnostically and interpreting the findings relative to principles of epidemiology. 2 semester hours

PT 906  IMAGING AND PHARMACOTHERAPEUTICS
A review of basic principles of radiology and pharmacology, as both impact clinical physical therapy practice. The radiologic components of the course emphasize reading and interpreting films, identifying radiographic anatomy, and correlating the findings in clinical cases. The radiologic component is designed to provide the physical therapist with a fundamental understanding of orthopedic radiology. Emphasis is on identifying normal radiological landmarks and common pathological conditions of the musculoskeletal system. The pharmacology component of the course uses a case-based approach to studying the impact of pharmacotherapeutics on physical therapy clinical decision making. Students develop an understanding of drug pharmacology
and how to apply those concepts to the practice of physical therapy. Focus is on the mechanism of action of drugs, pharmacokinetics, side effects, and therapeutic use. The overall goal is to foster an understanding of how pharmacological interventions affect physical therapy care plans. This course must be taken before PT 910. 2 semester hours

PT 910  PRINCIPLES OF DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS
The instructional focus is on developing advanced clinical reasoning skills related to determining a client's appropriateness for physical therapy. The course builds on concepts covered in PT 906 and PT 904, as they are used to identify conditions that might mimic musculoskeletal dysfunction. Medical screening procedures that are useful to physical therapists to identify non-musculoskeletal pathology are reviewed. In addition, laboratory and diagnostic procedures commonly used in the medical diagnosis of non-musculoskeletal disease are also reviewed. The course format includes pre-course readings and independent study, on-campus lecture and case studies, web-based instruction, and a post-course project. Prerequisites: PT 906 and PT 904. 2 semester hours

PT 912  HEALTH PROMOTION AND ACADEMIC TEACHING
The course emphasis is on designing learning activities that address the needs of a variety of audiences. This course examines curriculum and instruction models from the foundation of research in the psychology of learning and in the sociology and practice of teaching. General learning models will be applied to instructional situations encompassing a variety of settings. Learning theory will be emphasized along with practical clinical applications. Students will participate in the design of learning experiences that specifically meet their educational objectives. Students will be involved in creating educational experiences that address the needs of patients and health care consumers, students in an academic or clinical environment, and health care professionals. The course will also focus on designing web-based instructional resources and using multimedia resources to enhance professional or academic presentations. 1 semester hour

PT 914  PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT
An advanced examination of health care management principles that is designed to foster leadership skills in the learner. The course focuses on instructional strategies to facilitate team building in the health care setting and enhance supervisory and personnel management skills. 2 semester hours

PT 915  INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
In this course, students learn to apply principles of instructional and graphic design, as well as the incorporation of pedagogical strategies in the development of multimedia and presentation instructional materials for teaching and learning environments. The course provides an introduction to the planning, design, production, and presentation of technology-enhanced instructional materials. The course integrates the development of technical skills, such as image editing, multimedia design, and web-based design and development, with pedagogical and instructional strategies as related to current clinical and academic teaching methodologies. 2 semester hours

PT 916, 917, 918  ADVANCED PRACTICE ELECTIVE/INDEPENDENT STUDY
The student will have an opportunity to pursue learning experiences specific to an identified area of clinical interest. These courses also enable the student to pursue a specialized or unique interest that is not part of the current curriculum. Students may be able to use transfer credits toward the requirements of the elective or apply for a waiver of credits based on previous professional experience or participation in continuing education coursework. A determination of allowable credits for transfer or waiver will be based primarily on the student's professional development plan. Documentation of professional life experience that meets the intent of the curriculum and program mission can also be used to meet the requirements of the elective. Credit may be given for any of the following: successful completion (receiving at least a passing grade of a B) of graduate courses at another university that meets the intent of the professional development plan outlined in PT 902; graduate course work taken at Widener University in the School of Business Administration or School of Human Service Professions; participation in continuing education course work; preparation for and taking the clinical specialist examination (OCS, PCS, NCS, ECS, CCS, GCS, SCS); preparation for other specialty certification examinations (CSCS, CIHT, ATC, CMT); participating in a fellowship in a specialty area of clinical practice, academic or clinical teaching or research; and successful completion of the APTA credentialing program for clinical instructors. The awarding of credit for professional life experiences will be determined by the t-DPT Program Committee. 1–5 semester hours

PT 920  DPT PROJECT
Students enrolled in the course will be required to apply curricular concepts to a clinical case in their area of interest. The DPT project, which is the capstone curricular experience, must be completed by all students in the program. The format of the juried project may include a research design such as randomized controlled trials, single-subject research, reliability and validity studies, and surveys. Other formats include case studies or development of tools for use with patients or in clinical education. The Capstone Project will complement the student's program of study and clinical interest and may take the form of a publishable case report or a manuscript on critical health care issues. The outline of the project will be approved by the t-DPT Program Committee. 3 semester hours

PT 953  SPECIALTY FOCUS I
Students initiate a research project in small groups under faculty supervision and within the faculty members' research agenda. This course is designed to assist students in the generation of clinically relevant research questions and proposed development. Preparation for submissions and approval of the IRB is also initiated. Regularly scheduled meetings with the faculty mentor are required. An HMSA elective or special education elective may be substituted. 3 semester hours

PT 954  SPECIALTY FOCUS II
Students initiate the experimental protocols described in the research proposal. This involves recruiting subjects, carrying out experimental interventions and doing data collection. Regularly scheduled meetings with the faculty mentor are required. An HMSA elective or special education elective may be substituted. 3 semester hours

PT 955  SPECIALTY FOCUS III
Seminar to assist students in data reduction, interpretation, and presentation of research findings. The analysis and oral and written presentation of findings are discussed. Students are expected to submit the final results of research projects in written form as the culminating project. Students will also develop a presentation to be
presented at the student research symposium. An HMSA elective or special education elective may be substituted. 3 semester hours

PT 956 SPECIALTY FOCUS IV
Seminar to assist students in data reduction, interpretation, and presentation of research findings. The analysis and oral and written presentation of findings are discussed. Students are expected to submit the final results of research projects in written form as the culminating project. An HMSA elective or special education elective may be substituted. 3 semester hours

CENTER FOR EDUCATION COURSES

ED 506 SCHOOL LAW AND CHILD RIGHTS
Provides public school personnel with a basic working knowledge of the legal structure of public education. The course also acquaints educators and nonteaching educational professionals with information on the current state of pressing legal issues affecting education. Where possible, particular attention is paid to school systems within Pennsylvania. A special concern of this course is the rights of children within the legal system. 3 semester hours

ED 517 PSYCHOLOGY OF THE SCHOOL-AGE CHILD
An examination of psychomotor, cognitive, emotional, and social development. Theories of behavior and functioning during middle childhood are examined with respect to their descriptive accuracy, integrative ability, and underlying assumptions. Emphasis is placed upon an understanding of the interaction and integration of developmental themes. Prerequisite or corequisite: ED 511. 3 semester hours

ED 518 ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY
This course explores the issues of socialization and social development, deviate and delinquent behavior, cognition and intellectual development, and the evolving self-understanding of adolescent children. Special topics include moral development, physiological changes and physical growth, and psycho-sexual development. Students review major theoretical approaches to understanding the development of the adolescent. 3 semester hours

ED 519 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: FROM BIRTH TO THE EARLY SCHOOL YEARS
An inquiry into psychomotor, cognitive, emotional, physical, and social development during early childhood (i.e., from birth to eight years of age). Students critically review major theoretical approaches and social policy issues germane to early childhood development. There is an emphasis on the impact of family and school contexts on children’s development. 3 semester hours

ED 551 INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL EDUCATION
This course provides students with a critical overview of special education including its history, the classification and description of exceptionalities, and its legal regulation. Major issues related to identification, assessment, educational and therapeutic interventions, social/psychological aspects, and inclusion are examined. Prerequisite or corequisite: ED 511. 3 semester hours

ED 555 CURRENT ISSUES IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
The purpose of this course is to examine the major issues that are having an impact on public education. A wide range of problems will be identified and proposals for improving the quality of public education will be presented. Students have the opportunity in the form of a research project to develop an action plan related to an issue of importance to their educational community. 3 semester hours

ED 588 SPECIAL TOPICS
Topics which have special appeal to instructors and students because of their timely quality are periodically offered in the form of newly developed courses. Newly developed courses may be offered in this category prior to their formal approval and assignment of course numbers. 3 semester hours

ED 661 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES OR NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENTS
This course provides students with an understanding of the theoretical and conceptual issues currently under debate in the field of developmental disabilities. We will examine the identification criteria, instructional strategies, and program development for children with moderate to severe disabilities including mental retardation and autism/pervasive developmental disorder. Objectives will stress adapting environments, materials, and instruction to facilitate inclusion and teaching functional life skills within a special education curriculum. This course includes a fieldwork component in a setting for students with learning disabilities. Prerequisite: ED 551. 4 semester hours

ED 662 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
This course will provide students with an understanding of the theoretical and conceptual issues currently under debate in the field of developmental disabilities. We will examine the identification criteria, instructional strategies, and program development for children with moderate to severe disabilities including mental retardation and autism/pervasive developmental disorder. Objectives will stress adapting environments, materials, and instruction to facilitate inclusion and teaching functional life skills within a special education curriculum. This course includes a fieldwork component in a setting for students with learning disabilities. Prerequisite: ED 551. 4 semester hours

ED 663 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES
This course emphasizes assessment and educational interventions for teaching and remediating the emotional and behavioral disorders of students with and without developmental disabilities. Support services available within the community to families of children with emotional/behavioral disabilities will be examined. This course includes a fieldwork component in a setting for students with emotional/behavioral disabilities. Prerequisite: ED 551. 4 semester hours

ED 667 EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION AND TEAM BUILDING
The purpose of this course is to help students develop an understanding of the major issues involved in working as a member of a team and in helping others understand the perspective of a special education teacher. This course focuses on effective strategies for collaborating with families, regular and special educators, paraprofessionals, and other service providers in the school and community. This course is for advanced special education majors or students who are currently teaching in a special education setting. Corequisite: ED 599, 611, or 612. 3 semester hours

TED 533 ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
In this introductory course, students explore the use of assistive technologies in a classroom environment. The course focuses on the various applications, activities, and hardware devices used for special needs students. 3 semester hours
This course is designed for graduate students with little or no prior experience in accounting. The course familiarizes students with the fundamentals of external financial reporting for business enterprises and not-for-profit entities. The financial accounting segment of the course focuses on the preparation, analysis, and limitations of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The conceptual framework that serves as the basis on which financial reporting standards are developed is also discussed. The managerial accounting segment of the course covers such internal reporting issues as break-even analysis, capital budgeting, cost behavior patterns, and cost allocation. The legal component of the course addresses the formation of different types of business entities (e.g., corporation and partnership) and the regulatory role that the SEC, PCAOB, and Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 play in financial reporting. Prerequisite: None. 3 semester hours

This course examines organizational behavior and management issues in health care institutions. Rising costs, staffing constraints, and a host of external pressures are transforming health care organizations. They are organizing as interdependent networks, employing culturally diverse workforces, adopting flexible work practices, and replacing command-and-control supervision with self-leading teams. To be effective, health care managers must rely more on empowerment and negotiation than authority, their leadership must be inspirational rather than autocratic, and they must be competent in team-building, organizational design, diversity management, and creating high-performance cultures. This course promotes an understanding of the behavior, structure, and process-related challenges posed by the contemporary health care workplace. Students develop in-depth knowledge of theoretical concepts and learn to apply them through cases and simulations. They also have the opportunity to engage in an assessment of their leadership style and receive one-on-one feedback and coaching from experts in the field. Credit cannot be granted for both HCM 605 and MGT 604. Prerequisite: HCM 601 or permission of the instructor. 3 semester hours

This course applies concepts in managerial accounting and finance to the financial management of health care organizations. It emphasizes the identification of appropriate data for planning and control functions and the use of analytical techniques for decision-making in a health care setting. Prerequisites: HCM 601, undergraduate financial accounting, and a working knowledge of EXCEL or permission of instructor. 1.5 semester hours

Businesses whose managers have superior interpersonal skills have significantly higher profits and lower turnover than businesses without such skills. In fact, people management skills are three times more powerful in influencing financial success than market share, capital intensity, size, and industry return on sales combined. Yet, industry leaders say that business graduates are lacking in management and interpersonal skills. Managers are still struggling with questions like “How do I motivate my people to commit to a new idea?” “How do I communicate with poor performers without creating a defensive reaction?” and “How do I negotiate for resources in a hostile environment?”

This course takes a hands-on “learning by doing” approach to provide students with the people management skills needed in a dynamic work environment. Interactive exercises, role-plays, simulations, and video-based cases are used to build personal, interpersonal, and group skills. Personalized feedback and a focus on behavioral change enables students to become more aware of their strengths and weaknesses, and to acquire skills in areas such as communication, motivation, conflict management, negotiation, teamwork, and leadership. Students also learn how to institutionalize the skill set by “hardwiring” it into the organizational system. There is a materials fee. Prerequisite: BUS 601 and 602, MGT 604, HCM 605, or permission of the instructor. 3 semester hours

This course provides the student with a comprehensive perspective on America’s number one public health problem affecting children over the age of one: injury. Using a developmental model, this course will address mechanisms of injury specific to various developmental stages from prenatal to late adolescence. Students will be exposed to a large range of resource materials available locally and nationally from a variety of governmental, professional, and private organizations. 3 semester hours

Students will analyze the interaction of individual, illness, and family dynamics as they affect health status. Theories that explain family functioning are used to formulate strategies to maximize family health. Life span development as it relates to families is examined. Consideration is given to biological, psychological, sociological, and environmental factors that influence family functioning. Issues of ethnicity, gender, class, and changing family groups are also explained. Experimental exercises, role play, case studies, and discussion are used to facilitate integration of theory into practice. 3 semester hours
NURS 638  ISSUES IN HEALTH CARE FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS
This course explores issues surrounding the medically underserved populations in the United States. Societal influences, lifestyles, health care needs, and beliefs and solutions to problems of the medically underserved are emphasized. 3 semester hours

NURS 668  HOLISTIC HEALTH PROMOTION
Within a unitary philosophical framework, this course synthesizes Western and Eastern traditions for the promotion of health. The emphasis is on holistic assessment and intervention strategies to prevent illness and promote health. Social, economic, and political implications of the dynamic health care delivery environment and possible entrepreneurial health promotion roles for nurses are discussed. 3 semester hours (3,0,0)

NURS 670  EPIDEMIOLOGY
This course focuses on the examination of the determinants of health and illness of individuals and groups in the community using specialized research methodology. Epidemiology, as the principle science of community health practice, will be used to study how to improve the health of the public using techniques of community assessment for planning and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions for health promotion as well as secondary and tertiary disease prevention. The course emphasizes outcome-focused evaluation of care delivered at both the individual and aggregate level. 3 semester hours (3,0,0)

Faculty

Sandra L. Campbell
Clinical Associate Professor & Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE)
BS, Thomas Jefferson Univ.; MBA, Widener Univ. (management, geriatrics, clinical education)

Robin L. Dole
Associate Dean & Director, Associate Professor
BS, Ithaca College; MS, Univ. of Indianapolis; EdD, Nova Southeastern Univ.; Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Pediatrics (pediatrics, adult neurology)

Dawn T. Gulick
Professor
BS, Lock Haven Univ.; MPT, Emory Univ.; PhD, Temple Univ. (modalities, sports medicine, orthopedics)

Jill Black Lattanzi
Clinical Assistant Professor
BS, MS, EdD, Univ. of Delaware (cultural competence, community engagement, service learning)

Kristin Lefebvre
Assistant Professor
BA, MPT, Univ. of Delaware; PhD, Univ. of the Sciences in Philadelphia; Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Cardiopulmonary & Respiratory Physical Therapy (cardiopulmonary)

Kerstin Palombaro
Community Engagement Coordinator
BS, St. Joseph’s Univ.; MSPT, Columbia Univ.; PhD, Temple Univ. (health education promotion, geriatrics)

Samuel Pierce
Assistant Professor
BA, MSPT, Beaver College; PhD, Temple Univ.; Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy (neuromotor; research)

Robert H. Wellmon
Associate Professor & Coordinator of t-DPT Program
BS, St. Joseph’s Univ.; BS, Thomas Jefferson Univ.; MS, PhD, Temple Univ.; Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy (neurology, cardiopulmonary, research)

Christopher H. Wise
Clinical Assistant Professor
BA, Messiah College; MSPT, Beaver College; Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopedics (sports medicine, orthopedics, manual therapy)

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Melinda L. Bartscherer
Adjunct Instructor
BS, State Univ. of New York; MSPT, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (neurology)

Andrea R. Branas
Adjunct Lecturer
BA, Franklin & Marshall College; MS, Univ. of Pennsylvania; MPT, Univ. of the Sciences in Philadelphia (women’s health issues)

Marc A. Brodkin
Adjunct Associate Professor
BS, Ohio Univ.; MA, Univ. of South Dakota; PhD, State Univ. of New York at Stony Brook (histology)

Lois Brown
Adjunct Lecturer
BA, MPT, Temple Univ. (assistive technology)

Caryl E. Carpenter
Adjunct Associate Professor
AB, Brown Univ.; MPH, Univ. of Michigan; PhD, Univ. of Minnesota (health & medical services administration)

Willie Lim Ching
Adjunct Lecturer
BS, Univ. of Santo Tomas (brain injury)

Maureen Donohoe
Adjunct Lecturer
AAS, Atlantic Community College; BS, Thomas Jefferson Univ.; DPT, Simmons College (acute care pediatrics)
Rebecca L. Frederick
Adjunct Clinical Laboratory Instructor
BS, Pennsylvania State Univ.; MPT, Allegheny Univ. of the Health Sciences
(manual therapy)

Lance L. Gardner
Adjunct Clinical Laboratory Instructor
BS, Millersville Univ.; MSPT, Widener Univ.
(clinical assessment)

Frank P. Giammattei
Adjunct Lecturer
BA, Williams College; MD, Univ. of Cincinnati
(arthroplasties)

Brenda Grassett
Co-Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE)
BS, Univ. of Delaware; MEd, Wilmington College
(clinical education, teaching, and learning)

Charles D. Hummer III
Adjunct Lecturer
BA, MA, Amherst College; MD, Jefferson Medical College
(orthopaedics)

Jane M. Kepics
Adjunct Lecturer
AS, Montgomery County Community College; BS, MSPT, Temple Univ.
(lymphedema)

Tage Kvist
Adjunct Professor
BS, MS, Univ. of British Columbia; PhD, Univ. of Pennsylvania
(anatomy)

Margaret I. Linn
Adjunct Associate Professor
BS, MS, Univ. of Pittsburgh; PhD, Univ. of Pennsylvania
(special education)

Bruce Lutz
Adjunct Lecturer
BA, Lehigh Univ.; MD, Jefferson Medical College
(orthopedics)

James McGlynn
Adjunct Lecturer
BS, Univ. of Scranton; MD, Georgetown Univ.
(orthopedic surgery)

Suzanne Migliore
Adjunct Lecturer
BS, Univ. of Connecticut; MS, Quinnipiac College
(acute care pediatrics)

Kathleen T. Miller
Adjunct Clinical Laboratory Instructor
BS, MPT, Univ. of the Sciences in Philadelphia
(applied clinical physiology)

Mark Miller
Adjunct Assistant Professor
BS, Drexel Univ.; PhD, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
(anatomy)

Michele L. Mulhall
Adjunct Instructor
BS, PhD, Temple Univ.
(health promotion, academic teaching)

Robin Myers
Adjunct Lecturer
BSPT, Univ. of Florida
(brain injury)

Lora Packel
Adjunct Lecturer
BA, Univ. of Delaware; MSPT, Boston Univ.
(cancer in acute care)

Christopher A. Peduzzi
Adjunct Lecturer
BS, MA, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ.; ATC, West Chester Univ.
(sports injuries)

Ashish Rana
Adjunct Lecturer
BA, New York Univ.; MD, State Univ. of New York
(pathophysiology)

John Sallade
Adjunct Lecturer
BS, Pennsylvania State Univ.; DPT, Arcadia Univ.
(orthopedics, sports medicine)

Jean Scholtz
Adjunct Instructor
BPharm, Univ. of Pittsburgh; PharmD, Purdue Univ.
(imaging, pharmaco therapeutics)

Derek C. Stedm an
Adjunct Instructor
BA, Brown Univ.; MA, Columbia Univ.
(health care leadership & management)

Pamela Szczereba
Adjunct Instructor
BA, MPT, Univ. of Delaware
(clinical interventions)

Angela R. Tate
Adjunct Lecturer
BS, Thomas Jefferson Univ.; MSPT, Temple Univ.
(mechanical diagnoses, therapy of the spine)

Nicholas R. Taw eel
Adjunct Instructor
BA, Temple Univ.; MPT, Hahnemann Univ.; DPM, Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine
(imaging, pharmaco therapeutics)

Janice F. Thompson
Adjunct Instructor
BS, Univ. of Scranton; MS, Temple Univ.
(qualitative research, teaching & learning)

Deepika M. Vadher
Adjunct Instructor
BCPS, PharmD, Univ. of the Sciences in Philadelphia
(imaging, pharmaco therapeutics)

Jared Van Der Beek
Adjunct Lecturer
BS, Univ. of Vermont
(manual therapy)
Paul G. Vidal  
*Adjunct Lecturer*  
BS, MPT, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science;  
MTC, Univ. of Saint Augustine for Health Sciences  
(*orthopaedics, manual therapy, vestibular rehabilitation*)

Scott Voshell  
*Adjunct Clinical Laboratory Instructor*  
BS, Univ. of Pittsburgh  
(*orthopedic physical therapy, clinical examination & diagnosis*)

Penny A. Zimmerman  
*Adjunct Clinical Laboratory Instructor*  
BS, Univ. of Maryland; MSPT, Univ. of Miami; ATC, CSCS  
(*therapeutic exercise*)

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**ADVISORY BOARD**

Caryl Carpenter, PhD  
Associate Professor & Program Director of HMSA, School of Business Administration, Widener University

Joshua Davidson, MSPT  
Past-President of IPTE Alumni Association & Physical Therapist, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Caitlin Gardner, MPT  
Physical Therapist

Lynn Kelly, PhD  
Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Widener University

Margaret Linn, PhD  
Associate Professor, Center for Education, School of Human Service Professions, Widener University

David Ong, MSPT  
Physical Therapist, Crozer-Keystone Health System

Paula Silver, PhD  
Associate Dean & Program Director, Center for Social Work Education, School of Human Service Professions, Widener University

Pat Thierlinger  
Recreation Therapist, Magee Rehabilitation Hospital

Stephen C. Wilhite, DPhil  
Dean of the School of Human Service Professions & Associate Provost for Graduate Studies, Widener University

**Student Representation:** Presidents of the current second- and third-year entry-level DPT classes