The Transition to Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree

Overview:

The Transition to Doctor of Physical Therapy (tDPT) degree is a completely online program geared toward practicing physical therapists who wish to increase their professional knowledge base and advance in their careers by moving the entry-level physical therapy degree from either an Entry-Level Master’s degree (MPT, MSPT) or an advanced Masters in Physical Therapy (MS PT) to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (DPT).

Goals for the individuals who completed ALL of the required on-line tDPT coursework to obtain their DPT degree include an ability to:

1. Demonstrate professional behaviors in all interactions with patients, clients, families, care givers, other health care providers, students, other consumers, and payers.
2. Expressively and receptively communicate with all individuals when engaged in physical therapy practice, research, and education, including patients, clients, families, care givers, practitioners, consumers, payers, and policy makers.
3. Competently perform all of the expected skills as noted by the Evaluative Criteria for Doctor of Physical Therapy Programs as identified by the Commission of Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education.
4. Incorporate an understanding of the implications of individual and cultural differences when engaged in physical therapy practice, research, and education.
5. Adhere to legal practice standards, including all federal, state (province or jurisdiction), and institutional regulations related to patient or client care, and to fiscal management.

Our Program is a variable-credit program. Based upon where the entry-level or post-graduate degree was conferred, the year of conferral, university teaching experience, non-matriculated undergraduate and graduate courses, publications, and activities associated with professional organizations such as the APTA, the incoming tDPT student will be required to complete a minimum of 12 credits to a maximum of 24 credits. Courses are offered online during the spring, summer, and fall semesters. The program meets the accreditation standards of current entry-level DPT curricula.

The web-based educational platform permits students and faculty members to post and share lecture materials and assignments and participate in group discussions. Content is delivered to the student utilizing a variety of domains including video, video-chat, audio recordings, power point, articles, and websites. The only technical requirements are a computer with Internet access, a DVD player, and Microsoft Office software.
Students can decide their own course sequence and program speed; many students complete the minimum 12 core credits in less than one academic year. Each three-credit course requires about five to six hours of work per week. Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in the program including the summer session. If students cannot complete course work due to extenuating circumstances (other than waiting for a required course to be offered), the University requires them to fill out a Leave of Absence Form (Graduate School Policy 02.25.14) and pay the associated processing fee.

Our program is open to matriculated and non-matriculated students. Non-matriculated students may register for one course at the discretion of the Director of Admissions and with approval of the faculty.

DPT Curriculum:

Applicants and matriculated students can find a complete listing of all DPT courses below with minimum required 12 credits of coursework in BOLD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DPT 8571</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Diagnostics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPT 8572</td>
<td>Survey of Clinical Pharmacology *</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPT 8573</td>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging *</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPT 8574</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPT 8575</td>
<td>Motor Control &amp; Human Movement</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPT 8576</td>
<td>Clinical Decision Making</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPT 8577</td>
<td>Health Care Systems</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPT 8578</td>
<td>Outcomes Measurement &amp; Epidemiology</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPT 8579</td>
<td>Teaching &amp; Learning</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Both courses MUST be taken in the same academic semester

DPT Course Schedule:

A complete course schedule can be found at:

Application:

To be eligible to complete DPT coursework and obtain the DPT degree applicants must have graduated from a Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accredited Master’s Degree Physical Therapy program (MPT or MS PT), or, have graduated from a Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) entry-level Bachelor’s PT program and successfully completed a master’s degree in a related health care field. All applicants must hold a current Physical Therapy licensure in the United States. An eligibility grid below has been developed to assist you in determining whether you meet eligibility standards and admission requirements.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant’s Entry-Level Physical Therapy Degree Qualification &amp; Graduate Degree Status</th>
<th>Eligible for tDPT Program Acceptance</th>
<th>Requirement for Admission</th>
<th>Number of tDPT Courses to be Required*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An Entry-level Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Therapy from Temple University, but NO Masters Degree of ANY type.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Must have cumulative GPA of 3.0 &amp; meet all other program requirements.</td>
<td>All 9 tDPT Courses (the 24-credit hour maximum).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Entry-level Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Therapy from a CAPTE Accredited Physical Therapy Program (not including Temple University), but NO Masters Degree of ANY type.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Ineligible for tDPT Program admission.</td>
<td>Not applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Entry-level Physical Therapy Degree from a non-CAPTE Accredited foreign Physical Therapy Program regardless of any additional Masters Degree.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Ineligible for tDPT Program admission</td>
<td>Not applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Entry-level Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Therapy from a CAPTE Accredited Physical Therapy Program with a Completed Masters Degree.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Must have cumulative GPA of 3.0 &amp; meet all other program requirements.</td>
<td>5 “Core” Courses + up to the total additional 4 courses (up to the 24-credit hour maximum).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Entry-level Masters Degree in Physical Therapy from a CAPTE Accredited Physical Therapy Program granted within the last 10 years.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Must have cumulative GPA of 3.0 &amp; meet all other program requirements.</td>
<td>5 “Core” Courses + up to the total additional 4 courses (up to the 24-credit hour maximum).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Entry-level Masters Degree in Physical Therapy from a CAPTE Accredited Physical Therapy Program granted 10 or more years.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Must have cumulative GPA of 3.0 &amp; meet all other program requirements.</td>
<td>5 “Core” Courses + up to the total additional 4 courses (up to the 24-credit hour maximum).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please Note:** Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy Program that previously existed at Temple University do NOT need to have completed a master degree to gain acceptance.
If an applicant completed the master’s degree (whether in Physical Therapy or another discipline) outside of the last 10 years, a determination as to the number of tDPT credits over and above the 12-credit CORE courses that you will be required to complete to receive your Doctor of Physical Therapy degree will be based on 3 factors;

- The scope, depth, and "currency" of the entry-level curriculum that existed at the time of your graduation from a CAPTE accredited program
- 2. The scope, depth, and "currency" of any other of your previously completed graduate degrees and coursework
- 3. The scope, depth, and "currency" of your past professional experiences

The Department of Physical at Temple University defines "currency" as a 10-year window dating back from the date of review of your application file by the tDPT Admissions Committee.

Additionally, every applicant is required to submit:

- A Temple University Application,
- An official transcript that verifies graduation from a CAPTE accredited Physical Therapy program,
- A current Curricula Vita,
- Two (2) Temple University Graduate School Reference Reports from clinical colleagues (one of whom is a supervisor), and,
- A Statement of Personal Goals and a current copy of state license to practice physical therapy.

The University Application should be submitted online and the remaining materials should be hard-mailed to:

Ms. Sarah Carroll  
Student Services Representative  
Physical Therapy  
3307 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Two classes are admitted each year- one for the spring semester and one for the fall semester. Application deadline (all required materials received) for each fall semester admission July 15th and for each spring semester, November 15.

Tuition Rates:  
Current in-state and out-of-state tuition requirements may be found at:  

Information:  
For additional information please contact Stephen Carp PT, PhD, GCS, Associate Professor and Director of Admissions, at stephen.carp@temple.edu or 215.707.8913.
**Frequently Asked Questions:**

How does Online Learning Work?

- Online learning utilizes the internet to complete a program without being physically present in a regular classroom.

Is Online Learning for Everyone?

- No, some students prefer a traditional, face-to-face meeting time with the instructor. Online learning leverages a variety of technological resources to provide the self-motivated, technological savvy student with a successful learning experience.

What are the benefits of online learning?

- Convenience, flexibility and travel are all main reasons that online learning students seek this type of program. For some students, they are not in the immediate geographical area and unable to travel to campus. The transition DPT students many continue to work as licensed physical therapists or administrators and an online curriculum allows each student to maintain their current job and undertake coursework in the evenings, weekends, etc.

Is Online Learning the same rigor as traditional coursework?

- Absolutely! The standards and expectations for our fully online programs is the same as our traditional learning environments. At Temple University, we pride ourselves on our commitment to maintain the academic and professional standards with all of our programs.

Is this program 100% online?

- Yes. There is no need to come to campus at all. There are resources available to all Temple University students that fully online students are capable of accessing (i.e. physical library). Additionally, you may elect to attend a traditional graduation ceremony that is on-campus.

Is the program accredited?

- Temple University is accredited by the Middle States Association. The entry-level DPT program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE).

What is the nature of the transition DPT program?

- This program is designed for licensed physical therapists that earned an entry-level Master’s degree and would like to advance their degree to the Doctor of Physical Therapy. This has been a professional initiative to advance the field of Physical Therapy.

How many hours a week do I need to commit to this program?

- This is variable depending on how many courses you take within a single semester. Each course is equivalent to a traditional on-campus 3 credit course. Most students report that for each course there is approximately 3-6 hours of work per week.

How much does the program cost?
• Please see the tuition and fee rates at the Bursar’s office website
  http://bursar.temple.edu/tuition-and-fees

How do I provide feedback?

• At the end of each semester, each student will receive an electronic Student Feedback Form that provides an opportunity to provide feedback about the instructor, course and content. Additionally, students are welcome to provide direct constructive feedback to the individual instructor.

What if I have a complaint?

• As always, we hope that any feedback is brought to the attention of the faculty member and program director. All instructors and directors are dedicated to serving our students, so please approach them with any complaints. Additionally, please see this website for student complaint procedures if necessary http://online.temple.edu/legal/state-authorization

How does the interaction occur between student and faculty?

• Students and faculty mainly interact in the virtual environments via Blackboard or Webex. A variety of instructional formats are utilized that include asynchronous (completed at your own time) and synchronous (specified day/time that is indicated by instructor). The majority of the Transition Doctor of Physical Therapy program is carried out in asynchronous fashion using Blackboard discussion boards for communication.
• TuMail is another communication method between faculty and students.

Where can I find tutorials and support for TuMail, Blackboard and Webex?

• Computer Services at Temple has online tutorials for Blackboard and Webex along with a variety of other services that are available to students. The website for Computer Services is https://computerservices.temple.edu/