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, continuing education credits, university teaching experience, 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 courses 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 tDPT courses below with minimum required 12 credits of coursework in BOLD. Course descriptions are available (including textbooks used) by clicking directly on the course number and title.

- DPT 8571 - Physical Therapy Diagnostics 3.0 credits
- DPT 8572 - Survey of Clinical Pharmacology * 1.5 credits
- DPT 8573 - Diagnostic Imaging * 1.5 credits
- DPT 8574 - Ethics 3.0 credits
- DPT 8575 - Motor Control & Human Movement 3.0 credits
- DPT 8576 - Clinical Decision Making 3.0 credits
- DPT 8577 - Health Care Systems 3.0 credits
- DPT 8578 - Outcomes Measurement & Epidemiology 3.0 credits
- DPT 8579 - Teaching & Learning 3.0 credits

*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 tDPT coursework and obtain the DPT degree applicants must have graduated from a Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accredited Physical Therapy program, successfully completed a master’s degree, and hold 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.