



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
UNIVERSITY of
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Doctor of Physical Therapy

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Curriculum

The mission of the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program is to provide a student-centered education that prepares graduates for socially responsible, outcomes-oriented, evidence-based, autonomous and collaborative practice. The successful applicant will have a bachelor's degree and meet the prerequisites detailed on the University website (www.rmuohp.edu).

The program is a traditional campus-based program consisting of 8 semesters. Learning experiences will include classroom, laboratory, online, and off-site clinical education. There are a total of 133 credit hours required for successful completion of the program, including the credits earned for the 51 weeks of clinical education. By design, the DPT program relies on the progressive clinical and academic model demonstrated in current University programs. The DPT program incorporates technological and clinical advances as well as contemporary educational theory. RMUoHP, acknowledged for its excellence in faculty and educational programming, recognizes that even with the best technology and curriculum the heart and soul of the program is its students. The DPT program caters to highly motivated students who wish to be active participants in their education.

The DPT program is committed to the development of an individual who can:

- Demonstrate a minimum of entry-level skill in autonomous provision of services including screening, examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, plan of care, intervention, and outcomes assessment activities.
- Provide effectively managed physical therapy services to healthcare consumers in a caring manner that demonstrates altruistic principles balanced with fiscal/fiduciary awareness.
- Adhere to ethical standards of practice and legal/regulatory policies.
- Provide leadership in the field of physical therapy.
- Demonstrate a commitment to excellence, lifelong learning, critical inquiry, and clinical reasoning by skillfully incorporating current evidence into physical therapy practice.
- Demonstrate abilities to continue professional development, including self- and peer evaluation.

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Curriculum Sequence

	Number	Course Title	Credits
Yr 1, Sem 1 (Sum 2015)	PT 700	Physical Therapy and Professionalism	3
	PT 701	Foundational Sciences 1: Human Anatomy	5
	PT 704	Intervention 1: Physical Therapy Procedures	2
	PT 705	Critical Inquiry 1: Introduction to Research Methods	2
	PT 711	Foundational Sciences 2: Kinesiology/Pathomechanics 1	4
	Total		
Yr 1, Sem 2 (Fall 2015)	PT 707	Physical Therapy Evaluation	2
	PT 714	Intervention 2: Physical Agents	2
	PT 715	Critical Inquiry 2: Biostatistics	2
	PT 721	Foundational Sciences 3: Physiology/Histology	5
	PT 724	Intervention 3: Therapeutic Exercise	3
	PT 731	Foundational Sciences 4: Kinesiology/Pathomechanics 2	4
Total			18
Yr 1, Sem 3 (Win 2016)	PT 716	Pharmacotherapy	1
	PT 720.2	The Socio-cultural Aspects of Human Interaction	1
	PT 725	Evidence -based Practice 1	2
	PT 727	Current Concepts in Rehabilitation	2
	PT 733	Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy and Exercise Science	3
	PT 734	Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy 1	5
	PT 741	Foundational Sciences 5: Neuroscience	4
Total			18
Yr 2, Sem 1 (Sum 2016)	PT 736	Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Amputee Training	2
	PT 737	Current Concepts in Rehabilitation 2	2
	PT 738	Physical Therapy Experience (6 weeks)	5
	PT 742	Pathophysiology	2
	PT 754	Neuromuscular Physical Therapy 1	5
Total			16
Yr 2, Sem 2 (Fall 2016)	PT 710	Ethics in Physical Therapy Practice	2
	PT 726	Physical Therapy and the Integument	2
	PT 730	Introduction to Health Promotion and Wellness	2
	PT 744	Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy 2	5
	PT 764	Neuromuscular Physical Therapy 2	5
Total			16
Yr 2, Sem 3 (Win 2017)	PT 735	Evidence-based Practice 2	2
	PT 740	Management Sciences in Physical Therapy	2
	PT 788	Clinical Internship 1 (15 weeks)	13
Total			17
Yr 3, Sem 1 (Sum 2017)	PT 712	Evidence-based Concepts of Musculoskeletal Imaging	1
	PT 746	Differential Diagnosis/Physical Assessment	2
	PT 745	Evidence-based Practice 3	1
	PT 798	Clinical Internship 2 (15 weeks)	13
Total			17
Yr 3, Sem 2 (Fall 2017)	PT 755	Evidence-based Practice 4	2
	PT 799	Clinical Internship 3 (15 weeks)	13
Total			15
Program Total			133

Year 1, Semester 1, Summer 2015

(16 credits)

PT 700 Physical Therapy and Professionalism (3 credits)

An overview of the healthcare delivery system and of the professional roles of doctorally-prepared physical therapists is presented. Students evaluate the interdisciplinary roles of medical and rehabilitation co-professionals and extenders, including, among others, medical doctors, nurses, physical, occupational and speech therapists, chiropractors, social workers, and physical therapist assistants. The history and development of modern-day physical therapy in the United States is examined in depth and includes the study of the collaborative nature of twenty first century healthcare practice. (Lecture 3)

PT 701 Foundational Sciences 1: Human Anatomy (5 credits)

The study of human anatomical structures as they relate to movement and the physiological demands of activity and exercise. A regional approach to the study of structures is aided by specimens, models, and multimedia. The course is projected to have a strong interactive, online component. (Lecture 4/Lab 2)

PT 704 Intervention 1: Physical Therapy Procedures (2 credits)

The first in a series of clinical skill courses; this introductory course focuses on basic principles and the development of psychomotor skills related to palpation, infection control, vital signs, clinical emergencies, body mechanics, positioning and draping, therapeutic massage, basic wheelchair prescription, transfers, bed mobility, and gait training of patients and clients. (Lecture 1/Lab 2)

PT 705 Critical Inquiry 1: Introduction to Research Methods (2 credits)

This course will present an introduction to general research principles and research ethics. The student will be introduced to the following topics in the research process: question formulation, principles of measurement, basic research design and methodological features, issues of reliability and validity, and fundamentals of conducting a literature review. This course will also serve as an introduction to evidence-based practice. (Lecture 2)

PT 711 Foundational Sciences 2: Kinesiology/Pathomechanics 1 (4 credits)

This course will examine the study of human movement including selected anatomical, structural, and functional properties of human connective tissues, muscular tissues, nervous tissues, and skeletal structures. Focus will be on the lower quarter. Emphasis will be placed on mechanical, neuroregulatory, and muscular influences upon normal and pathological motion. (Lecture 3/Lab 2)

Year 1, Semester 2, Fall 2015

(18 credits)

PT 707 Physical Therapy Evaluation (2 credits)

This course will cover the elements of patient/client management with a focus on components of an examination and the development of the evaluation/diagnosis/prognosis process. Laboratory sessions emphasize examination skills with refinement of psychomotor skills learned during the first semester. The evaluative process will utilize the International Classification of Functioning and Disability (ICF) as the primary process for making a diagnosis and developing the prognosis/ plan of care. The course also includes: introduction to documentation, history taking, examination tests and measures, outcome tools, and outcome assessments. (Lecture 1/Lab 2)

PT 714 Intervention 2: Physical Agents (2 credits)

The second in the intervention series, this course focuses on the theory and physiological effects of selected physical agents/modalities, including indications and contraindications relevant to specific conditions. Biophysical Technologies include heat, cold, electrical current, light, sound, and other electromagnetic spectrum modalities, as well as intermittent compression and traction. (Lecture 1/Lab 2)

PT 715 Critical Inquiry 2: Biostatistics (2 credits)

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to biostatistics, the science of evaluating information in a biological setting. This course will cover such topics as simple descriptive statistics, basic probability concepts, probability distributions (normal & binomial), sampling distributions, interval estimation, confidence intervals, hypothesis tests, and one and two-sample t-tests. (Lecture 2)

PT 721 Foundational Sciences 3: Physiology/Histology (5 credits)

A clinical approach to physiological systems most relevant to the practice of physical therapy. Content relates to the 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. Content includes the microscopic and submicroscopic structure of mammalian tissue. The course is projected to have a strong interactive, online component. (Lecture 5)

PT 724 Intervention 3: Therapeutic Exercise (3 credits)

The third course in the intervention series, this course is designed to provide students with an overview of basic principles related to exercise, including acute and chronic physiologic adaptation to aerobic and anaerobic exercise. The impact various disease states have on exercise capacity will also be explored. In addition, the application of therapeutic exercise prescription and medical documentation will be emphasized as relates to pathologic conditions commonly seen in physical therapy practice. (Lecture 2/Lab 2)

PT 731 Foundational Sciences 4: Kinesiology/Pathomechanics 2 (4 credits)
This course is a continuation of Kinesiology/Pathomechanics 1, and includes the study of human movement, including selected anatomical, structural, and functional properties of human connective tissues, muscular tissues, nervous tissues, and skeletal structures. Focus is on the upper quarter and spine. Emphasis will be placed on mechanical, neuroregulatory, and muscular influences upon normal and pathological motion. (Lecture 3/Lab 2)

Year 1, Semester 3, Winter 2016
(18 credits)

PT 716 Pharmacotherapy (1 credit)
This course will introduce basic pharmacological concepts such as pharmacotherapeutics, dynamics, and kinetics and their application to physical therapy practice. The impact of prescribed and over the counter (OTC) drugs on the outcome of therapy interventions will be explored. The course also emphasizes current evidence regarding medication/drugs and their relation to physical therapy practice. (Lecture 2)

PT 720.2 The Socio-cultural Aspects of Human Interaction (1 credit)
General principles of human interaction, communication, and relationships are presented, including self, professional-patient, and interdisciplinary strategies for understanding adaptations to disease and disability. The development of skills to prepare students to be culturally competent in physical therapy practice is emphasized. (Lecture 1)

PT 725 Evidence-based Practice 1 (2 credits)
This is the first in a four-course sequence in evidence-based practice that provides students with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to conscientiously, explicitly, and judiciously use current best evidence in making clinical decisions. This course builds on the information from the critical inquiry series. The course focuses on the components of evidence-based practice, formulating answerable clinical questions, and accessing and performing critical appraisals of evidence relevant to clinical practice. (Lecture 2)

PT 727 Current Concepts in Rehabilitation (2 credits)
This course focuses on current and evidence-based concepts in rehabilitation, including motor control, motor learning, exercise prescriptions, issues of wellness and health promotion, and the effects of aging. (Lecture 2)

PT 733 Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy and Exercise Science (3 credits)
This course will prepare the student to effectively manage patients with cardiovascular and/or pulmonary impairments and disability. Emphasis is placed on the elements of patient client management in physical therapy practice, including screening, examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, development of a plan of care, intervention, and outcomes assessment and evaluation. Concepts of exercise

physiology and practical application in physical therapy are addressed. (Lecture 2/Lab 2)

PT 734 Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy 1 (5 credits)

The first of two courses in this series, this course prepares the student to practice entry-level physical therapy relative to the management of musculoskeletal conditions. Information related to common orthopaedic conditions and diagnoses is presented. This course will concentrate on the lower extremities and the spine. Information regarding evidence-based approaches in critical thinking and application of psychomotor skills related to examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, and outcomes assessment is emphasized. A primer on differential diagnosis and evaluation tools is presented to help students recognize problems that are beyond the physical therapy scope of practice and when/how to refer appropriately within the healthcare community. (Lecture 4/Lab 2)

PT 741 Foundational Sciences 5: Neuroscience (4 credits)

This course includes the study of human neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, with emphasis on the relationship between structure, function, and control of the human nervous system in normal and diseased states. (Lecture 4)

Year 2, Semester 1, Summer 2016

(16 credits)

PT 736 Prosthetics, Orthotics and Amputee Training (2 credits)

This course focuses on care of the patient who has had an amputation or condition that requires external support, including care related to underlying conditions and comorbidities. Topics such as care of residual limb, prosthetics and orthotics, and associated care and training will be discussed. (Lecture 2)

PT 737 Current Concepts in Rehabilitation 2 (2 credits)

The second of two current concepts courses, this course focuses on varying topics related to current practice and technology, emerging issues, and future opportunities in Physical Therapy including but not limited to teaching and learning, clinical education, professional and interprofessional responsibilities, and specialty practice.

PT 738 Physical Therapy Experience (6 weeks) (5 credits)

The first of four clinical education courses, this course is designed to facilitate socialization of DPT students to the clinical environment and to apply knowledge and basic skills developed up to this point in the curriculum in a real world setting. Students will participate in direct patient care while being instructed and supervised by clinical faculty members. Student activities may include, but are not limited to, patient examination, patient treatment, patient and family education, article presentations, and aspects of patient care. (Clinical Experience)

PT 742 Pathophysiology (2 credits)
This course expands on concepts introduced in anatomy and physiology and focuses on pathophysiology and disease frequently seen in physical therapy practice. (Lecture 2)

PT 754 Neuromuscular Physical Therapy (5 credits)
The first of two courses in this series, this course prepares the future physical therapist to effectively manage patients with neuromuscular dysfunction. Students will apply the elements of patient/client management in physical therapy practice, including screening, examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, plan of care, intervention, and outcomes assessment to the patient with neuromuscular dysfunction. The emphasis in this first course will be on the pediatric patients developing toward adulthood. (Lecture 4/Lab 2)

Year 2, Semester 2, Fall 2016

(16 credits)

PT 710 Ethics in Physical Therapy Practice (2 credits)
This course provides a comprehensive overview of physical therapy ethics. Students define and distinguish moral, ethical and legal duties in practice, analyze the APTA's core values, Code of Ethics and *Guide for Professional Conduct*, and compare and contrast professional association ethical standards and state licensing board ethical standards. The four foundational biomedical ethical principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy and justice are examined and applied to practice. (Lecture 2)

PT 726 Physical Therapy and the Integument (2 credits)
This course focuses on the care of the integumentary system, including burns, wounds, and decubitus ulcers, and underlying diseases which can lead to these conditions. Special attention is given to the care of individuals with insensitive limbs, and other comorbidities. (Lecture 1/Lab 2)

PT 730 Introduction to Health Promotion and Wellness (2 credits)
This course will provide an overview of the concepts of health promotion, health education, public health, primary prevention, lifestyle, behavior, and wellness and, based on evidence, their relationships to each other and to secondary and tertiary care. The historical relevance of and evidence for focusing on individual and social determinants of health will be explored and an ecological model combining both approaches will be introduced. Typical intervention sites for effective health promotion programs will be discussed as well as a framework for implementing programs. (Lecture 2)

PT 744 Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy 2 (5 credits)
The second of two courses in this series, this course prepares the student to practice entry-level physical therapy relative to the management of the musculoskeletal

conditions. This course will concentrate on the upper extremities, trunk and the cervical spine. Information related to common orthopaedic conditions and diagnoses is presented. Information regarding an evidence-based approach in critical thinking and application of psychomotor skills related to examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, and outcomes assessment is emphasized. A primer on differential diagnosis and evaluation tools is presented to help students recognize problems that are beyond the physical therapy scope of practice and how/when to refer appropriately within the healthcare community. (Lecture 4/Lab 2)

PT 764 Neuromuscular Physical Therapy 2 (5 credits)

The second of two courses in this series, this course prepares the future physical therapist to effectively manage patients with neuromuscular dysfunction. Students will incorporate and build upon concepts and skills developed in the first course. Students will learn to effectively manage adult patients with specific neurological diagnoses. Emphasis will be placed on using an evidence-based approach to developing knowledge and skills in managing a variety of common conditions, including spinal cord injury, cerebrovascular accident, vestibular dysfunction, traumatic brain injury, and multi-system neurologic conditions. The effects of aging and Geriatric neurological conditions will also be considered. (Lecture 4/Lab 2)

Year 2, Semester 3, Winter 2017

(17 credits)

PT 735 Evidence-based Practice 2 (2 credits)

The second in a four course series, this course builds on all previous course work in EBP and is designed to prepare physical therapy students with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to make independent judgments about the validity of clinical research and to implement evidence-based clinical practice in their clinical rotations. This course will focus on the concepts of evidence-based practice, with emphasis on forming answerable clinical questions and effective literature search strategies. The EBP approach will prepare students to find, appraise, and integrate evidence for clinical decision-making, with particular emphasis in this course on: 1) prognosis for a given patient; and 2) the effectiveness of clinical interventions. Based on presentation of case scenarios, students will be able to formulate the key question(s), rapidly search medical and health-related databases, select best available evidence, appraise the evidence using the EBP approach, and describe application of the evidence in a clinical context. (Lecture 2)

PT 740 Management Sciences in Physical Therapy (2 credits)

This course examines current issues and trends in physical therapy clinical management. Specific topics include: (1) leadership and management principles; (2) human resource management issues, including: recruitment, selection, and retention of staff and managerial human resources; leadership; supervision, and delegation; performance appraisal; training and development activities; compensation

issues; management-labor relations; grievance and discipline; work place safety; and employment law and regulations; (3) health care finance, including clinical budgeting, financial statements and ratios, and reimbursement issues; (4) marketing of PT professional services; and (5) information, quality, and risk management.

PT 788 Clinical Internship 1 (15 weeks) (13 credits)

The second of four clinical education courses, this course is designed to incorporate knowledge and skills obtained and enhanced during the first short term clinical experience and synthesize information and skills developed in the final didactic portion of the curriculum. Students will participate in direct patient care while being instructed and supervised by clinical faculty members. Student activities may include, but are not limited to, patient examination, patient treatment, patient and family education, article presentations, and all aspects of patient care and most aspects of patient/client management. It is anticipated that the student PT should be able to carry a caseload and work independently (with appropriate supervision) with most simple and many complex patient types by the end of this clinical experience. (Clinical Experience)

Year 3, Semester 1, Summer 2017

(17 credits)

PT 712 Evidence-based Concepts of Musculoskeletal Imaging (1 credit)

This course presents the latest concepts in musculoskeletal imaging as related to evidence-based diagnosis in physical therapy practice. Methods of image acquisition and the appearance of normal anatomy and pathology are presented for a spectrum of musculoskeletal imaging modalities. Clinical application and case examples of the imaging procedures are presented. (Lecture 1)

PT 745 Evidence-based Practice 3 (1 credit)

The third of four courses in this series, this is a distance education course performed in conjunction with a clinical internship. The student will employ evidence-based practice (EBP) methods learned in earlier EBP courses to direct patient care. Students will further enhance their ability to ask relevant clinical questions, explore different sources of evidence, and make evidence-based decisions related to patient management in the clinic.

PT 746 Differential Diagnosis/Physical Assessment (2 credits)

This course builds on examination, evaluation, and screening knowledge and skills introduced in previous courses focusing on differential diagnosis/physical assessment as it applies to physical therapy. This course covers concepts of probability-based differential diagnosis and presents the evidence for diagnosis using properties of diagnostic tests such as sensitivity, specificity, likelihood ratios, and predictive values. Pathology of the major body systems and regions will be covered with current

evidence-based practice diagnostic standards as they are available in the professional literature. (Lecture 2)

PT 798 Clinical Internship 2 (15 weeks) (13 credits)

The third of four clinical education courses, this course is designed to incorporate knowledge and skills obtained and enhanced during the first two clinical experiences and synthesize/appraise information and skills developed in the final didactic portion of the curriculum. Students will participate in direct patient care while being instructed and supervised by clinical faculty members. Student activities may include, but are not limited to, patient examination, patient treatment, patient and family education, article presentations, and all aspects of the patient/client management model appropriate to the setting. It is anticipated that the student PT will be able to demonstrate entry-level performance by the end of this clinical experience, for many of the criteria. (Clinical Experience)

Year 3, Semester 2, Fall 2017

(15 credits)

PT 755 Evidence-based Practice 4 (2 credits)

The final course in the evidence-based practice series, this is a limited residency course that includes distance and online coursework while students are on a clinical internship, as well as on-campus presentation and evaluation activities. Students will develop and present evidence of their knowledge, skills, and abilities in applying evidence-based practice to patient management in a clinical setting.

PT 799 Clinical Internship 3 (15 weeks) (13 credits)

This final clinical education course is designed to incorporate knowledge and skills obtained and enhanced during the first three clinical experiences and synthesize/appraise information and skills developed in the final didactic portion of the curriculum. Students will participate in direct patient care while being instructed and supervised by clinical faculty members. Student activities may include, but are not limited to, patient examination, patient treatment, patient and family education, article presentations, and all aspects of the patient/client management model appropriate to the setting. It is anticipated that the student PT will be able to demonstrate entry-level performance by the end of this clinical experience. (Clinical Experience)

*RMUoHP has been granted accreditation by the [Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education](#) of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org).