

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND NATURAL SCIENCE

Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)

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One University – Two DPT Programs

Franklin Pierce University offers two full-time DPT programs with distinct formats, both are fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy. The faculty in both programs stay clinically relevant by engaging in clinical work. Both programs have the same mission and goals and curriculum outcomes.

Students in both D.P.T. programs are required to hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university and complete all prerequisite courses and requirements prior to matriculating into the program. The Essential Functions provide specific core performance standards that every student must be able to meet, with or without reasonable accommodation, for admission and progression in the D.P.T. program.

The New Hampshire DPT program is an on-site program that is 30 months in length in Manchester, New Hampshire. It has 38 weeks of clinical experience in 10 graduate terms. An early full-time experience of 8 weeks is done during the fifth term.

The Arizona DPT program uses the hybrid mode of delivery and is 25.5 months in length (8 terms). The curriculum is a blend of online learning (synchronous and asynchronous) and intensive 4–5-day lab sessions, held in Goodyear, Arizona. In addition to the 30 weeks of full-time clinical experiences at the end of the didactic portion, the student participates in early hands-on Integrated Clinical Experiences during the didactic phase of the program.

The Physical Therapy Profession

Physical Therapists (PTs) are licensed healthcare professionals who diagnose and treat individuals of all ages, who have health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. Physical therapists:

- Diagnose and manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional abilities.
- Restore, maintain, and promote optimal physical function, wellness, fitness, and quality of life as it relates to movement and health.
- Prevent the onset, symptoms, and progression of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities that may result from diseases, disorders, conditions, or injuries.

Physical therapists provide care for people in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and nursing homes (apta.org). Franklin Pierce University offers Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) programs in Manchester, New Hampshire, and in Goodyear, Arizona. Both facilities are newly renovated with state-of-the-art equipment and learning technologies. Clinical experience is a vital part of the program and is conducted at sites throughout the country.

Mission

The Mission of the D.P.T. program is to graduate competent practitioners who are prepared to enhance the physical health and functional abilities of the members of the public. Our graduates render independent judgment in collaboration with others to advocate for and meet the needs of the patient/client and to ensure equal access for all individuals. They critically analyze, appropriately utilize, and contribute to evidence-based practice. Our graduates embrace life-long learning and consciously apply ethical values. They contribute to society and the profession in practice, teaching, administration, community service, and the discovery and application of new knowledge related to physical therapy.

Expected Graduate Goals and Outcomes

Graduates of the D.P.T. program will:

1. Have the knowledge and skills of a PT capable of working as an autonomous practitioner
 - Achieve 100% ultimate pass rate on the NPTE
 - Employed as autonomous practitioners in a variety of practice settings
 - Integrate current research, clinical expertise, and patient values into practice
2. Demonstrate empathetic and compassionate practice
 - Adhere to the APTA Code of Ethics
 - Respect and treat each patient as an individual, without regard to gender, race, color, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation
3. Demonstrate commitment to the physical therapy profession
 - Promote the profession through education
 - Possess skills to advocate for the profession

Franklin Pierce University's D.P.T. Educational Philosophy

- The curriculum and teaching are guided by the following values:
- The inherent worth of the individual and the value of diversity;
- The autonomous practice of the profession;
- The inherent value of inter-professional collaboration and consultation;
- That community service is a powerful mechanism for teaching and learning;
- That life-long learning is critical for all physical therapy practitioners;
- That ethical thinking, behavior and social responsibility are central to physical therapist education;
- That the development of critical thinking and the application of evidence-based practice are core skills for all graduates;
- That graduates contribute to society through work, teaching, community involvement, and the application of new knowledge.

Faculty, graduates, and employers continue to contribute to the development of the D.P.T. curriculum preparing our students and graduates to have the skills to practice in a changing society and health care delivery system.

Special consideration for entrance into the FPU D.P.T. program is offered for FPU undergraduates in three pathways: (See more information under [D.P.T. Direct Entry](#))

1. Freshman D.P.T. Direct Entry: High School Seniors who meet specific requirements (see below) are guaranteed entrance into the FPU D.P.T. program upon satisfactory completion (see below) of the requirements for entrance into the D.P.T. program.
2. Current FPU Student D.P.T. Direct Entry: Current students who meet the established levels of academic success in the undergraduate courses (see below) can apply for D.P.T. Direct Entry in their first three years of undergraduate work. These students will have guaranteed entrance into the FPU D.P.T. program upon satisfactory completion (see below) of the requirements for entrance into the D.P.T. program.
3. Preferential FPU Application review for current student into the FPU D.P.T. program: Students who are current students at FPU and are not in the D.P.T. Direct Entry program will have preferential application review than transfer students if they meet the following criteria:
 - A Completed application in PTCAS before November 15 the year before expected entrance into the D.P.T. program
 - Recommendation from FPU advisor

Application Process

The application and admissions process is the same for both Manchester, N.H. and Goodyear, A.Z. D.P.T. programs. Students must apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) online at ptcas.org. The PTCAS application cycle opens in midsummer for the following academic year. We evaluate applications throughout the admissions cycle with a priority deadline of mid November and a soft deadline in the beginning of March and consider qualified applicants until the class is filled.

Doctor of Physical Therapy Promotion Policy

In addition to the University's Graduate Academic Standing Policy, as listed in the current Catalog, the Doctor of Physical Therapy program implements the following Promotion Policy that is more stringent.

Good Academic Standing

The course sequence in the curriculum is designed to provide incremental knowledge and skills necessary for PT practice. In general, the sequence must be followed to achieve this goal. A student in good academic standing will progress through the curriculum as designed. Since courses are arranged in a specific sequence, repeating a course will result in deceleration of the student's progress through the curriculum, and require a longer period of time to successfully complete the entire curriculum. Good academic standing is obtained by achieving a term grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or greater, maintaining a cumulative GPA (CGPA) of 3.00 or greater, passing all Pass/Fail courses, earning course grades of B- or greater and maintaining appropriate standards of professional behavior.

Doctoral Academic Sanctions

Academic Probation

- A final Course grade of C or below in two courses

Academic Suspension

An Academic suspension requires a student to step out of the lock-step curriculum to repeat a course when it is offered in the next year.

The following circumstances may result in an Academic Suspension:

- A student receives a final course grade of C or below in any course or
- A student receives a Fail grade in a P/F course
- The student who is repeating a course and earns a B- or lower grade, may not progress until this course is successfully completed
- The student must complete a Learning Contract and may be encouraged to audit other courses they have already completed in order to engage and remain up-to-date with the other didactic coursework.

Program Dismissal

Program dismissal may result in the following circumstances:

- Any student whose term GPA is below 3.00 for two terms, or
- Any students whose CGPA is below 3.00 for two terms, or
- Any student who receives a final course grade of C or below in two courses, or
- Any student who receives a Fail grade in any two Pass/Fail courses, or
- Any student who receives a final course grade of C or below in one course and a Fail grade in any Pass/Fail course, or
- Any student who fails to earn a Pass or a final course grade of B or better in any repeated course. or
- Any student who fails to adhere to the professional standards of the program.

Academic Status Letter

At the completion of each term, if academic performance is consistent with the criteria set forth for academic probation, suspension or program dismissal, the Dean will issue a letter notifying the student of their academic status.

Learning Contract

A student who is placed on academic probation, academic suspension or program dismissal will be required to proceed under a Learning Contract. The Learning Contract will identify the academic criteria necessary to return to academic good standing.

Promotion

- Students must satisfactorily complete all courses maintaining a 3.00 term GPA and CGPA and must have successfully completed a learning contract before proceeding to the full-time clinical experiences.
- Students must pass the comprehensive practical examination in the last didactic term in order to participate in the full-time terminal clinical experiences.
- Students must pass all full-time clinical education experiences in order to graduate. Only one repeat of a full-time clinical experience is allowed.

Appeals

Final Course Grade appeal - A student may appeal a final course grade decision from a faculty member to the Program Director. Grade appeals may be taken to the Department chair as the final appeal.

Promotion Appeals: If a student wishes to appeal the Program dismissal decision If a student wishes to appeal, the student must contact his/her advisor immediately upon receiving formal notice of unsatisfactory performance and file the appeal to the director of the DPT program within three days of receipt of the Academic Sanction Letter. The advisor will assist the student in developing an appeal describing the unusual circumstances leading to the unsatisfactory performance and actions the student has undertaken/ or plans to strengthen their academic performance. A student may appeal to the Departmental Chair. If a student is not satisfied with the Department Chair a student may appeal the decision to the Dean of the School and the Graduate Academic Standing Committee.

Curriculum Plan-New Hampshire

Term 1 – Fall

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 506	Introduction to Professional Development	2

PTH 523	Anatomy	6
PTH 528	Kinesiology	6
PTH 531	Foundations of Physical Therapy - I	2

Total Credits for Term - 16

Winter

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 504	Physiology in Health and Disease	4
PTH 518	Research Methods in Physical Therapy	2
PTH 532	Foundations of Physical Therapy - II	2
PTH 537	Musculoskeletal 1 – Upper Extremity	4
PTH 545	Therapeutic Exercise and Soft Tissue Mobilization	3
PTH 547	Physical Agents and Modalities	2

Total Credits for Term - 17

Spring

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 508	Neuroanatomy	3
PTH 517	PY1 Integrated Clinical Education Experience	1
PTH 519	Critical Inquiry	1
PTH 524	Clinical Pharmacology	2
PTH 529	Health Promotion and Wellness – I	2
PTH 538	Musculoskeletal 2 – Lower Extremity	4
PTH 620	Imaging and Diagnostics	2

Total Credits for Term - 15

Summer

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 512	Motor Control Across the Lifespan	4
PTH 530	Health Promotion and Wellness - II	1

PTH 534	Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy	3
PTH 539	Musculoskeletal 3 - Spine	5
PTH 540	Fundamentals of Neurologic Rehabilitation	3
PTH 611	Pain Neuroscience	2

Total Credits for Term – 18

Fall

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 516	Psychosocial Issues in Healthcare – Intensive	3
PTH 608	Clinical Education Experience 1	4
PTH 647	Orthotics	1

Total Credits for Term - 8

Winter

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 514	Health Practice Management	3
PTH 543	Neurologic Clinical Management	5
PTH 544	Integumentary System	2
PTH 623	Management of Patients with Multisystem Involvement – I	3
PTH 720	Capstone Research Project – I	2

Course Label	Course Title - Electives	Credits
PTH 599	Independent Study	2
PTH 615	DPT Student Clinic	2
PTH 627	PYII ICE	2
LS 565	Spanish for Healthcare Professionals	2

Total Credits for Term – 15

One – 2 credit elective must be taken during the didactic curriculum in either Term 6 or 7

Spring

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 511	Management of Pediatric/Adolescent Patient	5
PTH 610	Professional Seminar	1
PTH 624	Management of Patients with Multisystem Involvement - II	4
PTH 648	Prosthetics	1
PTH 730	Capstone Research Project - II	2

Course Label	Course Title - Electives	Credits
PTH 599	Independent Study	2
PTH 615	DPT Student Clinic	2
PTH 627	PYII ICE	2
PTH 630	Sports Injury Management and Prevention	2
LS 565	Spanish for Healthcare Professionals	2

Total Credits for Term - 13

One – 2 credit elective must be taken during the didactic curriculum in either Term 6 or 7

4 Summer

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 701	Clinical Education Experience II	5

Total Credits for Term – 5

Term 9 – Graduate Term 1 - Fall

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 702	Clinical Education Experience III	5

Total Credits for Term – 5

Winter

Course Label	Course Title	Credits
PTH 703	Clinical Education Experience IV	5

Total Credits for Term – 5

Total Credits by Term for Program

Term of Study	Number of Credits	Elective Credits
Term 1	16	
Term 2	17	
Term 3	15	
Term 4	18	
Term 5	8	
Term 6	15	2
Term 7	13	2
Term 8	5	
Term 9	5	
Term 10	5	
TOTAL	117	Up to 4
Total Required 119		

Curriculum Plan-Arizona

Professional Year 1 – Class of 2025

Term 1: Fall 2023

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PTH523A	Anatomy	5
PTH504	Physiology of Health & Disease	4
PTH528A	Kinesiology	5
PTH546	Physical Agents	1
PTH550	EBP - Critical Inquiry	1
Credits 16		

Term 2: Spring 2023-24

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PTH508A	Neuroanatomy	4
PTH512	Motor Control ACR Lifespan	3
PTH620	Imaging	2
PTH531/2	Intro to PT Exam	3
PTH545	Intro to Therapeutic Exercise	3
PTH506A	Intro to Professional Develop & Patient Education	1
Credits 16		

Term 3: Spring 2024

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PTH537	MSK I - UE	4
PTH540A	Neuro Clinical Management I	4
PTH529	Health Promotion and Wellness	2
PTH550	EBP - Research I	2
PTH524	Clinical Pharmacology	2
PTH606	Integrated Clin Exp I (FPU Clin Yr1)	1
Credits 15		

Term 4: Summer 2024

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PTH538	MSK II - LE	4
PTH534	CV & Pulm PT I	4
PTH543A	Neuro Clinical Management II	4
PTH544	Integumentary System	2
PTH607	Integrated Clin Exp II (FPU Clin Yr1)	1
PTH560	EBP – Research II	1
Credits 16		

Professional Year 2 – Class of 2024

Term 5: Fall 2024

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PTH538A	MSK III Spine	4
PTH511A	Manage of Ped/Adol Pt	4
PTH623	CV & Pulm PT II	4
PTH646	Orthotics and Prosthetics	2
PTH616	Integrated Clin Exp III (FPU Clin Yr2)	1
PTH560	EBP – Research II	1
Credits 16		

Term 6: Winter 2024-25

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PTH624	Manage of Pt with Multi System Impairment	3
PTH635A	Advanced Interventions	3
PTH516	Psychosocial Issues in Health Care	2
PTH650	EBP – Research III	1
PTH 610	Professional Seminar / Licensure Exam Prep	2
PTH 514	Health Care Management	3
PTH617	Integrated Clin Exp IV (FPU Clin Yr2)	1
Credits 15		

Term 6 = 15 credits

Term 7 and 8: Spring / Summer 2025

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PTH701	Clinical Internship (10 wks)	5
PTH702	Clinical Internship (10 wks)	5
PTH703	Clinical Internship (10 wks)	5
Credits 15		

Professional Year 1 – Class of 2024**Term 1: Fall 2022**

PTH504	Physiology of Health and Disease	3 credits
PTH506A	Introduction to Professional Development & Patient Education	1 credit
PTH523A	Anatomy	5 credits
PTH528A	Kinesiology	5 credits
PTH531	Foundations of Physical Therapy Practice I	2 credits
PTH 606	Integrated Clinical Education Experience Year 1	0 credits

Term 1 = 16 credits**Term 2: Winter 2022-23**

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PTH607	Integrated Clinical Education Experience-Year 1	1 credit
PTH532	Foundations of Physical Therapy Practice II	2 credits
PTH537	Musculoskeletal System I – Upper Extremity	4 credits
PTH544	Integumentary System	2 credits
PTH545	Therapeutic Exercise & Soft Tissue Mobilization	3 credits
PTH546	Physical Agents	1 credit
PTH550	EBP- Research I*	2 credits
		Term 2 = 15 credits

Term 3: Spring 2023

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PTH508A	Neuroanatomy	4 credits
PTH606	Integrated Clinical Education Experience-Year 1	0 credit
PTH524	Clinical Pharmacology	3 credits
PTH529	Health Promotion & Wellness I	2 credits
PTH534	Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy	3 credits
PTH538	Musculoskeletal System II – Lower Extremity	4 credits
		Term 3 = 15 credits

Term 4: Summer 2023

Course Number	Course Name	Credits
PTH512	Motor Control ACR Life Span	4 credits

PTH516	Psychosocial Issues in HC*	3 credits
PTH607	Integrated Clinical Education Experience- Year 1	1 credit
PTH539A	Musculoskeletal System III – Spine	4 credits
PTH560	EBP- Research II*	2 credits
PTH620	Imaging & Diagnostics*	2 credits
		Term 4 = 16 credits

Professional Year 2 – Class of 2024

Term 5: Fall 2023

PTH514	Health Care Management*	3 credits
PTH616	Integrated Clinical Education Experience Year1	0 credit
PTH543A	Neurological Clinical Management	6 credits
PTH623	Management of Patients w/ Multisystem Involvement I	3 credits
PTH646	Orthotics and Prosthetics	2 credits
PTH650	EBP- Research II*	2 credits

Term 5 = 16 credits

Term 6: Winter 2023-24

PTH511A	Management of the Pediatric & Adolescent Patient	4 credits
PTH617	Integrated Clinical Education Experience- Year 2	1 credit
PTH610	Professional Seminar I	1 credit
PTH624	Management of Patients with Multisystem Involvement II	4 credits
PTH635A	Advanced Orthopedic Interventions	4 credits
PTH690	Comprehensive Exam P/F	1 credit

Term 6 = 15 credits

Term 7 and 8: March to October 2024

PTH695	License Exam Prep*	1 credit
PTH701A	Clinical Education Experience I	5 credits
PTH702A	Clinical Education Experience II	5 credits
PTH703A	Clinical Education Experience III	5 credits
		Term 7 & 8 = 16 credits

*Online Courses

Total credits: 110 semester credits (2 years + 6 weeks). The sequence of courses offered within the curriculum may be subject to change.
Total Contact hours (online and Lab) = 2655

