Doctorate: An Excellent Foundation for a Physical Therapy Career

Physical Therapists have rewarding careers working directly with people in a variety of settings. They are respected members of the health care team who treat illness and injury using their extensive knowledge of movement science. Physical therapists use a variety of techniques and technologies to promote and restore health and ability. They work with all systems of the body, including the muscular, skeletal, circulatory, respiratory and nervous systems. Their knowledge and skill make a positive difference in the lives of many people.

The doctorate degree is considered the standard in physical therapy education. The Physical Therapy Professional Doctoral Program is a three-year graduate program for students holding a bachelor's degree and who are entering the field. The Professional-Level DPT is a full-time professional preparation program. Graduates receive a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and are eligible to apply for licensure as physical therapists throughout the United States.

In addition to teaching how to examine, evaluate and treat patients, the Professional DPT program prepares graduates to practice in both the current and future health care environment.

The DPT degree builds upon the critical thinking skills and compassionate patient care for which physical therapists are noted, and helps to enhance the PT’s capability as a diagnostician. Our graduates focus on prevention and wellness in addition to treating injury, illness or developmental delays. In most states physical therapists practice independently, without physician referral. The DPT program at Upstate prepares graduates for this opportunity by emphasizing critical thinking and diagnostic skills.

Goals for graduates of Upstate Medical University's OPT program are that they:

- Engage in autonomous practice in a legal, ethical and reflective manner in a variety of settings.
- Be critical thinkers and problem solvers.
- Apply the principles of lifelong learning, evidence-based practice and best practice approach to patient/client management.
- Integrate core values and generic abilities into their practice.

Boundless Employment Opportunities for Physical Therapists

- Private practice
- Hospitals
- Rehabilitation centers
- Home-care agencies
- Schools
- Research centers
- Universities
- Extended care facilities
- Industrial and health center consultation
- Sports therapy centers

The Upstate Advantage

At Upstate Medical University, our positive results speak for themselves. In 2007, the first-time licensure pass rate for Upstate’s PT graduates was almost 91 percent. One hundred percent of those graduates who sought positions assumed jobs in their profession.
Students say the superior quality of our academic programs is our greatest strength. We have dedicated faculty who are national leaders in their profession. Our full-time faculty are the primary instructors for classes and are constantly available to students. Faculty members teach, conduct research and practice in a variety of PT areas of specialization including orthopedics, pediatrics, cardiopulmonary, geriatrics, neurology and sports medicine.

In addition, faculty members author journal articles and textbooks, receive grants, teach and present research at national and international conferences, write and review items for the National Physical Therapy Licensure Exam, and participate on national task forces.

In the field, our reputation is excellent. Students learn by working alongside professionals in hospitals, specialty services, and research and clinical laboratories. This intensive clinical experience helps our graduates put their learning into practice. DPT students have 36 weeks of direct, supervised patient contact at their choice of more than 175 clinical sites in New York State and the Northeast.

SUNY Upstate Medical University has offered Physical Therapy education since 1970. Although we keep our classes small, our program is also a major part of an academic medical center and our physical therapy students benefit greatly from the connection to Upstate’s medical school and teaching hospital.

Campus facilities of interest to physical therapy students include a dedicated PT laboratory, the university’s gross anatomy laboratory and the new Clinical Skills Center. The skills center, the largest of its kind in the United States, features 22 examination rooms, video monitoring and other equipment designed to improve students' clinical and communication skills.

Upstate offers student housing with an environment conducive to study. The Clark Tower residence hall houses 170 health professional students and spouses from all four colleges. The quiet, on-campus location makes this an ideal setting for students to share their interests both in and out of the classroom. The residence hall is next door to the Campus Activities Building, which features an indoor swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium, free weights, Nautilus equipment and more. Membership and use of CAB facilities is included in the student activities fee.

Strong Career Prospects Health care is the second fastest growing industry in the nation and there is a need for well-educated professionals. The Bureau of labor Statistics reports that employment for PTs will grow 27 percent through 2016. Physical Therapists report high job satisfaction, a variety of work opportunities and low unemployment. A DPT prepares the PT practitioner for direct access practice by emphasizing critical thinking and diagnostic skills.

Admission Requirements

The admissions requirements for the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university (including completion of 40 credits of prerequisite course work) GRE scores and volunteer or work experience in physical therapy. Admission is based on academic achievement and personal qualifications that are considered essential for the successful practice of physical therapy. Early admission and 3+3 programs are available.
Professional-Level DPT Prerequisite course work

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Statistics</td>
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View our curriculum for the DPT program at [www.upstate.edu/pt](http://www.upstate.edu/pt) Look for the "Programs of Study" link.

Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What does a Physical Therapist do?**
A: Physical therapists have rewarding careers working directly with people in a variety of settings to restore health and ability. They are respected members of the health care team who treat illness and injury using their extensive knowledge of movement science and a variety of techniques and technologies. They work with all systems of the body, including the muscular, skeletal, circulatory, respiratory and nervous systems.

**Q: Who makes a successful Physical Therapist?**
A: People who succeed in physical therapy enjoy working directly with people of all ages, in a variety of health care settings to improve movement and achieve maximal functional ability.

**Q: What is Upstate's DPT program looking for in its applicants?**
A: For the Professional Level program, an undergraduate background in science is desirable, but the ideal student is a well-rounded person who is a critical thinker, creative problem solver, who enjoys working with people and having a career that is meaningful every day.

**Q: What is the curriculum like in the Professional OPT Program?**
A: Students in the professional preparation program attend school full time. The curriculum prepares students for licensure in Physical Therapy and consists of a minimum of 121 graduate credit hours and spans three years. The program includes classroom instruction in the
foundational and clinical sciences, and clinical experiences in a range of patient care settings. The program of study may include day, evening and weekend classes. Thirty-six weeks of clinical education is interspersed throughout the program, including a 20-week clinical experience in the final semester.

Q: What makes the Upstate experience unique?
A: • Access to all the resources of a dynamic academic health science center.
    • Faculty who are actively involved in professional activities and who represent a wide variety of practice areas.
    • Small class sizes.
    • An engaged and diverse clinical education community.

Q: How do I find out if physical therapy is right for me?
A: Volunteer or work in a physical therapy department at a local hospital or private practice. This experience is required for admission into the Professional DPT program. You may also consult with a counselor from the Admissions Office at Upstate.

3+3 Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Programs

Upstate has established 3+3 programs with a number of colleges. (See our website for list.) Students must be accepted by both the participating undergraduate college and SUNY Upstate to be guaranteed a place in the DPT program. The advantage of 3+3 is that it allows a student to complete both an undergraduate and a doctoral degree in six years rather than seven. The 3+3 DPT program requires three years at a participating undergraduate college and three years of study at SUNY Upstate. Students transfer to Upstate after three years of college. The first year at Upstate in the Professional DPT program counts for both the fourth year of undergraduate and the first year of graduate study. Upon completion of their first year here, students receive a bachelor’s degree from their undergraduate institution. Upon successful completion of two more years at SUNY Upstate, students are awarded a DPT degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University. Students must maintain a 3.3 GPA with a 3.3 prerequisite GPA their first three years of college. For details, check at www.upstate.edu/pt or contact the Office of Student Admissions at 315-464-4570.

Outstanding Faculty
Our faculty includes:
• Five clinical specialists certified by APTA
• One PT/Athletic trainer
• One Epidemiologist
• One Feldenkrais practitioner
• The past president of the New York Physical Therapy Association
• A member of the New York State Board of Physical Therapy and the New York State Board of Psychology
• Two recipients of SUNY Upstate's President's Award for Excellence in Teaching
• One recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching
• Members of the editorial boards of PT publications
• Distinguished Educator Award-winner from the American Physical Therapy Association

Contact Us
For more information on Physical Therapy education and our doctoral programs, please visit Upstate's PT website at www.upstate.edu/pt or download an application at our prospective student website at www.upstate.edu/students. Our office of Student Admissions can be reached at 315-464-4570 or 800-736-2171 or by e-mail at admiss@upstate.edu.
The 3+3 Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

The 3+3 Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) is a program that allows physical therapy students to complete both their undergraduate degree and their physical therapy doctoral degree in SIX years rather than seven.

SUNY Upstate Medical University currently has 3+3 programs with SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY Brockport, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Oswego, Le Moyne College and Syracuse University.

To be guaranteed a place in the 3+3 DPT program, students must be accepted by one of the affiliated colleges AND by SUNY Upstate. This requires that students apply to both Upstate and to the affiliate college. The deadline to apply to Upstate is Feb. 1. Application deadlines for the affiliated colleges vary by college.

Students who have been accepted by both the affiliated college AND by SUNY Upstate's 3+3 program transfer to Upstate after three years of college. During the first three years of college, students must maintain a 3.3 cumulative GPA and a 3.3 prerequisite GPA.

The first year at SUNY Upstate counts as both the fourth year of undergraduate and the first year of graduate study. After completing their first year at Upstate, students receive a bachelor's degree from their undergraduate institution. Upon successful completion of two more years of graduate work, students are awarded a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Early Admission 3+3 students are NOT required to take the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) and are able to enjoy college and community activities, assured that their educational plans are secure.

The Upstate Advantage

SUNY Upstate's Physical Therapy program demonstrates positive results which speak for themselves. In 2008, the first-time licensure pass rate for Upstate's PT graduates was 95.7 percent and the final pass rate was 100 percent. One hundred percent of those graduates who sought positions assumed jobs in their profession. In addition, physical therapists enjoy rewarding careers where they make a difference in people's lives.
Our full-time faculty-many of whom are national leaders in their profession-are the primary instructors for classes and are constantly available to students. DPT students have 36 weeks of direct, supervised patient contact at their choice of more than 175 clinical sites in New York state and the Northeast.

SUNY Upstate students receive a quality education at an affordable price. We are part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, and our tuition is lower than that of private institutions.

**Students must meet the following criteria in order to be considered for acceptance to the 3+3 DPT program at SUNY Upstate Medical University.**

Please note this is a competitive application process.

- Submit application to SUNY Upstate.
- Submit application to affiliated college.
- A 90 percent or higher unweighted high school grade point average.
- Four years of Regents courses in both math and science. Honors, AP or IB courses recommended.
- A minimum SAT score of 1200 (math and verbal) or ACT score of 27.
- Enrollment in the 3+3 DPT track at a participating college or university.
- Observational experience in physical therapy through participation in a Health Explorers Post, New Visions Program or volunteer work. A letter of recommendation from a Physical Therapist stating that the student has shadowed and is highly recommended.
- Leadership and/or community service activities.
- Accepted students must maintain a 3.3 cumulative GPA and a 3.3 prerequisite GPA during their first three years of college.

Apply online or download an application from our website. Applications received by Jan. 1 will be given priority consideration. Application deadline is Feb. 1.

To be guaranteed a spot in the 3+3 DPT program, students must be accepted by BOTH their undergraduate college and by SUNY Upstate.

**Questions about the 3+3 Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**

**How can I be guaranteed a spot in the 3+3 DPT program?**

You must be accepted by both the participating undergraduate college and by SUNY Upstate. Students are not formally accepted into the 3+3 program until they receive the confirming letter from SUNY Upstate.
How many years will the program take?

You will complete both your under-graduate and doctoral degrees in a total of six years.

What GPA do I need to maintain to stay in the program?

To remain in the 3+3 program students are required to maintain both a cumulative GPA of 3.3 and a 3.3 GPA in all prerequisite courses. A minimum grade of "B" in each science course is recommended.

What type of degree(s) will I receive?

You will receive a Bachelor’s degree from your undergraduate college and a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University. The fourth year of your undergraduate degree will be completed on the SUNY Upstate campus.

How much volunteer physical therapy experience do I need?

Before applying we expect that you will have had enough observation experience so you can discuss aspects of the PT profession in your essay. If accepted as a 3+3 student, you will be required to complete 80 hours of volunteer work in at least two different settings during your first three years of college.

What are the advantages of the 3+3 program?

Acceptance by Upstate and to one of the affiliated colleges to the 3+3 program allows you to complete both an undergraduate and a doctoral degree in six years rather than seven. It also provides guaranteed early admission into Upstate's DPT program. Students accepted by Upstate to the 3+3 program will not be required to take the GRE exam.

Will I have to reapply when it's time to transfer to Upstate?

No. Your application process is completed when you are accepted by Upstate to the 3+3 program. You will only be required to submit a deposit in the fall of your Junior year.

Who will guide me in meeting my required undergraduate courses?

You will be assigned an advisor at both your undergraduate college and at Upstate once you have been accepted by both colleges to the 3+3 DPT program.

What if I apply to the 3+3 at an affiliated college, and am accepted by that college, but am not accepted by Upstate?

Admission to the 3+3 program is competitive and is based on your high school courses, grade point average, SAT or ACT scores and physical therapy experience. Students may be accepted to an affiliated college, yet not be accepted by SUNY Upstate for the 3+3 program. If you are not accepted as a high school senior, you may reapply for early admission (directly to Upstate) during your third year of college. You may also apply for regular admission to Upstate's DPT program as a senior in college.
If accepted to Upstate as a 3+3 student, what type of commitment am I making?

You will be asked to indicate to us whether or not you accept our offer of admission and you must notify us by May 1 with the name of the college you will be attending.

What if I change my mind and decide to pursue another profession? Am I committed to attend Upstate?

No, you may change your mind. We just ask that you notify us in writing that you are withdrawing your acceptance.

When will I be required to submit a deposit to Upstate?

You will not be asked to submit a deposit to Upstate until the fall of your third year of college.

I want to apply to the 3+3 DPT program, but the college I want to attend isn't an affiliated college.

Only the colleges listed in this brochure are 3+3 affiliates. However, as the DPT is a graduate program, many of our students attend four years of college and enter Upstate with their bachelor's degrees. Students attending other colleges may also apply for 4+3 guaranteed early admissions. For details on all admissions options and to apply please visit www.upstate.edu/pt

College course work required for the Professional-Level DPT

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<td>Social Science</td>
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<td>CPR and First Aid certification are required at the time of matriculation.</td>
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For More Information

For a program guide, application or information about our open house, call the Office of Student Admissions at SUNY Upstate Medical University at 315-464-4570 or 800-736-2171 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or visit our website www.upstate.edu/pt