

Strive for Excellence!



Recent graduates of Upstate Medical University's Post-Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program share their thoughts on the program.

"Because of this program, I am a better therapist."

I am challenging my patients more. I am also looking to the research more — and analyzing it — when trying to find outcome measures and interventions for patients.

Elizabeth Duvall, PT, DPT

My critical thinking is better. I incorporate more specific diagnosis skills during evaluations. My quality of strengthening programs has improved because I am more aware of increasing challenges — even for involved patients. The program can improve your skills and thinking process as a therapist.

Karen Vecellio, PT, DPT

The program allowed me to incorporate evidence based practice into the department that I manage, as well as into my clinical practice. I am now more familiar with how to incorporate objective tests and measures into my everyday practice.

Brian Westlake, PT, DPT

It has given me many new skills – primarily evaluation and diagnostic skills. In this age of denials from insurance, I feel I have gained a very strong edge. I can now write more objective goals with testing measures that have strong evidence and support.

Karen Drotar, PT, DPT

"I achieved my career goals"

My goals were met and exceeded. I had hoped to increase my knowledge base and build confidence. I now have my specialty certification and I have made contacts with experts in several areas of physical therapy practice.

Wendy Ortolano, PT, DPT, PCS

I would definitely say that the T-DPT program gave my career a boost because it challenged me to understand how I could always learn more about the practice of Physical Therapy and where I could go to gain new knowledge.

Brian Westlake, PT, DPT

One of my initial goals was to be promoted in my current position and to feel "up to speed" with new PT grads. Above and beyond this, I learned so much more... I gained experience in scholarly writing... In clinical practice, I find I have been "refreshed". I have a new perspective when examining and evaluating a patient and also have a much larger "bag of tricks" to choose from in terms of interventions.

Deb Molnar, PT, DPT

I gained knowledge to allow me to be a better, more well-rounded PT. Thank you for a great experience!!! I was challenged, had a great time and finished [my doctorate]... what more could I ask for?

Kyle Adams, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS

I was primarily enrolling in the program to obtain the degree. So in reality I got much more than I anticipated. Not only did I obtain the degree, but I feel that now I think more critically about how I practice and am better able to evaluate the literature and new clinical measures and techniques.

Laura Panzarella, PT, DPT

State University of New York
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Program Director: 315-464-6918

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"I could still work full time, and complete this program."

I found this manageable with two toddlers. I found the weekends to be very motivating when I returned to practice.

Dan Bajus, PT, DPT

The program was very flexible and helped me accomplish my goals. The course of study was very convenient. I put in 5-7 hours a week for the core courses.

Karen Vecellio, PT, DPT

I have recommended the program to others... Very manageable for therapists who are working full time and have families.

Brian Westlake, PT, DPT

Perfect structure for me. I enjoyed having actual class time to interact with other students. The time was condensed enough that it didn't feel like I was away from my family for too long at one time. Plus, it was a nice get away sometimes!

Deb Molnar, PT, DPT

"I found Upstate to be a better value even with the [commuting] expense."

There were very minimal expenses outside of the tuition. Additional expenses included a few text books, equipment for my case report, fee for the editor from my case report and gift certificate for my mentor. This totaled about \$300. Comparing the price of the T-DPT program to other institutions offering a similar program I consider SUNY Upstate to be a great value.

Brian Westlake, PT, DPT

The program was great value because of SUNY tuition. I would recommend this program to others who are looking to complete their Doctorate degree quickly.

Dan Bajus, PT, DPT

Overall the program was a great value. I don't know any other program that can offer that price. I am glad I invested the money.

Kim Parkinson PT, DPT

"Thought provoking"

I highly recommend this program. The program is relevant and helpful. It was NOT drudgery or busy-work. It also was NOT a mail-order diploma. The professors were intelligent, supportive, energetic, and thought-provoking. Overall, this was a very positive experience.

Wendy Ortolano, PT, DPT, PCS

I felt very lucky to have such wonderful, knowledgeable professors in each of the courses. They were very helpful, and quick to get back to me if I had any questions. What a lovely faculty!

Cindy Warner, PT, DPT

I found the core courses to be very relevant [and] the quality of the courses very high. The sequence in which the courses were delivered was very appropriate because each course built on the one before.

Brian Westlake, PT, DPT

The instructors were all terrific and provided a wealth of information. The program provided an excellent opportunity to network with a variety of professionals and gain new ideas and knowledge.

Dan Bajus, PT, DPT

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