

## STUDENT LIFE

Upstate offers student housing with an environment conducive to study. Many students live in Geneva Tower, a state-of-the-art facility (LEED Silver Design). Check out the web site at <http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/campuslife/residence/geneva.php>

The Campus Activities Building 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. Physical Therapy students have an active club that promotes professional and social activities, and also participate in the wider University clubs and activities



## CONTACT US

For more information on Physical Therapy education and our doctoral programs, please visit Upstate's Physical Therapy website at [www.upstate.edu/pt](http://www.upstate.edu/pt). Our office of Student Admissions can be reached at 315-464-4570 or by e-mail at [admiss@upstate.edu](mailto:admiss@upstate.edu).



**OFFICE OF STUDENT ADMISSIONS**  
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Syracuse, New York 13210

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## Begin Your Physical Therapy Education at Upstate

Physical Therapists (PTs) have rewarding careers working directly with people in a variety of settings, from the patient's home to a hospital's intensive care unit. As respected members of the health care team, PTs treat patients with illness and injury based on extensive knowledge of movement science. PTs use a variety of treatment techniques and technologies to promote and restore health, movement and functional ability. They work with patients who have problems with many body systems, including the muscular, skeletal, integumentary (skin), circulatory, respiratory and nervous systems. PTs' knowledge and skill make a positive difference in the lives of many people.

The doctorate degree is the standard for physical therapy education. At Upstate the Physical Therapy Doctoral program is a full-time, three-year graduate program for students holding a bachelor's degree. Graduates receive a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree and are eligible to apply for licensure as physical therapists throughout the United States.

PTs combine expertise in movement science and rehabilitation technologies with patient-centered compassionate care. The Upstate physical therapy curriculum builds these skills through a combination of classroom, laboratory, simulation and clinical experiences. In addition to treating patients with illness, injury, or developmental delay our graduates are prepared to guide clients toward disease prevention and optimal wellness. The DPT program at Upstate prepares graduates for contemporary practice by emphasizing critical thinking and diagnostic skills that are important for



working collaboratively with other health care providers as well as when practicing without physician referral.

### OUR MISSION

The Upstate Medical University Department of Physical Therapy Education uses innovative education, scholarship and service to inspire students and clinicians to be transformative physical therapist leaders.

Our goals for our graduates are that they:

- Engage in autonomous practice in a legal, ethical and reflective manner.
- 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.

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## The Upstate Advantage

- Small class sizes. We limit our enrollment to 40 students per class to provide excellent student:faculty ratios.
- Outstanding faculty. Our full-time faculty members are the primary instructors for required courses. As award-winning educators, the faculty is dedicated to teaching while also engaging in scholarly work and many in clinical practice.
- Academic medical center. The medical center environment allows our students to learn alongside students in other health professions, so they have ample opportunity to enhance their learning outside the classroom.
- Impressive facilities. Our new academic building's design includes dedicated classroom and laboratory space for the PT program.
- Clinical readiness. The PT curriculum incorporates state-of-the-art simulation experiences to ensure that students are prepared for work with patients. The Upstate Clinical Skills Center is one of the largest of its kind in the United States. It houses 22 examination rooms, video monitoring, and the clinical equipment needed to improve students' clinical and communication skills through simulated patient activities.
- Excellent licensure rate. Our first-time pass rate is consistently higher than state and national averages.
- Exceptional clinical education. We work closely with our clinical sites to ensure that students have access to high quality clinical experiences in diverse practice settings.
- Early experiential learning. Even before the full-time clinical education experiences, our curriculum provides students with early opportunities to work with patients in settings that range from day care centers to retirement communities, and points in between. Early exposure to clinical settings develops the communication and reasoning skills that are essential for effective clinical practice.

## Admission Requirements

The regular admissions requirements for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university (including completion of 44 credits of prerequisite course work) competitive 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 for high school seniors are also available.

### EARLY ADMISSION

For those high school students with a strong commitment to physical therapy Upstate has established 3+3 programs with a number of colleges. (See our website for a list.) The advantage of 3+3 is that it allows a student to complete both an undergraduate and a doctoral

## PREREQUISITE COURSE WORK INCLUDES

	Credit Hours
Anatomy and Physiology I and II <i>or</i> one semester each of Anatomy and Physiology	8*
General Biology I and II	8*
General Chemistry I and II	8*
General Physics I and II	8*
English (Composition recommended)	3
Statistics	3
Psychology (Child or Developmental recommended)	3
Social Science	3

\*All science courses must include labs

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 must apply to and be accepted by both the participating undergraduate college and SUNY Upstate to be guaranteed a place in the DPT program. 3+3 students transfer to Upstate after three years of college, and the first year at Upstate in the 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. A 4+3 program option is also available. For details, check [www.upstate.edu/pt](http://www.upstate.edu/pt) or contact the Office of Student Admissions at 315-464-4570. The deadline for early admissions applications is February 1.

## OUTSTANDING FACULTY

Upstate's Department of Physical Therapy Education has an outstanding faculty committed to teaching excellence and the advancement of the physical therapy profession. Included on the faculty are PTs who have received local and national awards for teaching excellence, researchers who have received funding from federal agencies and foundations, and clinical specialists recognized by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. We have faculty members who have received national recognition for their contributions to the profession, and others who work in a cross-disciplinary manner. Overall, the combination of clinical and research faculty enhance the student experience to promote excellence in health care.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What does a Physical Therapist do?

**A:** PTs examine patients to identify problems that interfere with function, diagnose conditions and determine the appropriateness of physical therapy treatment, formulate treatment plans, provide direct interventions, and evaluate the outcomes of treatment. The process is centered on the patient's needs, with careful attention to the goals and challenges that are unique to the individual. This patient-centered approach makes physical therapy an exciting and rewarding career.

### Q: Who makes a successful Physical Therapist?

**A:** People who succeed in physical therapy enjoy working directly with a diverse patient population to improve movement and achieve maximal functional ability. Physical therapists must have a strong background in the basic sciences. This provides the foundation for the critical thinking that is essential for contemporary practice.

### Q: What is Upstate's DPT program looking for in its applicants?

**A:** An undergraduate background in science is helpful, but the ideal student is a well-rounded person who is a critical thinker and creative problem solver who enjoys working with people. Applicants must have a minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA to be considered; 3.3 GPA is preferred.

### Q: What is the curriculum like in the DPT Program?

**A:** Our curriculum requires full-time study over three years for a total of 121 credit hours. The program includes classroom instruction in 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 20 weeks of clinical experience in the final semester.

### Q: What makes the Upstate experience unique?

- A:** At Upstate, students have:
- 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.
  - SUNY tuition

### 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 DPT program. We recommend you volunteer in more than one type of practice setting so you can get a sense of the breadth of the profession. You may also consult with a counselor from the Admissions Office at Upstate (315-464-4570).



## STRONG CAREER PROSPECTS

Health care is a rapidly growing industry in the U.S. and there is a need for well-educated professionals. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that employment for PTs will grow by 26% between 2016 and 2026. Physical Therapists report very high job satisfaction, a variety of work opportunities and low unemployment.

## DIVERSE 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

For application procedures and deadlines, go to [www.upstate.edu/pt](http://www.upstate.edu/pt)