

PHYSICAL THERAPY / DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program at Lewis University offers a comprehensive, lockstep sequence, full-time entry-level curriculum, designed for completion over 7.5 consecutive semesters. The program is carefully aligned with the university's mission and values, striving to admit a diverse student body to prepare healthcare providers capable of serving an equally diverse clientele. The program's vision highlights the importance of collaboration with both fellow practitioners and clients to provide personalized care, emphasizing Lewis' values of fidelity, wisdom, and justice. Faculty members are dedicated to preparing clinicians who are transformative, culturally informed, and socially responsible.

At the core of its educational philosophy, the program is built on the university's Catholic and Lasallian heritage, emphasizing the significance of the movement system in physical therapy practice, education, and research. The curriculum is designed to blend theoretical knowledge with practical application, fostering critical thinking, empathetic patient care, inclusivity, and social justice. The program's mission is to inspire students to become excellent, ethical specialists in the movement system, reflective, collaborative, evidence-informed, and socially responsible in their practice.

To explore the detailed information about Lewis University's DPT program, as well as information regarding the DPT program's CAPTE accreditation status, please visit the official website.

Good Academic Standing

See Good Academic Standing (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#standing>).

Class Attendance

See Class Attendance Policy (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#Attendance>)

Academic Probation and Dismissal

See Academic Probation and Dismissal (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#Probation>)

Grade Appeal

See Grade Appeal Process (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#Grade>)

Other Academic Appeals

See University Policies and Procedures for Appealing Other Academic Matters (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#Policies>)

Academic Dishonesty

See Academic Dishonesty (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#Honesty>)

Incomplete Grade Policy

The DPT program is structured in a lockstep sequence, making the timely completion of each course essential for students to progress academically. In cases where a student has completed most of a course's requirements but faces unexpected, verifiable circumstances preventing them from finishing, they may request an "Incomplete" (I) grade. This request is at the instructor's discretion and depends on the student's performance and the seriousness of their situation. The Dean approval is required to approve the request.

To convert an "I" grade into a passing grade and earn credit, the student must complete the outstanding coursework as specified by the instructor. The instructor is then responsible for submitting a grade change. The completion deadline for any incomplete work is before the registration period for the next term or semester, ensuring that the student can proceed with their planned sequence without interruption.

Given the structured sequence of the program, extending the deadline for completing an incomplete grade is generally not allowed. However, in exceptional circumstances, an extension may be granted with approval from both the Program Director and Dean. If a student has not resolved their "I" grade by the beginning of the next semester, they are required to apply for a leave of absence (refer to the leave of absence policy for details).

Failing to either secure an extension under extraordinary circumstances or to complete the outstanding coursework by the approved extended deadline will lead to the "I" grade being updated to "IF." An "IF" grade signifies a failure due to incomplete coursework and does not earn any credit.

See Incomplete Policy (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#Incomplete>).

Leave of Absence

In a lockstep sequence program, where courses are taken in a fixed order without deviation, a graduate student who needs to temporarily suspend their studies due to exceptional circumstances (such as medical, personal, or professional reasons) is required to seek an official leave of absence to maintain their program status. However, given the structured nature of the program, a student may only request a leave of absence for the duration of an entire academic year, aligning with the program's lockstep scheduling.

Should extraordinary circumstances necessitate further interruption, the student may apply for additional yearly leaves, up to a maximum of two academic years. To request a leave, the student must fill out a Leave of Absence form and submit it to the Program Director for evaluation and decision. Failure to obtain approval for a leave of absence, or neglecting to request one, mandates the student to reapply for admission and adhere to the curriculum requirements effective at the time of their re-enrollment.

Similarly, a student opting to defer the commencement of their studies must notify the Program Director, with deferments applicable on a yearly basis, adhering to the lockstep program's schedule. The maximum deferment period is two academic years. Upon resuming the program, the student will be subject to the current curriculum and must adhere to all academic policies from the point of full matriculation.

See Leave of Absence (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#Honesty>).

Graduation Requirements

See University Graduation Requirements Applicable to all Graduate Students (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-guidelines/#GraduationRequirements>).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
PTED 71000	Human Anatomy 1	2
PTED 71001	Human Anatomy 1 Lab	1
PTED 71100	Human Physiology	3
PTED 71300	Fundamental Skills in Physical Therapy Practice	2
PTED 71301	Fundamental Skills in Physical Therapy Practice Lab	1
PTED 71600	Movement Science 1	2
PTED 71601	Movement Science 1 Lab	1
PTED 71700	Professional Topics in Physical Therapy 1	2
PTED 71900	Evidence-Informed Practice 1	2
PTED 72000	Human Anatomy 2	2
PTED 72001	Human Anatomy 2 Lab	1
PTED 72100	Musculoskeletal 1	2
PTED 72101	Musculoskeletal 1 Lab	1
PTED 72200	Clinical Neuroscience	1
PTED 72201	Clinical Neuroscience Lab	1
PTED 72300	Pathophysiology	3
PTED 72600	Movement Science 2	2
PTED 72601	Movement Science 2 Lab	1
PTED 73000	Pharmacology	2
PTED 73100	Musculoskeletal 2	2
PTED 73101	Musculoskeletal 2 Lab	1
PTED 73200	Neuromuscular 1	2
PTED 73201	Neuromuscular 1 Lab	1
PTED 73400	Therapeutic Modalities	1
PTED 73401	Therapeutic Modalities Lab	1
PTED 73700	Professional Topics in Physical Therapy 1	2
PTED 73800	Diagnostic Imaging & Clinical Decision-Making	2
PTED 74000	Community Health & Well-being	1
PTED 74001	Community Health & Well-being Lab	1
PTED 74100	Musculoskeletal 3	2
PTED 74101	Musculoskeletal 3 Lab	1
PTED 74200	Neuromuscular 2	2
PTED 74201	Neuromuscular 2 Lab	1
PTED 74400	Integumentary & Oncologic Physical Therapy	1
PTED 74401	Integumentary & Oncologic Physical Therapy Lab	1
PTED 74700	Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Physical Therapy	2
PTED 74701	Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Physical Therapy Lab	1
PTED 74900	Evidence-Informed Practice 2	2
PTED 75000	Service-Learning in Physical Therapy	1
PTED 75100	Interprofessional Collaboration & Practice	1
PTED 75200	Pediatric Physical Therapy	2
PTED 75201	Pediatric Physical Therapy Lab	1

PTED 75300	Differential Diagnosis	1
PTED 75301	Differential Diagnosis Lab	1
PTED 75500	Medically Complex Patient Management	2
PTED 75501	Medically Complex Patient Management Lab	1
PTED 75800	Adaptive & Assistive Technology	1
PTED 75801	Adaptive & Assistive Technology Lab	1
PTED 76000	Clinical Education 1	8
PTED 76100	Leadership & Advocacy	1
PTED 76200	Geriatric Physical Therapy	1
PTED 76201	Geriatric Physical Therapy Lab	1
PTED 76500	Integrated Patient Management	1
PTED 76501	Integrated Patient Management Lab	1
PTED 76700	Primary Care Physical Therapy	1
PTED 76701	Primary Care Physical Therapy Lab	1
PTED 77000	Clinical Education 2	8
PTED 77100	Clinical Education 3	8
PTED 77900	Physical Therapy Comprehensive Examination	1
PTED 78000	Clinical Education 4	8
PTED 78900	Doctoral Capstone Project	1

Total Hours 112

Additional Admission Requirements

Admissions Overview

Lewis University's DPT program welcomes applicants who meet the comprehensive admissions criteria. The DPT program is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the field of physical therapy.

Application Procedure: Prospective students must apply through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS).

Admission Requirements

Observation Hours

In the program's application review process, applicants are required to complete a minimum of 40 PT observation hours from either a PT or a PTA, observing in at least two different settings, without assigning any weighting to these hours or penalizing applicants for exceeding the requirement. These observation hours are viewed as opportunities for applicants to gain valuable insights into the field of physical therapy, confirm their interest and dedication, and develop a deeper understanding of clinical practices and patient interactions. While exceeding the minimum requirement or having experiences across various settings may demonstrate a broader understanding of the profession, it is not a requirement for consideration. Instead, the focus is on evaluating applicants holistically, considering their academic achievements, personal attributes, experiences, and potential contributions to the physical therapy profession, with PT observation hours serving as one component of this comprehensive evaluation.

Academic Prerequisites

To ensure applicants are well-prepared for the DPT program, the following coursework must be completed with a grade of 'C' or higher and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. Pass/Satisfactory grades are accepted.

Course Pre-requisites

1. Human Anatomy with Lab: 4 credits
2. Human Physiology with Lab: 4 credits
 - a. Alternatively, an 8-credit two-course sequence in Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) with lab, completed within the last 10 years. Licensed clinicians may request a waiver.
3. Biology I & II with Lab: 8 credits
4. Chemistry I & II with Lab: 8 credits
5. Physics I & II with Lab: 8 credits
6. Psychology: 6 credits
7. Statistics: 3 credits
8. Medical Terminology: 1 credit

Admission Timelines

Final Deadline: See Important Notice (<https://www.lewisu.edu/academics/dpt/>)

The admissions process operates on a rolling basis, emphasizing "the sooner, the better" for submissions. To ensure your application for the DPT program at Lewis University is considered, please complete all prerequisite coursework and observation hours. We eagerly anticipate reviewing your application and hope to welcome you into our community of aspiring physical therapy leaders.